OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 15-16, 2019

CANNON BEACH

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
January 14-16, 2019

Monday, January 14, 2019

Tour – 4:00p.m.

The board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of the Ecola Creek Forest Preserve. The tour will be leaving from the Surfsand Resort (address below). Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Tuesday, January 15, 2019

Surfsand Resort
Ocean View Ballroom
148 W Gower Ave
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/ddQkCYxsne32

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 F, I, M, and O), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 8, 2019 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 October 16-17, 2018 meeting in Gold Beach will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

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

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

D. Strategic Plan Update (8:50 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Update (8:55 a.m.)

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

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

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

G. Intermountain West Joint Venture Water 4 Initiative (9:20 a.m.)

Natural Resources Conservation Service State Conservationist Ron Alvarado and Intermountain West Joint Venture Coordinator Dave Smith will provide a presentation on the Water 4 Initiative, which seeks to identify creative solutions regarding water use and conservation. *Information item.*

H. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Requests and Updates (10:05 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request the board provide funding for items related to effectiveness monitoring, including Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program performance tracking, Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed monitoring, and the "Telling the Restoration Story" grant offering, along with updates on other effectiveness monitoring investments. *Action item.*

I. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) – Administrative Rules (10:35 a.m.)

NOTE*: *Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 10:50 a.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will present Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission reappointments and administrative rules for the OAHP for board consideration and approval, which will be preceded by public comment. Related to the administrative rules, because this item has already been the subject of formal public hearings and a comment period, further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the board members in order to obtain additional information. *Action item*.

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Development Grant Awards (1:00 p.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff will provide an update on the FIP Development program and this grant solicitation offering, and request the board consider FIP Development grant awards. *Action item.*

K. FIP Program – Implementation Initiatives Update (1:40 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an introduction to ongoing FIP Implementation initiatives. Representatives from each of the six initiatives will then update the board on progress made in the 2017-2019 biennium. *Information item*.

L. Keystone Acquisition Project Transfer (4:40 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will lead the board in an initial discussion on the potential to transfer the Keystone Acquisition project to federal ownership. *Information item*.

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:
Surfsand Resort
Ocean View Ballroom
148 W Gower Ave
Cannon Beach, OR 97110
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/ddQkCYxsne32

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

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 F, I, M, and O), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes*.** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 8, 2019 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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

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

N. FIP Implementation 2017-2019 Action Items (8:15 a.m.)

Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will request the board carry-forward funds associated with the existing 2015-2017 Implementation FIP awards, and will also request the board approve a geography change to the Deschutes FIP initiative. *Action item.*

O. FIP-Approval of New 2019-2021 Implementation Initiatives (8:30 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will brief the board on the 2019-2021 FIP Implementation solicitation process, which will be followed by public comment. Based on recommendations from the board Focused Investments subcommittee, the board will consider approval of new 2019-2021 FIP Implementation Initiatives. For selected initiatives, the board will also consider a small amount of funding to cover OWEB-required activities prior to July 2019 program implementation. *Action item.*

P. 2019-2021 Spending Plan (11:15 a.m.)

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

Q. Fish Passage Grant Program (12:15 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request the board approve adding funds to the interagency agreement between OWEB and the Oregon Department of Transportation for fish passage improvement grants. *Action item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

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

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 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, January 15 at 9:05 a.m., and Wednesday, January 16 at 8:00 a.m.* for any matter before the board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The board encourages persons to limit comments to 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 *January 8, 2019* 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

Barbara Boyer, *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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
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

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 14-16, in Cannon Beach
April 16-17, in Salem
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

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. This plan celebrates all we have accomplished together over the last twenty years and sets a course for the next ten.

Mission

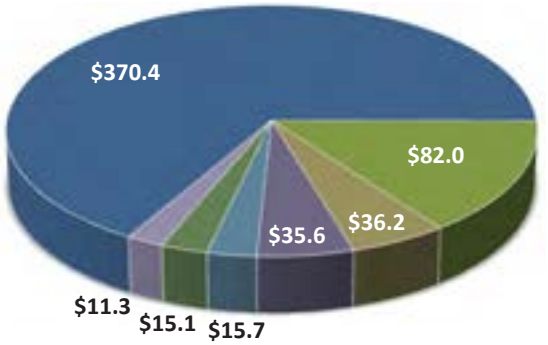
To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies

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.

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.

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%







Who We Are

We are dedicated to the idea that…

- Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities now and in the future.
- Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.
- It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.
- The work to improve our watersheds requires we take the long view.

Our work is in service to…

- Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)
- Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)
- Adaptive capacity of communities to support their watersheds (Community)
- Strengthened economies emerging from healthy watersheds (Economic)
- Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)

In all things, we will…

- Be bold
- Be open and transparent
- Consider future Oregonians
- Be curious

Our work is characterized by…

- Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership
- Using best available science supported by local knowledge
- Investing with long-term outcomes in mind
- Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation
- Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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 farms, ranches, 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
- 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 January Board Meeting

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Jan 19 additions	Spending Plan as of Jan 2019	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards	Jan 2019 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Jan 2019 awards
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)		33.000	25.032	7.968		7.968
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA		4.000	2.636	1.364		1.364
5	CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds)		1.435	1.435	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement		0.700	0.632	0.068		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	0.200	0.831
14	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**60.472**	**45.005**	**15.467**	**0.200**	**15.267**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**62.43%**				
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	0.344	0.234
24	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
25	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**17.427**	**16.849**	**0.578**	**0.344**	**0.234**
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		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
30	Organizational Collaborative Grants		0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
31	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**15.498**	**15.498**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**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		1.011	1.011	0.000		0.000
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**	**3.461**	**3.461**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**3.57%**				
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**0.000**	**96.858**	**80.813**	**16.045**	**0.544**	**15.501**
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	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.000
47	**TOTAL**	**0.250**	**12.404**	**12.154**	**0.250**	**0.250**	**0.000**
48	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**0.250**	**109.262**	**92.967**	**16.295**	**0.794**	**15.501**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

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

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/9MwQeHxdiUs).

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

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)

January 15-16, 2019 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 November 2 to prepare for interviewing FIP Implementation applicants at a two-day public session November 7-8. The subcommittee reviewed the agenda, timing, and procedures for the November 7-8 interviews, and reviewed draft interview questions for each of the 10 partnership applicants. In order to provide time for applicants to fully respond to evaluation concerns, the subcommittee directed staff to allot five minutes at the end of each 30 minute interview for this purpose.

At the November 7-8 public meeting, the subcommittee conducted interviews with each of the 10 partnership applicants on November 7. The interviews were well attended with partners traveling from around the state to participate, and the discussions were strong with meaningful information exchanged. On November 8, the subcommittee discussed the interviews, collected additional information from staff, and deliberated on ranking and funding recommendations for the 10 applicants. The final ranking and funding recommendations can be found as Attachment C to agenda Item O for the January board meeting.

The subcommittee also met on December 14 to prepare for several upcoming FIP events. First, the subcommittee discussed the format and content for a January 3 FIP webinar with the full board. Second, staff provided an update and timeline for the reassessment of board-identified FIP priorities through 2019. Staff have been working with state agencies (ODFW, ODF) to update the content and maps for several of the existing FIP priorities. Staff will compile an inventory of updates to share publicly for input, including outreach to tribes. Staff are targeting October 2019 to share the updated priorities with the full board for consideration of approval. Lastly, the subcommittee and staff discussed preparations for several FIP agenda items at the January board meeting, including:

- Current Implementation FIP reporting and possible discussion topics with each partnership (Item K);
- New Implementation FIP selections and the format for board deliberation of the subcommittee's recommendations (Item O);
- Two action items related to a) carrying forward 2015-17 funds for all partnerships, and b) considering a scope of initiative change for the Deschutes Partnership (Item N); and
- An overview of the Development FIP proposals that were reviewed in November and will be presented to the board for consideration of funding recommendations (Item J).

To Be Presented at the January 2019 Board Meeting by:
Jason Robison, Subcommittee Chair

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

January 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

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

Background
The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring, and provides input about the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on November 13, 2018, and discussed the following topics:

- Strategic Plan progress check-in, with a focus on Priority #6 (coordinated monitoring and shared learning) that included brainstorming about the strategy to "increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners" and suggestions from subcommittee members;
- Status updates about 'telling the restoration story' and FIP monitoring;
- Discussion about staff work on priority next steps from the tide gate literature review that were outlined for the board during the October 2018 meeting;
- Monitoring funding requests to be presented at the January 2019 board meeting, including 1) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) performance tracking, 2) Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, 3) additional resources to support 'telling the restoration story,' and 4) support for newly selected Implementation FIPs to work with Bonneville Environmental Foundation to complete the results chain process; and
- Emerging monitoring topics for 2019, including 1) future OS programmatic EM funding requests, 2) coordination between restoration practitioners and monitoring experts regarding Stage 0 restoration techniques, and 3) initiation of an update of the administrative rules for monitoring grants.

The group is tentatively scheduled to meet again on December 18, 2018 for a brief check-in about final monitoring funding requests at the board meeting.

In the coming months, additional opportunities to 'tell the restoration story' likely will emerge. These opportunities may include either 1) a prospective approach in which monitoring is planned and data are collected before implementation of restoration begins, and continues to track the ecological effects of restoration through time; and/or 2) a hybrid approach that leverages existing data, but provides the opportunity to collect supplemental data to better answer the question of restoration effectiveness. Staff, in coordination with the board's Monitoring Subcommittee, will continue to track such opportunities and raise them before the full board as appropriate.

To Be Presented at the January 2019 Board Meeting by:
Alan Henning, Subcommittee Chair

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

January 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Meg Reeves, Kathy Stangl, Rosemary Furfey, Stephen Brandt

Background
The Open Solicitation Subcommittee focuses on issues related to open solicitation grants, including restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement, and the effectiveness of these programs.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on December 12 and discussed the following topics:

Strategic Plan
This topic will be a recurring item on subcommittee agendas. The Open Solicitation Subcommittee will track actions under Strategic Plan Priority #5 - Working Lands, and Strategic Plan Priority #7 - Bold and Innovative Actions.

The subcommittee discussed progress made with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission in developing program rules, which are on the January board agenda for adoption.

Staff Presentations to the Board on Open Solicitation Projects
Given the increasing complexity of applications, staff are continually improving review processes to help review teams evaluate applications. Staff sought input from the subcommittee on how best to portray to the board the review process and resulting staff recommendations.

The subcommittee noted that it is helpful for staff to provide the context for how projects relate to others that have been funded in the past. For example, in the last presentation, one Program Representative gave a good sense of how many years of project development, technical complexity, and challenges the project overcame. Telling the story of a project is particularly important.

Given the large number of projects, the thematic method of presenting a subset of recommended projects is a good approach. This approach also helps new board members understand how the process is conducted. Photos are helpful to understand the highlighted projects. In addition, it may be helpful to focus on projects near the funding line. The regional context will be helpful here as well.

Maintaining the focus on evaluation criteria while keeping content fresh is helpful. The subcommittee recommended being open about the struggles inherent in projects.

Application Evaluations
The subcommittee felt that evaluation documents are effective as they are currently presented. For above- and below-the-line projects, consider including information that helps distinguish why they ranked the way they did. In addition, staff should consider highlighting where there is not consensus in the review team.

Other topics
For the next meeting, staff will describe how strategic plan objectives are being pursued through the open solicitation grant program.

To Be Presented at the January 2019 Board Meeting by:
Meg Reeves, Subcommittee Chair

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

January 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Debbie Hollen, Jan Lee, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, 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 Operating Capacity Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met in on November 1, 2018. The subcommittee discussed the following topics:

- Strategic Plan progress check-in covering Priorities 2, 3, and 7. Information on activities for all three of these priorities can be found in the Agenda Item D, Strategic Plan Update;
- Update on the 2019-2021 Council Capacity grant cycle and the role of the subcommittee. The online grant application was announced on December 3, 2018 and the applications are due March 4, 2019. The board will award grants at the July 2019 board meeting;
- Merger Implementation Grants and the amount and type of funding we should provide to merge watershed councils in the future. Staff provided background on this program and the subcommittee discussed questions and next steps. Staff will provide information on how we define a successful merger at the next subcommittee meeting; and
- Status update on Capacity monitoring.

The subcommittee will meet again on April 4, 2019.

To Be Presented at the January 2019 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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item D – Strategic Plan Update
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At this and upcoming meetings, staff will provide both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

II. Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. For the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities. This template was presented and feedback about structure and content was provided by the board.

Following the October board meeting, staff added a header to all staff reports outlining the connection between the work contained in the staff report and the board's approved strategic plan.

Below are two updates for the board related to the strategic plan which are not contained in other staff reports.

III. Strategic Plan Progress Tracking

The template to track strategic plan progress was updated based on input from the board at the October 2018 meeting. Attachment A reflects these updates, and outlines progress made during the October-December 2018 period.

IV. Priority 3, Strategy 1 – Evaluation of Capacity Investments

Strategy 1 under Priority 3 of the strategic plan aims to "evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding." In response, staff initiated development of a framework for the retrospective evaluation of OWEB's organizational capacity investments.

By way of background, OWEB, in coordination with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), has been providing watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) with operating capacity funding for more than 20 years. By evaluating one of OWEB's longest running programs and developing lessons learned, the agency affirms its commitment to meaningful monitoring and evaluation of all of OWEB's investment programs. At the conclusion of this process, OWEB and ODA expect to be able to clearly tell the story of the value of capacity investments. The agencies also will have important lessons learned to inform future program refinements, in addition

to new and innovative tools for tracking and reporting the outcomes and impacts of capacity investments through time.

OWEB is working with the agency's strategic plan consultant, Dialogues in Action, to develop the evaluation framework for capacity investments. Staff also are integrating expertise from Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting, who led the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Partnership Learning Project. High-level steps in the process to develop an evaluation framework include:

- Orientation and framing, including articulating intention, impacts, indicators and principles of change, and drafting of research questions;
- Preliminary planning and design of the retrospective evaluation; and
- Preparation of material that OWEB will use as the foundation for a procurement process to contract for the evaluation.

To inform development of the evaluation framework, OWEB is convening two advisory groups: 1) a stakeholder advisory group (consisting of three watershed councils and three SWCDs) and 2) an expert advisory group consisting of individuals who are well versed in social science and evaluation. OWEB also is working with ODA to reach out to interested partners such as the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

The evaluation framework will be completed by the end of June 2019. Staff will provide periodic updates to the board about progress.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

VI. Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report October to December 2018

OWEB Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – October-December 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

2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)

- Coordinated with Oregon Lottery on a state-wide watershed awareness campaign featuring people, places, and projects that demonstrate Oregon's Conservation ethic, featured projects: Ashland Forest Resiliency, 6 Ranch Habitat Restoration, Meacham Creek, Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project, Cavender Wetland Enhancement and Willamette Confluence Preserve.
- Oct-Nov 2018 campaign included a widely distributed TV commercial, 5 billboards in Portland, Bend and Salem (I-5 and I-84); videos are available at: https://www.oregonlottery.org/watersheds
- Presented to Oregon Lottery on OWEB mission and provided data to support future campaigns.
- 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:
  - are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed;
  - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;
  - understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.

Near-term measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with 1,243 YouTube views (accessed 12/5/2018).

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.

Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

Strategies

1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations

2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) cross-sectional team met monthly; currently developing work plan.
- Trainings in which various staff participated:
  - Engaging Tribes in Meeting Common Goals lunch & learn
  - Tribal Heritage History with Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians workshop
  - Grantmaking with an Equity Lens Training workshop
  - Digging Into Demographic Data webinar
  - Hispanic Heritage Month (Oct.) lunch & learn
- Encouraged staff to complete Project Implicit exercises to learn more about our own implicit biases: https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/
- IDEA team presented an activity at November 2018 OWEB All-Staff meeting to explore link between DEI concepts and OWEB's programs.
- Tribal liaison and staff completed Annual Tribal Report describing how OWEB engaged with Tribes in Oregon in 2018; report delivered to Legislative Commission on Indian Services and the Governor's Office.
- Deputy Director and tribal liaison attended Annual Tribal Summit and training hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

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:

- Staff has participated in 186 hours of cumulative training since July 2018.

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.

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	Near-term measure:
1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	- Continue to scope and develop an evaluation of past council and SWCD capacity investments with Oregon Department of Agriculture and consultants. - Convened external stakeholder advisory group to gather expert input on capacity evaluation.	- 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.	- 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.	- 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	- Discussed lessons learned from the FIP Partnership Learning Project with the Development FIP expert review team. - Reviewed 4 Development FIP Applications.			
3. Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	- Helped coordinate application submission of 5 NWQI Drinking Water Protection pilot projects to the USDA in partnership with NRCS; all projects received funding. - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to Region 5 Review Team (5/6 RRTs now complete), STREAM TEAM and Grand Ronde Model Watershed Annual Board Meeting, 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

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	Near-term measure:
1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	- Continued relationship with ODOT to administer grant funds to watershed councils to improve fish habitat in streams impacted by state transportation infrastructure, including developing an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement.	- 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 can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of	- 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.	- 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				
3. Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector				
4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources	- Assisted with drafting of an incentives document focusing on agricultural landowners to inform the Natural and Working Lands Work Group convened by the Governor's Carbon Policy Office. - Participated in Oregon Leadership Summit sessions highlighting Oregon's 100-year Water Infrastructure Vision. - Assisted with Water Core Team drafting of informational two-pagers regarding natural and built water infrastructure knowns and unknowns.			

			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) - Solicited public comment on revisions to proposed rules for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.	<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	- Continued Strategic Implementation Area technical assistance grant program to engage private landowners in streamside management for water quality; an additional 7 soil and water conservation districts were selected for a total of 12 SIAs in the biennium.			
	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) - Completed pre-application consultations with six "Telling the Restoration Story" grant applicants; agreements in place with Smith River Watershed Council (WC), Rogue Basin Partnership, Long Tom WC, Coos Watershed Association, McKenzie Watershed Alliance and Lake County Umbrella WC; planning for future recruitment. - Continued work with Conservation Effectiveness Partnership to describe effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions with agency partners; completed Wilson River GIS Story Map and reviewed early data analysis for Fifteenmile Creek Watershed Case Study update.	<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 resources that describe restoration investment outcomes.	<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, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Number of communication tools developed through staff, grants or partnerships. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians

Strategies	2. Invest in monitoring over the long term	- Continued development of progress tracking framework to report out on outputs and outcomes of Implementation FIPs; piloted draft and gained feedback from Ashland Forest Resiliency Initiative. - Recruited east and west-side CREP technician leads to develop a monitoring approach for performance tracking to pilot in 2019.	- 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 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.	- 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	- STREAM TEAM completed Statewide Monitoring Strategy to identify and clarify water-related monitoring jurisdictions, roles and responsibilities related to OR agencies. - Led STREAM TEAM review process for an inter-agency water-related Monitoring Calendar and Monitoring Map Viewer. The map shows locations where Oregon's state agencies are actively engaged in monitoring activities for the current calendar year.			
	4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Working with Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watersheds to share results and foster information exchange on river restoration research. - University of Oregon communicated out their OWEB -funded economic analysis of the Middle Fork John Day IMW that analyzed how river restoration contributes to rural economies.			
	5. Define monitoring priorities	- Convened Oregon Plan Monitoring Team to review Open Solicitation Fall 2018 monitoring applications.			
	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) - Held Focused Investment Partnership board sub-committee meeting to review Implementation FIP applicants and develop a funding recommendation to the full OWEB board. - Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to Region 5 Review Team (5/6 RRTs now complete), 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> - 16.29% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business 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	- Bobby Cochran presented the 100-year Water Infrastructure Vision for Oregon at the Oregon Leadership Summit. Dr. Cochran is Senior Fellow at National Policy Consensus Center and ED of the Willamette Partnership; OWEB supports this work through a strategic planning grant.			
	3. Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission	- Presentation of OWEB Strategic Plan to Region 5 Review Team (5/6 RRTs now complete), including dialogue around Priority 7 and OWEB's interest in supporting experimentation where appropriate. - Developed Strategic Plan priority fact sheets to increase stakeholder awareness of OWEB's future direction and priorities.			

January 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E-1: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring

This report provides the board an update about two areas of work associated with FIP monitoring: supplemental monitoring and reporting funding, and the FIP Progress tracking report.

Background

OWEB has engaged with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to develop a progress monitoring framework for each of the current six Implementation FIPs. The framework helps the FIPs communicate progress toward desired ecological outcomes, and includes a detailed results chain. In April 2018, the board awarded supplemental funding for the six FIPs to fill monitoring gaps and/or reporting needs identified from the results chain work.

Also in April 2018, staff described upcoming collaborative work among OWEB, BEF and the implementation FIPs to develop a reporting template to visualize progress to the board and other funders through time.

FIP Supplemental Funding for Monitoring and Reporting

Working within the context of the progress monitoring framework, each of the six FIPs has identified or is in the process of identifying the top 1-2 priorities for supplemental funding, ranging between $75,000 and $125,000, to help each FIP describe and communicate holistically about progress being achieved by their work. The first application for this funding has been received and awarded, with others in development. Each application receives a technical review. Gaps to be addressed by the FIPs are outlined below:

- **Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties**: Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances database to assist with planning, monitoring, reporting and implementation.
- **Upper Grande Ronde Initiative**: Effectiveness monitoring of fish populations in reaches where FIP restoration actions have occurred.
- **Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative**: Social and ecosystem services monitoring.
- **Deschutes Partnership**: Watershed-scale monitoring application in support of the results chain that was created for the partnership's work in McKay Creek.
- **Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats**: Monitoring of fish populations, physical habitat, and aquatic invasive species.
- **Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative**: Prioritization underway.

FIP Progress Tracking Report

Staff are working with BEF to develop a report template to track incremental progress of the Implementation FIPs toward meeting their initiative's ecological objectives. These reports will align strategies presented in each partnership's results chains with work completed to implement strategic action plans. The reports are expected to be brief documents that feature easy-to-understand graphics interpreting the approach guiding the partnership's effort to achieve their goals using data for restoration outputs and outcomes.

The Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative is piloting the template structure and report content. Staff have met with the partners and will finalize the progress tracking report this winter. OWEB and BEF staff will then work individually with the other partnerships to customize reports for each FIP, with a goal of completing all six Implementation FIPs next summer.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

January 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E-2: Salmon License Plates

This item describes the plan to update Oregon's Salmon License Plate in partnership with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Background

Oregon's current salmon license plates were approved in 1999. Salmon license plate revenues are distributed equally between the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and OWEB. Over the last few biennia, salmon plate revenues to OWEB have averaged $483,000, which is invested directly in OWEB grants that support salmon habitat, or removing barriers to salmon migration.

Developing a New Salmon License Plate

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Salmon License Plate, OWEB and OPRD staff will be working with the Oregon Department of Transportation's Department of Motor Vehicles and the Oregon Lottery to develop and promote a new salmon license plate design.

Next steps

Staff are working to finalize the design approach for the new license plates and will be proceeding into the design phase in the new year, with a plan to have a final design ready to unveil next summer.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Jillian McCarthy (jillian.mccarthy@oregon.gov) or 503-986-0033.

January 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E-3: Budget and Legislative

This report provides the board an update about the Governor's Recommended Budget and preparations for the 2019 Legislative Session.

Background

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. Budgets are structured so that each agency's current (or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "policy option packages," or POPs.

The board approved OWEB's POPs at the June 2018 meeting that addressed internal staffing and resource needs, while reflecting needs associated with broader initiatives coordinated with the Governor's Office and other agencies. These POPs were included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) that was submitted in August 2018.

The Oregon Legislature will meet for the 2019 Legislative Session beginning January 22. On January 14-16, the Legislature will hold Organizational Days to organize and prepare for the session. In addition, the Legislative Leadership has established committees and assigned members. Attachment A includes a list of relevant natural resources committees including chairs and members.

The Governor's Recommended Budget

The November 2018 economic forecast projects that the economy will continue to grow at a modest, but slower pace than in recent years. Lottery revenues to OWEB in 2019-21 are expected to be higher than budgeted in 2017-19, and the 2017-19 biennium will have an ending balance for use in 2019-21. While overall state revenues are anticipated to increase, the amount is not expected to keep up with increasing state payroll costs and other cost increases associated primarily with health care, education, and corrections. In addition, revenues are expected to continue to be impacted by the roll-back associated with the PERS reform implemented last biennium.

With this information as context, after agencies submitted their ARBs, the Governor's Office developed state budget recommendations in partnership with agencies. This budget proposal—known as the Governor's Recommended Budget, or GRB—also includes additional POPs that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the legislative session, agencies may advocate for their individual Policy Packages only to the extent that they are included in the GRB.

The Governor's budget was released on November 28, 2019. The GRB retains all of the following requests from OWEB's ARB:

- Program Continuity package (Conservation Outcomes Coordinator and Conservation Outcomes Specialist positions);
- Program Enhancement package (Partnerships Coordinator and Online Systems Project Manager positions and contracted services);
- Conservation Policy and Strategy Coordination package (contracted services); and
- Grant funds for: Measure 76 lottery funds; carryforward of federal grant funds and other funds; forest collaborative grant funds; federal funds from Natural Resources Conservation Service; loan funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund; and funds for Upper Klamath Basin grants associated with salmon reintroduction.

Along with 12 other agencies, the Governor's Office added funding for an internal auditor position to OWEB's budget, as part of her 'Smart Government' emphasis area.

Policy packages requested by OWEB, but not included in the GRB, are both operations and grant funding related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP).

OWEB's current service level did not take any reductions. However, the agency still is required to submit a report that lists 10 percent reduction options from current service level by priority for all fund sources. Despite this, full reductions have not been taken in the past few budget cycles. Depending on future revenue outlooks and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2017-19 biennium, the upcoming legislative budget cycle may or may not require the implementation of some degree of reductions.

Staff are updating budget documents to reflect the Governor's Budget. During the legislative session, the first phase of the budgeting process—agency budget presentations during legislative hearings—occurs between February and early April. As needed, additional discussion of budgetary issues may occur beyond this time. Work sessions with the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee may occur any time after agency budget hearings are completed. Staff will update the board as OWEB's budget progress through the legislative budgeting process.

Legislative

OWEB has developed one legislative concept that if approved, will provide technical corrections to OAHP statutes. Proposed statutory changes include:

1) Shifting language in ORS 541.982 to remove requirement that continued agricultural use be an affirmative obligation of a conservation easement.

2) Providing a more accurate description of the individuals who would be eligible to participate in succession planning programs in ORS 541.984.

3) Changing wording regarding conservation management plans from 'purchasing' plans to 'developing' plans in ORS 541.981 and ORS 541.984.

4) Revising technical assistance grant use in 541.984 to more accurately reflect the purpose of the grant funds, and to expand the eligible applicants to all organizations that are eligible to enter into conservation easements or covenants.

5) Changing language to be consistent throughout the statute regarding the relationship between the commission and the board in ORS 541.988.

6) Revising language to match OWEB's process where technical committees can either advise staff who make recommendations to the board/commission or can advise the board/commission directly in ORS 541.988.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information about budget topics, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203. If you have questions or need additional information about legislative topics, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. List of relevant natural resources committees including chairs and members.

2018-2019 Oregon Interim Legislature
OWEB-Related Committee Assignments

Table 1: Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Sen. Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair (R)	20	Canby (Willamette)
Sen. Cliff Bentz (R)	30	Eastern/Central Oregon (Multiple)
Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D)	4	South Lane and North Douglas Counties (Willamette/Umpqua)
Sen. Arnie Roblan (D)	5	Coos Bay (Oregon Coast)

Table 2: House Agriculture and Land Use Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Brian Clem, Chair (D)	21	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. Susan McLain, Vice Chair (D)	29	Hillsboro (Willamette)
Rep. Bill Post, Vice Chair (R)	25	Keizer (Willamette)
Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R)	15	Linn County (Willamette)
Rep. Ken Helm (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. David Brock Smith (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)
Rep. Anna Williams (D)	52	Hood River (Columbia)

Table 3: House Energy and Environment Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Ken Helm, Chair (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Sheri Schouten, Vice Chair (D)	27	Beaverton (Willamette)
Rep. E. Werner Reschke, Vice Chair (R)	56	Klamath Falls (Klamath)
Rep. Lynn Findley (R)	60	Eastern Oregon (multiple)
Rep. Andrea Salinas (D)	38	Lake Oswego (Willamette)
Rep. Janeen Sollman (D)	30	Hillsboro (Willamette)
Rep. Marty Wilde (D)	11	Lane/Linn Counties (Willamette)
Rep. Anna Williams (D)	52	Hood River (Columbia)
Rep. Jack Zika (R)	53	Deschutes County (Deschutes)

Table 4: Natural Resources Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Brad Witt, Chair (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)
Rep. Chris Gorsek, Vice Chair (D)	49	Gresham (Sandy)
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair (R)	17	Scio (Willamette)
Rep. Greg Barreto (R)	58	Cove (Umatilla)
Rep. Caddy McKeown (D)	9	Coos Bay (South Coast)
Rep. Jeff Reardon (D)	48	E. Portland (Willamette)
Rep. David Brock Smith (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)

Table 5: Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Kathleen Taylor, Co-Chair (D)	21	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Jeff Reardon, Co-Chair (D)	48	E. Portland (Willamette)
Sen. Fred Girod (R)	9	Stayton (Willamette)
Sen. Lew Frederick (D)	22	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Cedric Hayden (R)	7	Roseburg(Umpqua)
Rep. Paul Hovey (D)	8	Eugene (Willamette)
Rep. Courtney Neron (D)	26	Wilsonville (Willamette)
Rep. David Brock Smith (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)

Table 6: Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Michael Dembrow, Co-Chair (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Karin Power, Co-Chair (D)	41	Milwaukie (Willamette)
Sen. Cliff Bentz, Co-Vice Chair (R)	30	Eastern/Central Oregon (Multiple)
Rep. David Brock Smith, Co-Vice Chair (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)
Sen. Lee Beyer (D)	6	Springfield (Willamette)
Sen. Fred Girod (R)	9	Stayton (Willamette)
Sen. Kathleen Taylor (D)	21	Portland (Willamette)
Sen. Alan Olsen (R)	20	Canby (Willamette)
Sen. Jeff Golden (D)	3	Ashland (Rogue)
Rep. Daniel Bonham (R)	59	Central Oregon(Columbia/Deschutes)
Rep. Shelly Boshart Davis (R)	15	Linn County (Willamette)
Rep. Ken Helm (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. John Lively (D)	12	Springfield (Willamette)
Rep. Pam Marsh (D)	5	Ashland (Rogue)

Oregon
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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships to achieve watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director on behalf of Ron Alvarado, NRCS Board Member

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Water 4 Initiative
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Water 4 Initiative. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Board member Ron Alvarado and staff from Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) will provide an introduction to the program.

II. Background

The IWJV has officially launched a new effort called the 'Water 4 Initiative'. Many organizations and agencies are seeking creative solutions regarding water use and conservation. The Water 4 Initiative will help lay the foundation by furthering efforts to conserve water resources, sustain key wildlife habitats (e.g., flood-irrigated wet meadows with high value to migratory birds) thereby reducing the likelihood of future Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings, support producers with improved forage production and passing on their operations to the next generation, improve alignment between at-risk fisheries and wildlife conservation, and strengthen rural communities.

The Water 4 Initiative is based on this simple premise: Conserving working wet meadows and "water for" agriculture, wildlife and fisheries habitat, groundwater recharge, recreation, and other services that matter to people. The Water 4 Initiative will initially be focused in key landscapes of Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, California, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, and Montana. The Water 4 Initiative focal areas were determined based on value to migratory birds, partnership spark, and investments of time, energy, and resources in collaborative conservation.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only provided by NRCS and IWJV.

Attachments

A. Water 4 Initiative Fact Sheet





INTERMOUNTAIN WEST JOINT VENTURE

WATER 4 INITIATIVE

Conserving working wet meadows and "water for" agriculture, wildlife and fisheries habitat, groundwater recharge, recreation, and other services that matter to people

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The Intermountain West is mostly publicly owned but approximately 70% of its emergent wetlands occur on private land. These privately-owned habitats are typically associated with irrigated agriculture and occur on working ranches and farms in landscapes important to wildlife, native fish, and people.

Recent science and planning indicates that these agricultural lands, in certain landscapes, provide continentally important habitat for waterfowl and other waterbirds, and complement the habitat provided on State Wildlife Areas and National Wildlife Refuges. Yet these working wet meadows are under significant pressure due to urban and exurban growth, associated shifts in water policy, drought and changing environmental conditions, and in some landscapes, declining aquifers.

The Future of Water for People and Wildlife in the West

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) has developed the Working Wetlands & Water in the West (Water 4) Initiative to support agricultural producers, public land managers, and other partners with conservation on working lands in ways that matter to people, including improved forage production, higher quality wildlife-associated recreation, and enhanced groundwater recharge.

Here's our vision for the Water 4 Initiative:

- *Transfer and communicate lessons learned* from the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California (SONEC) Working Wet Meadows Initiative – a proven model for wildlife and agriculture – to other focal landscapes.
- *Catalyze proactive and strategic working wet meadows conservation* using the latest decision support tools to assess the availability of habitat in space and time linked to the needs of key species.
- *Identify new conservation program opportunities and funding sources* to support wet meadows conservation on working lands.
- *Build partnerships* among agricultural and conservation organizations.
- *Catalyze communications* to help the agricultural community tell the story of the value of working wet meadows in the Intermountain West.

The IWJV is working to secure and leverage funding to build the conservation delivery capacity at the landscape level, in key focal areas, as needed to facilitate flood-irrigation infrastructure improvement, working lands conservation easements, floodplain and fish habitat restoration, and improved water quality and quantity. Capacity building is a central IWJV tenet for ***meeting people where they are*** in rural communities of the West. We will measure success through increased delivery of conservation outcomes that matter to priority species and people.



Where Wetlands and People Come Together

The goal of the Water 4 Initiative is to build collaborative capacity to deliver effective, lasting, and community-based conservation in strategic landscapes. The following landscapes are existing models of an optimal mix of ecological and social elements including: value to migratory birds, wetland abundance, public-private landownership patterns, partnership spark and synergy, and investments at the local level.

- Southern Oregon-Northeastern California (including the Klamath Basin)
- Upper-Middle Rio Grande corridor
- Eastern Idaho/High Divide landscape
- Bear River watershed

Partnerships in this Initiative

The IWJV has created a Water 4 Initiative Coordinator position through a pooled funding arrangement to lead and fully develop the initiative. The following partners have pledged financial commitments to this initiative, to date:

- IWJV
- FWS Region 6 Refuges
- Oregon NRCS
- Colorado NRCS
- FWS Region 6 Regional Director
- New Mexico Game & Fish Department
- FWS Region 1 Refuges
- FWS Region 1 Ecological Services
- DU Great Plains Regional Office

The IWJV is launching this new initiative in Fall 2018 and will be seeking partner contributions for capacity building in 2019.





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July 11, 2018



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Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Requests
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve funding for several effectiveness monitoring request to help OWEB and its local and agency partners to address effectiveness monitoring and performance tracking needs around the state.

II. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) – Performance Tracking

The Oregon CREP Program is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and the Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local implementers. The program restores riparian areas on agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners who voluntarily enroll in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures, such as planting riparian vegetation and installing fencing and livestock water facilities.

As a follow-up from the CREP effectiveness monitoring study that was completed in 2017, OWEB staff and local CREP technicians have been exploring the development of monitoring tracking tools to track performance of CREP practices over time and to help ensure landowners are achieving maintenance and performance requirements of their CREP contracts. OWEB has recruited two CREP technician leads—one from western Oregon and one of from eastern Oregon—to help develop a monitoring checklist in consultation with other CREP specialists that will be tested on a subset of contracts in 2019. Findings will inform next steps to implement CREP performance tracking.

Staff request up to $25,000 from the Open Solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring line item in the board's spending plan to develop and pilot a performance tracking approach for CREP.

III. Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed Monitoring

The Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) has been conducting work in the area in a coordinated fashion to evaluate and documents watershed restoration action and resulting ecological findings since 2008.

There are two principle areas within the IMW study boundary where large-scale effectiveness monitoring methods have been employed: Camp Creek and the main stem of the Middle Fork John Day River.

In the 2008 and 2014 field seasons, there were 10 sites selected in the Camp Creek sub-watershed to be surveyed; 15 sites in the Middle Fork John Day River were monitored in 2009 and 2014. Monitoring data collected at these locations is being used to evaluate the watershed study area's overall status and trends of critical habitats that have been the focus of restoration actions over the last 10 years. Change detected from these sites can reflect the individual restoration actions and other contributing factors such as: forest management, land use changes, high water events, wild fires, etc. Information gathered through this work complements the on-going evaluation through the IMW. The Malheur National Forest provides valuable cash match to this monitoring effort.

Staff request up to $75,000 from the Open Solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring line item in the board's spending plan to support the effectiveness monitoring program associated with the Middle Fork John Day River IMW.

IV. 'Telling the Restoration Story'

Funded by the board in April 2018, "Telling the Restoration Story" is a new, targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate outcomes from restoration work. These grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes. Products will reach a broad audience, ranging from the board and restoration practitioners, to landowners and legislators.

To date, several retrospective restoration stories are under development:

- Special fish passage techniques for sensitive species in Warner Lakes Basin;
- Willanch Creek Restoration in the Coos Watershed;
- Stream restoration treatments in West Fork Smith River;
- Deer Creek floodplain enhancement in the McKenzie Watershed;
- Fish passage restoration in the Rogue Basin;
- Oak and wet prairie restoration in Coyote Creek, Willamette Valley; and
- Floodplain restoration in Meacham Creek.

Final products are expected by next summer. Any products completed sooner may be highlighted during OWEB's legislative budget presentation.

Based on the incredibly positive response to date from local partners for this offering, staff request an additional $100,000 from the Open Solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring line item in the board's spending plan to pursue additional opportunities.

V. Results Chain Support for New Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs)

In April 2016, the board awarded funding to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) for FIP monitoring, including development of a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs. BEF's work has created a practical and consistent framework for

measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives (outputs) and predicted ecological results (outcomes). In addition to tracking and communicating progress, the framework is intended to be an effective tool to inform adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners.

The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a results chain and a cross-walk matrix. The results chain is a graphical representation or model of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts. The cross-walk matrix details key objectives related to implementation and ecological outcomes, along with associated indicators, to measure progress toward meeting those objectives.

BEF coordinated with the six Implementation FIPs that were awarded funding in January 2016 to complete results chains and crosswalks. These products were presented at the October 2017 board meeting and are being used to inform 1) supplemental FIP monitoring priorities and 2) development of progress tracking reports (see Director's Update, Item E-1).

The board will select the second set of Implementation FIPs at the January 2019 meeting. The current BEF grant includes funding to work with the newly selected FIPs between this spring to develop results chains and crosswalks. To ensure the new FIP partnerships have the resources necessary to engage with BEF during this timeframe, staff is requesting the board delegate authority to the Executive Director to award up to $48,000 from the Development FIP line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support this work (see Item O-2, Implementation FIPs Kick-Off Funding staff report).

VI. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award:

1) Up to $25,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants that develop and pilot a performance tracking approach for CREP, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019.

2) Up to $75,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support the effectiveness monitoring program associated with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watersheds, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019.

3) $100,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants for additional retrospective analyses to tell the restoration story, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019.

Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I-1 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Rules
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) was established by law in 2017 to provide voluntary tools to protect and enhance working lands while maintaining or enhancing valuable fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values. The OAHC is nested under the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and is tasked with developing program administrative rules for board adoption governing the grant programs authorized by statute. This includes grants for succession planning, developing and implementing conservation management plans, purchase of conservation easements and covenants, and technical assistance. This item requests board approval of OAHP rules.

II. Background

The OAHC was appointed by the board on January 31, 2018, and held the first of eight public meetings to develop program rules on February 1, 2018. In June 2018, the OAHC released a draft set of program rules for public comment. Two public hearings were held, and in order to accommodate comments from boards and commissions who meet quarterly, the public comment period was extended through October 5, 2018. At its November 1, 2018 meeting, the OAHC developed responses to public comments and approved a revised version of the recommended program rules, which were posted for additional public comment. The OAHC received limited additional comments, made minor technical changes, and forwarded the proposed rules to the board for approval.

III. Rule Content

The proposed rules include five divisions, as follows:

OAR 698-005 Administration, including provisions applicable to all programs;

OAR 698-010 Conservation Management Plans, including eligibility, plan components, evaluation criteria, and technical review for grants developing or implementing conservation management plans;

OAR 698-015 Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements, including eligibility, application requirements, evaluation criteria, technical review, public involvement, and compliance requirements for grants to purchase conservation covenants and easements;

OAR 698-020 Working Land Technical Assistance Grants, which provide assistance to organizations that enter into conservation management plan agreements or that acquire working land covenants or easements; and

OAR 698-025 Succession Planning Grants, which help ensure the continued use of working lands for agricultural purposes when the land changes ownership.

With the rules in place, the OAHC will be poised to begin grant-making when funding is available.

IV. Public Comment and Response

In all, the OAHC received 157 comments from 17 entities. The comments resulted in significant revisions to the initial draft rules. Comments and OAHC responses to each comment are summarized in Attachment F.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board adopt the administrative rules as revised by public comment and recommended by the OAHC.

Attachments

A. OAR 698-005 Administration

B. OAR 698-010 Conservation Management Plans

C. OAR 698-015 Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements

D. OAR 698-020 Working Land Technical Assistance Grants

E. OAR 698-025 Succession Planning Grants

F. Summary of Public Comments

Division 005
Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Administration

698-005-0010
Purpose

These rules guide the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in fulfilling their duties in administering the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) under the provisions of ORS 541.977-ORS 541.989. The OAHP includes grants for conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants and easements, technical assistance, and succession planning.

The purpose of OAHP is to contribute to the public benefits of:

1) Increased economic viability of Oregon's agricultural operations and economic sector;
2) Reduced conversion and fragmentation of Oregon's working land; and
3) Enhanced fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resources on Oregon's working land.

698-005-0020
Definitions

1) "Agricultural landowner or operator" means a landowner, operator, manager or other person having responsibility for exercising control over the day-to-day operation of a farm or ranch.
2) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.
3) "Commission" means the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission created under ORS 541.986.
4) "Conservation management plan" means specific actions planned for working lands to improve or maintain the agricultural and natural resource values. A conservation management plan is independent of a working lands covenant or easement.
5) "Conservation management plan holder" means an entity that is eligible to hold a conservation management plan that is or would be responsible for developing, implementing, monitoring or enforcing the agreement under an OAHP grant agreement.
6) "Conversion":
    a. "Conversion" means:
        i. Cessation of accepted farming practices;
        ii. Construction of dwellings not occupied by farm operators or workers or other structures not related to agriculture;
        iii. Removal of infrastructure required for accepted farming practices unless necessary to accommodate a change in accepted farming practices; or
        iv. Cancelling or transferring rights to use water for irrigation in a manner that reduces the long-term viability of agriculture on the working land.

b. As used in this definition, “accepted farming practices” shall have the meaning set forth in ORS 215.203(2)(c)

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

8) “Farming and ranching” means “farm use” as defined in ORS 215.203(2).

9) “Fragmentation” means the division of a working farm or ranch, or the isolation of a farm or ranch from other agricultural operations and/or from the agricultural infrastructure necessary to bring farm products to their appropriate markets.

10) "Grant agreement" means the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient in which the Board is not substantially involved in the funded program or activity other than involvement associated with monitoring compliance with the grant conditions. It consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget and the approved application for funding the project.

11) “Grantee” means an organization or individual that is awarded a grant under one or more of OAHP’s grant programs.

12) “Management plan” means a description of the stewardship, monitoring, and uses of working land intended to carry out the purposes of a working lands easement or covenant.

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

14) "Technical committee” means a team of individuals who have expertise relevant to the ranking of OAHP grants, or other issues before the Commission.

15) “Working land” means land that is actively used by an agricultural owner or operator for an agricultural operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in “farm use” as defined in ORS 215.203(2).

16) “Working land conservation covenant” means a nonpossessory interest in working land for a fixed term that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for the purposes that support the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or enhancement of fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values.

17) “Working land conservation easement” means a permanent nonpossessory interest in working land that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for purposes that support the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or enhancement of fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values.

698-005-0030
Application Requirements

1) Applications must be submitted on the most current form. Current applications will be made available on the OWEB website. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided. In addition to the

information required in the application, an applicant may submit additional information that will aid the Commission in evaluating the project.

2) All applicants for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program grants shall supply the following information:

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

   b. Name and address of participating agricultural landowners or operators;

   c. Name and location of the proposed project. For conservation management plan and easement/covenant projects the location shall be described in reference to the public land survey, latitude and longitude using decimal degrees, North American Datum 1983, county, watershed, stream, or stream mile, as appropriate;

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

   e. Identification of specific project elements for which OAHP funds will be used;

   f. A description of any non-OAHP funds, services or materials available or secured for the project and any conditions which may affect the completion of the project;

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

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

   i. A project schedule, including times of project beginning and completion; and

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

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

698-005-0040
Application Processing

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

2) The Commission may require additional information to aid in evaluating and considering a proposed grant project.

698-005-0050
Grant Agreement Conditions

1) The Board will enter into new grant agreements with prior grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.
2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board.
3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.
4) The grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be completed under the agreement.
5) Upon notice to the grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.
6) The grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided by OWEB.
7) The grantee will obtain all necessary permits and licenses from local, state or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide a copy or each permit or license to the Board.
8) The Board may place additional conditions in the grant agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the program, including:
    a. An enforceable agreement by the agricultural landowner or operator for continued access by OWEB and its designees for monitoring the project after completion;
    b. An enforceable agreement by the grantee to maintain the project for a period of time commensurate with the project approved by the Board;
    c. An enforceable agreement to supply future reports on the project as required; and
    d. Such other conditions as the Board deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.
9) Rules and conditions in place at the time the grant is awarded shall govern throughout the term of the project unless changes are mutually agreeable to all parties.

698-005-0060
Use of Restricted Funding

The Board may accept contributions to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund from any public or private source and may agree to any conditions for the expenditure of those contributions that are consistent with the purpose of the fund as specified in ORS 541.977 – ORS 541.989.

698-005-0070
Distribution of Funds

1) The Director may withhold payments to a grantee if there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying Board requirements.
2) Funds will be released upon presentation of a completed fund release request form accompanied by documents as determined by the Director, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the grant agreement.
3) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Commission. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.

698-005-0080
Funding Decision Reconsideration by Board

In the event that the Director determines a grantee has not met conditions imposed by the Board, the Director shall forward the determination in writing to the Board for its consideration. The grantee will be provided a copy of the written determination. The conditionally encumbered grant funds will remain encumbered until the Board either affirms the Director's determination or authorizes the continued encumbrance of all or part of the funds in accordance with a modified decision of the Board.

Division 698-005-0090
Technical Committees

In addition to technical committees established by the Commission to rank and evaluate conservation management plan and working land conservation covenant and easement grant applications, the Commission may establish any technical committees it considers necessary to aid and advise the Commission in the performance of its functions, in compliance with ORS 541.988(2).

698-005-0100
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 005 unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Any waiver must be in writing, included in the grant file to which the waiver applies, and reported to the Commission within a reasonable time. The administrative rules for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program shall be periodically reviewed by the Commission and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Division 010
Conservation Management Plans

698-010-0010
Purpose

The purpose of a conservation management plan as defined in OAR 698-005-0020(4) is to develop and implement conservation measures or other protections for maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values in a manner consistent with the social and economic interests and abilities of the agricultural landowner or operator. The plan may include provisions for addressing particular priorities related to natural resource values, including but not limited to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and human need considerations.

The Conservation Management Plan Grant Program funds the development, implementation, and monitoring of conservation management plans (plans) entered into by agricultural landowners or operators and conservation management plan holders to manage working land in a manner that contributes to the purpose of OAHP in OAR 698-005-0010.

698-010-0020
Definition

(1) "Mutual Modification" means a change to a conservation management plan that is:

   a. Material to the plan as defined in Section 0120(5); and

   b. Agreed to by the agricultural landowner or operator implementing the plan and the conservation management plan holder.

(2) "Project" means the aggregate of eligible activities included in Section 0060 that comprise an application.

698-010-0030
Eligibility

1) Eligible applicants for Conservation Management Plan Grants are:

   a. Entities eligible to hold a conservation easement as defined in ORS 271.715, other than a state agency;

   b. Watershed councils; and

   c. Not-for-profit organizations other than a state agency.

2) Individual agricultural landowners or operators are not eligible to apply for a Conservation Management Plan Grant.

698-010-0040
Application

Conservation Management Plan Grant applications shall:

(1) Be consistent with OAR 698-005; and

(2) Include the duration and any terminating events for the plan.

698-010-0050
Match Contributions

1) All applicants shall demonstrate that some portion of the proposal is being sought as match.

2) The following funds and activities qualify as match:

   a. In-kind contributions to activities listed under OAR 698-010-0060;

   b. Funding commitments made by others as a result of grant applicant efforts; and

3) The OWEB Director retains the discretion to determine whether specific proposed matching costs not specifically identified above can be recognized as qualifying matching costs.

698-010-0060
Conservation Management Plan Activities

1) Funding may be utilized to develop, implement, carry out or monitor conservation management plans.

2) If there is a stream on the project:

a) The planning process must present the agricultural landowner or operator with alternatives that address the local Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan goals in place at the time of plan preparation.

b) If the program pays for plan implementation, the selected alternative must address the local Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan goals at the time of plan implementation.

698-010-0070
Term of Payment for Conservation Management Plan Implementation

1) If an agricultural landowner or operator is reimbursed for the implementation of a conservation management plan, the plan must be for a term of at least 20 years and no more than 50 years.

2) If a plan is associated with a working land conservation covenant that would also be funded by OAHP, the term of the plan must be the same as the term of the covenant.

698-010-0080
Conservation Management Plan Components

At a minimum, conservation management plans must include:

(1) A summary describing how the conservation management plan meets OAHP's purpose;

(2) The contact and location information for the agricultural landowner or operator and conservation management plan holder;

(3) Relevant background and context of the working land and operation;

(4) Inventory, including site characteristics and current management;

(5) Short- and long-term social, economic, and conservation goals of the agricultural landowner or operator;

(6) Resource analysis and identification of resource and management concerns;

(7) Identification of potential plan activities and a justification for the activities that were selected for implementation;

(8) The implementation plan, including a budget;

(9) If applicable, a maintenance plan for infrastructure associated with the plan that may affect neighboring lands if not maintained over time;

(10) The expected agricultural, fish or wildlife, water quality or other natural resource outcomes, and related social outcomes of the plan once implemented;

(11) How the conservation management plan will be evaluated and managed;

(12) A conflict resolution protocol for the agricultural landowner or operator and the conservation management plan holder if the grant program would fund the implementation of the plan; and

(13) The term of the plan.

698-010-0090
Evaluation Criteria

Conservation Management Plan Grant applications will be evaluated on:

1) The significance of the agricultural, natural resource, and related social values of the working land subject to the conservation management plan(s).
2) The extent to which implementation of the plan(s) would protect, maintain, or enhance farming or ranching on working land, including how implementation of the plan(s) would:
   a) Maintain or improve the economic viability of the operation; and
   b) Reduce the potential for future conversion or fragmentation of the property and surrounding working land
3) The extent to which implementation of the plan would protect, maintain, or enhance significant fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, or other natural resource values by:
   a) Protecting, maintaining, or improving the land, including soil, water, plants, animals, energy, and human needs considerations;
   b) Supporting implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, or other local, regional, state, federal or tribal priorities or plans that support fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, or other natural resource values;
   c) Protecting, maintaining or improving the quality and connectivity of wildlife habitat on and around the working land subject to the plan;

d) Protecting, maintaining, or improving water quality or quantity; and

e) Sustaining ecological values, as evidenced by the conservation management plan or inherent site condition.

4) The extent to which implementation of the plan(s) would protect, maintain or enhance significant agricultural outcomes, benefits, or other investment gains, including the regional significance of the agricultural operation, or its suitability based on soils, slope, location or other relevant factors.

5) The capacity and competence of the prospective conservation management plan holder to enter into and (if implementation funding is awarded) monitor and carry out implementation of a conservation management plan, including:

   a) The financial capability to manage the plan(s) over time;

   b) The demonstrated relevant commitment, expertise, and track record to successfully develop, implement, carry out, and monitor plan(s); and

   c) The strength of the conservation management plan holder as measured by effective governance.

6) The extent to which the benefit to the state may be maximized, based on:

   a) The ability to leverage grant moneys from other funding sources;

   b) The duration and extent of the conservation management plan, with a preference for longer term agreements if implementation funding is awarded; and

   c) The potential for setting an example that will encourage additional working land projects.

7) The impacts of plan implementation on owners or operators of neighboring lands, including:

   a) A plan for communicating with neighboring owners and operators once a conservation management plan is ready to be implemented about how to mitigate potential impacts; and

   b) A maintenance plan for infrastructure that may impact neighboring lands if not maintained over time.

8) The level of threat of conversion or fragmentation of the working land.

698-010-0100
Technical Review and Funding Process

(1) Technical review of Conservation Management Plan Grant applications shall occur based on information provided in the grant application and technical review team expertise about the area and the project. The Commission shall appoint one or more technical committees to evaluate and rank applications for grants for conservation management plans. Those rankings will be provided to the commission to inform the commission's final ranking and funding recommendations to the OWEB board.

(2) Applications shall be evaluated according to criteria described in OAR 698-010-0090.

(3) The ranking system shall provide for the ranking of conservation management plans alone and not as part of an application that includes a working land conservation covenant or easement.

(4) The technical committee(s) shall provide ranking recommendations to OWEB staff. OWEB staff will review technical committee recommendations and provide funding recommendations to the Commission.

(5) The Commission shall review and consider the recommendations of the technical committee(s) and consult with the Board concerning grant applications.

(6) The Commission shall make funding recommendations to the Board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.

(7) The Board approves Conservation Management Plan Grants. The Board may fund a grant application in whole or in part.

698-010-0110
Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) Grant funding is subject to the signed statement of understanding and agreement by the participating agricultural landowner(s) or operator(s) to the roles and responsibilities under the conservation management plan.

(2) All conservation management plan grant agreements for conservation management plan development authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to 10 percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Any unexpended program funds must be returned to the Commission.

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

(4) The Director will consider project amendments, including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation, if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project.

(5) All changes to the conservation management plan must be reflected in writing and provided to the Commission.

698-010-0120
Conservation Management Plan Mutual Modification

If funding is provided for conservation management plan implementation:

(1) Any changes to conservation management plans must achieve the same or greater level of benefits as the original plan, as evaluated by the criteria in OAR 698-010-0090.

(2) Conservation management plans must include provisions that provide for flexibility and allow for mutual modification as necessary to reflect changes in practices or circumstances.

(3) Any change in the conservation management plan must be mutually agreed to by both the agricultural landowner or operator and the conservation management plan holder.

(4) To ensure consistent review of all conservation management plans, the conservation management plan holder and the agricultural landowner or operator must review the conservation management plan at least annually and may mutually modify the conservation management plan if necessary.

(5) The agricultural landowner or operator must contact the conservation management plan holder immediately if any of the following changes occur that will impact either implementation of the conservation management plan or its expected outcomes:

(a) Changes in management or ownership of the property;

(b) Changes in the grazing or cropping system(s) not identified in the plan. For changes in grazing or cropping systems, the landowner must notify the conservation management plan holder in advance;

(c) A natural disaster occurs that will impact implementation of the conservation management plan; or

(d) Other changes that are outside the agricultural landowner's or operator's control.

(6) The conservation management plan holder must contact the agricultural landowner or operator if changes in site conditions significantly affect the expected outcomes of conservation management plan implementation.

(7) Modifications to the plan may include:

(a) The addition of new conservation practices, measures or benefits; or

(b) Changes to practices, measures, or benefits in response to:

i. Changes in management approaches based on new scientific understanding of expected outcomes;

ii. Changes in management or ownership of the working land;

iii. Changes in the grazing or cropping system;

iv. A natural disaster; or

v. Other changes outside the agricultural landowner's or operator's control.

698-010-0130
Conservation Management Plan Monitoring

If funding is provided for conservation management plan implementation:

(1) Notwithstanding (2), the conservation management plan holder must conduct at least one site visit to the property every three years, or as prescribed by a match funder if their interval for site visits is shorter than three years, to document the implementation of the conservation management plan.

(2) The agricultural landowner or operator and the conservation management plan holder may agree to establish specific monitoring protocols and site visit intervals more

frequent than once every three years to identify trends in fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values, and must establish protocols if a modification of the conservation management plan results in specific monitoring or site visit needs. Protocols must be in writing and agreed to by both the agricultural landowner or operator and the conservation management plan holder. The Commission may provide guidance for consistent monitoring protocols.

(3) The Commission or its designees may conduct spot checks to ensure management plan implementation as identified in the plan and associated reporting. The agricultural landowner or operator shall allow site access to the Commission, OWEB, or their contractors or representatives upon reasonable notification by the Commission.

(4) The Commission may also develop monitoring protocols to evaluate the outcomes of conservation management plan implementation on a programmatic level.

698-010-0140
Grant Reporting Requirements

1) For grants that include funding for conservation management plan implementation:
    a. At least once per year, the agricultural landowner or operator must meet with the conservation management plan holder and provide this holder with a written report of the conservation management plan activities completed that year on a form approved by the Commission. Reports may also include photo points or other methods that appropriately track plan implementation.
    b. Annual reporting must identify any mutual modifications to the conservation management plan.
    c. Reports must be submitted to the Commission on a date set by the Commission.
2) Upon development of a conservation management plan or completion of conservation management plan implementation, the grantee will provide the Commission and OWEB's Board with a copy of the project completion report. Final project accounting and reporting are due no later than 60 days following the project completion date specified in the grant agreement.
3) Upon receipt of the final report, the Commission shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved, the final payment shall be promptly processed.

698-010-0150
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 010 unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Conservation Management Plan Grant Program. Any waiver must be in writing, included in the grant file to which the waiver applies, and reported to the Commission within a reasonable time. The

administrative rules for Conservation Management Planning Grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Commission and revised as necessary and appropriate.

DIVISION 015
Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements

698-015-0010
Purpose

The purpose of a working land conservation covenant or easement is to preserve and protect the continued use of a working land for agricultural purposes, and maintain or enhance fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, or other natural resource values on the land.

Covenants and easements funded under this program:

1) Must contribute to the public benefits in OAR 698-005-0010; and
2) Must provide for carrying out a purpose of a conservation easement, as defined in ORS 271.715.

698-015-0020
Definitions

1) "Project" means the aggregate of eligible activities included in sections 0060 and 0070 that comprise an application.
2) "Stewardship" means monitoring, maintaining, managing, and improving land protected by an easement or covenant, including providing signage, controlling access, providing enforcement actions and resolving violations.
3) "Stewardship fund" means a restricted fund that is used to cover the holder's long-term costs for stewardship of the land protected by the covenant or easement and payment of taxes and insurance associated with that land. If the funding source allows investment of stewardship funds, funds may be used for investment management costs. Stewardship funds may not be used for overhead or indirect costs.

698-015-0030
Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grants are holders as defined in ORS 271.715 other than state agencies. Individual owners of working land are not eligible to apply for a Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant.

698-015-0040
Eligible Properties

Eligible properties for Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grants are working lands as defined in ORS 541.977(2).

698-015-0050
Application

1) In accordance with ORS 541.977(3) and (4), OWEB may consider Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant applications to acquire a nonpossessory interest in working land for a permanent or fixed term that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations.
2) Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant applications shall:

a. Be consistent with OAR 698- 005;
b. Be submitted on the most current form and process prescribed by the Commission;
c. State the amount and type of match contribution; and
d. If the application is for a covenant, include the duration of the covenant.

3) If the covenant is identical in duration to a conservation management plan for the working land that is funded by the OAHP Conservation Management Plan Grant Program, the covenant must refer to the conservation management plan in the text of the covenant.
4) If there is a stream on the project, the covenant or easement application shall describe how either the easement or the management plan and associated monitoring addresses the local Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan goals. Easement monitoring shall include any riparian monitoring identified in the application.
5) If a pre-existing or new conservation management plan is proposed as part of an application for a covenant or easement under this program, the proposed plan must be agreed to by the landowner, applicant, and commission before closing.
6) The Commission may consider proposals that are received for covenants or easements that were acquired by the applicant after the previous application deadline.

698-015-0060
Match Contributions

1) All applicants shall demonstrate that at least 25% match is being sought, based on the total OAHP grant request for the covenant or easement project.
2) The following funds and activities qualify as match:
    a. In-kind contributions to activities listed under OAR 698-015-0070;
    b. Funding commitments made by others as a result of grant applicant efforts;
    c. A donated portion of a sale; and
    d. Funds deposited in a stewardship fund before the time that OWEB funds are released for acquisition of the covenant or easement.
3) The OWEB Director retains the discretion to determine whether specific proposed match contributions not specifically identified above can be recognized as qualifying match.

698-015-0070
Use of Grant Funds

Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant funds may be applied towards costs related to purchasing, implementing, holding, monitoring, stewarding, or enforcing the covenant or easement, including:

1) The purchase price and the purchase option fees associated with the working land conservation covenant or easement:
    a. The purchase price for easements shall be based on an appraisal and review appraisal completed in accordance with applicable appraisal standards, including the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, and if

required by other funding sources or the Internal Revenue Service, the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions.

b. The purchase price for covenants shall be based on an assessment of fair market value using methodologies similar to those described in OAR 698-015-0070 (1)(a);

2) The interest on bridge loans needed to secure closure on the property prior to when funding will be available for distribution through the program;

3) The staff costs incurred as part of the covenant or easement acquisition process related to the property;

4) The cost of due diligence activities, including appraisal, environmental site assessment, survey, title review, and other customary due diligence activities;

5) The cost of baseline inventory preparation;

6) The legal fees incurred;

7) The closing fees, including recording and title insurance costs;

8) The cost of securing and maintaining the agriculture and conservation values associated with the property in accordance with the application or a conservation management plan approved by the Director; and

9) Up to 50% match for the value of a stewardship fund, but program funds contributed to a stewardship fund may not exceed 5% of the total appraised value of the covenant or easement.

698-015-0080
Terms of Covenants and Easements

1) A working land conservation easement shall last in perpetuity.

2) A working land conservation covenant shall last for a term of no less than twenty and no more than fifty years.

3) The covenant term shall be set at 12-month increments only and not partial years.

4) The first day of the term of a covenant shall be the date that both of these events have occurred:

a. The covenant holder and the owner of working land conveying the covenant sign the agreement; and

b. The owner of working land has received Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant funding from this program for the covenant.

698-015-0090
Evaluation Criteria

Working Land Covenant and Easement Grant applications will be evaluated on:

1) The significance of the agricultural, natural resource, and related social values of the working land subject to the working land conservation covenant or easement.

2) The extent to which the working land conservation covenant or easement would protect, maintain, or enhance farming or ranching on regionally significant working land, including:

a) Reducing the potential for future conversion or fragmentation of the property and surrounding working land;

b) Maintaining or enhancing the ability of the land to be in productive agricultural use after the covenant or easement is in place;

c) The potential viability of the property for agriculture; and

d) Improving or maintaining the economic viability of the operation, including future transfer of ownership.

3) The extent to which the covenant or easement would protect, maintain or enhance significant fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values by:

a) Protecting, maintaining, or improving the land, including soil, water, plants, animals, energy, and human needs considerations;

b) Supporting implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, or other local, regional, state, federal or tribal priorities or plans that support fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values;

c) Protecting, maintaining, or improving the quality and connectivity of wildlife habitat on and around the working land;

d) Protecting, maintaining, or improving water quality and/or quantity; and

e) Implementing a management plan that is likely to sustain ecological values, as evidenced by a management plan, easement or covenant terms, or inherent site condition.

4) The extent to which the covenant or easement would protect, maintain or enhance significant agricultural outcomes, benefits or other agricultural or conservation values important to the region, including:

a) The parcel's contribution to long-term conservation of the region's agricultural land base; and

b) The regional significance of the agricultural operation, or its suitability based on soils, slope, location or other relevant factors, and its associated infrastructure.

5) The capacity and competence of the applicant and the proposed easement or covenant holder to purchase, accept, implement, hold, monitor, steward, and enforce a working land conservation covenant or easement, including:

a) Accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, or implementation of standards and practices that are similar to an organization that is eligible for accreditation;

b) Inclusion of working land preservation in the organization's mission, vision or other organizational documents;

c) The financial capability of the organization to steward conservation covenants and easements over time;

d) Demonstrated relevant commitment, ability, expertise, and track record to purchase, accept, implement, hold, monitor, steward, and enforce conservation covenants and easements or other relevant projects; and

e) The strength of the organization as measured by effective governance.

6) The extent to which the benefit to the state from the investment may be maximized, based on:
   a) The ability to leverage grant moneys with other funding sources;
   b) The duration and extent of the agreement, with a preference for longer term agreements;
   c) The cumulative effect of similar conservation or agricultural investments in the community, including other OAHP funded plans, covenants, or easements;
   d) Consistency with local comprehensive plans and statewide planning goals;
   e) The potential for setting an example that will encourage additional working lands projects in the region; and
   f) The existence and implementation of a conservation management plan.
7) The impacts of the covenant or easement or the associated conservation management plan on owners or operators of neighboring lands, and the extent to which there is a plan of engagement with neighboring landowners about how to mitigate any impacts resulting from the covenant or easement, if necessary.
8) The level of threat of conversion or fragmentation of the working land.
9) The soundness of the legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction.

698-015-0100
Technical Review and Funding Process

(1) The Commission shall appoint one or more technical committees to evaluate and rank applications for grants for working land conservation covenants and easements. Those rankings will be provided to OWEB staff. OWEB staff will review technical committee recommendations and provide funding recommendations to the commission

(2) Applications shall be evaluated according to criteria described in OAR 698-015-0090.

(3) The Commission shall review and consider the recommendations of OWEB staff and consult with the Board concerning grant applications.

(4) The Commission shall make funding recommendations to the Board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.

(5) The Board approves Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grants. The Board may fund a grant application in whole or in part.

698-015-0110
Board Approval and Delegation of Authority

1) The Commission shall recommend and the Board shall approve grants in accordance with guidance adopted by the Board and made available to the public.
2) The Director is delegated the responsibility of ensuring that funding conditions required by the Board are fully satisfied by the grantee.

3) Conditionally approved grant funds shall be encumbered for disbursement only after all conditions are fulfilled. The encumbered funds may be made available for other uses by OWEB if all conditions required by the Board are not satisfied within 18 months of the conditional Board approval, unless recommended by the Commission and approved by the OWEB Board.

698-015-0120
Public Involvement

The public shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to comment on grant applications being considered by the Board or Commission. In a manner consistent with this requirement, the governing bodies of cities and counties with jurisdiction in the area of the proposed covenant or easement acquisition, as well as affected governmental agencies and tribes, will be provided with written notice of the Board's or Commission's intent to consider:

1) Written comments received prior to the Board or Commission meeting at which the Board or Commission will consider the application;
2) Comments made at public hearings held and publicized in accordance with ORS 271.735; and
3) Comments made at the Board or Commission meeting at which the grant application is considered.

698-015-0130
Director Funding Approval and Distribution of Funds

(1) The Director may approve the distribution of grant funds. Funds may be distributed throughout the time between approval by the Board and the covenant or easement closing as the following conditions are met:

a. A grant agreement is executed by the Director and the grantee that includes a signed statement of understanding and agreement to the roles and responsibilities under the working land conservation covenant or easement by the participating owner of working land;
b. The funding conditions, if any, imposed by the Board are satisfied to the full satisfaction of the Director;
c. The legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction are approved by the Director;
d. The required title restrictions are approved by the Director;
e. The Director has reconciled conditionally approved funding with actual project costs;
f. The grantee has satisfied the match requirements under OAR 698-015-0060;
g. The Board is notified in writing of the Director's intent to hold or recover the grant funds pending Board consideration under OAR 698-015-0140(1).

(2) For grants established under these rules, the Director is authorized to reimburse the grantee for allowable costs identified in OAR 698-015-0070 and to recognize match

contributions under OAR 698-015-0060 that were incurred no earlier than 18 months before the applicable grant application deadline.

698-015-0140
Compliance and Enforcement

1) The ongoing use of the property encumbered by a covenant or easement that received funding from the Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant Program shall be consistent with the purposes specified in ORS 541.977-ORS 541.989. If significant compliance issues cannot be resolved to the full satisfaction of the Director, the Director, after informing the Commission and the Board and providing reasonable written notice to the Grantee, may in his or her discretion initiate any and all legal remedies available to OWEB, including recovery of the OAHP grant funds that were used to purchase the covenant or easement, and reasonable interest and penalties at the option of the Director.
2) OWEB and its designees will be provided sufficient legal access to property encumbered by a covenant or easement acquired with OAHP funds, given reasonable notice, for the purpose of completing covenant or easement inspections.

698-015-0150
Grant Reporting Requirements for Covenants

Upon completion of the term of a working land conservation covenant, the grantee will provide the Commission and OWEB's Board with a copy of the project completion report. Final project accounting and reporting are due no later than 60 days following the project completion date.

698-015-0160
Payment Relationship Between Covenants and Easements

If a working land conservation covenant is funded through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and a later application is submitted to the Commission for the same property for a working land conservation easement:

1) If the term of the covenant has not expired, the fair market value of the easement will be reduced by a proportion equivalent to the time remaining on the covenant.
2) If the term of the covenant has expired, no reduction of fair market value will be taken for the subsequent easement.

698-015-0170
Subsequent Conveyances

If a covenant or easement acquired with OAHP funds is subsequently transferred, it must:

1) Be made subject to prior approval by the Commission; and
2) Strictly comply with the requirements of ORS 541.977 – ORS 541.989 and OAR 698-010 and OAR 698-015.

698-015-0180
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 015 unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Working Land

Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant. Any waiver must be in writing, included in the grant file to which the waiver applies, and reported to the Commission within a reasonable time. The administrative rules for Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Commission and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Division 020
Working Land Technical Assistance Grants

698-020-0010
Purpose

The purpose of technical assistance grants is to provide assistance to organizations that are eligible to enter into agreements resulting in conservation management plans, or that acquire or propose to acquire working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements. Grant funding must support the public benefits in OAR 698-005-0010.

698-020-0020
Definitions

(1) "Technical assistance" means supporting the development of working land projects or programs as described in ORS 541-981 and division 010 (conservation management plans) and ORS 541-982 and division 015 (working land conservation covenants and easements).

(2) “Young or beginning farmer or rancher” means someone who has been an agricultural landowner or operator for 10 consecutive years or fewer, or an agricultural landowner or operator who is 35 years old or younger.

(3) “Socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher” means an agricultural landowner or operator who is a member of a group whose members have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. Those groups include African Americans, American Indians or Alaskan natives, Hispanics, and Asians or Pacific Islanders.

(4) “Veteran farmer or rancher” means a person who served in United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, including the reserve components thereof, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable.

(5) “Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher” means an applicant with direct or indirect gross farm sales that are not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous 2 years, and who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous 2 years. An entity or joint operation can be a Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher if all individual members independently qualify.

698-020-0030
Eligibility

1) Eligible applicants for Technical Assistance Grants are eligible to enter into agreements resulting in a conservation management plan under division 010 or acquire a working land conservation covenant or easement under division 015.
2) Individual agricultural landowners or operators are not eligible to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant.

698-020-0040
Application Requirements
Technical Assistance Grant applications shall be consistent with OAR 698-005.

698-020-0050
Technical Assistance Activities
1) Technical Assistance Grant funding cannot be used to fund specific conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants, or working land conservation easements.
2) The Commission will only consider technical assistance projects that will lead to or are likely to lead to the development of conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants, or working land conservation easements.

698-020-0060
Evaluation Criteria
Technical Assistance Grants will be evaluated on:

1) The extent to which the proposal will improve upon the ability of the entity or its partners to enter into conservation management plans, or acquire working land conservation covenants or easements.
2) The extent to which the outcomes of the technical assistance project would lead to activities that:
    a. Protect, maintain, or enhance farming or ranching on working land;
    b. Protect, maintain, or enhance significant fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, appropriate seasonal water flows, appropriate water retention, or other natural resource values;
    c. Protect, maintain, or enhance significant agricultural outcomes, benefits, or other investment gains;
    d. Maximize the benefit to the state based on the ability to leverage grant moneys; and
    e. Limit negative and maximize positive impacts on owners or operators of neighboring lands.
3) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates a plan to engage one or more underserved populations, including young or beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, veteran farmers or ranchers, or limited resource farmers or ranchers.

698-020-0070
Technical Review and Funding Process
1) Applications shall be evaluated according to criteria described in OAR 698-020-0060.
2) The Commission shall appoint one or more technical committees to evaluate and rank applications for grants for working land conservation covenants and easements. Those rankings will be provided to the commission to inform the commission's final ranking and funding recommendations to the OWEB board.

3) If a technical committee is used, the technical committee shall provide ranking recommendations to OWEB staff, who will review technical committee recommendations and provide funding recommendations to the Commission. If a technical committee is not used, OWEB staff will provide funding recommendations to the Commission.
4) The Commission shall make funding recommendations to the Board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.
5) The Board approves Technical Assistance Grants. The Board may fund a grant application in whole or in part.

698-020-0080
Grant Agreement Conditions

1) The grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.
2) The Director may consider project modifications, including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation, if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project and the proposed activity is within the same geographic area.
3) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.
4) The grantee must submit a report at completion of the project in accordance with reporting requirements described in the grant agreement.
5) Rules and conditions in place at the time funding for the Technical Assistance Grant is formally approved shall govern throughout the term of the project unless changes are mutually agreeable to both parties.

698-020-0090
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 020 unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Technical Assistance Grant program. Any waiver must be in writing, included in the grant file to which the waiver applies, and reported to the Commission within a reasonable time. The administrative rules for Technical Assistance Grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Commission and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Division 025
Succession Planning Grants

698-025-0010
Purpose

The purpose of succession planning is to help ensure the continued use of working lands for agricultural purposes when the land changes ownership. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission may provide funding recommendations to the Oregon Legislative Assembly, or recommendations for grant funding to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, to provide training and support to agricultural landowners or operators or persons advising them regarding succession planning for the lands. Recommendations and grant funding must support the program purpose in OAR 698-005-0010.

698-025-0020
Definitions

(1) "Agricultural cooperative" means a cooperative corporation formed in accordance with the Oregon Cooperative Corporation Act for the benefit of agricultural landowners or operators.

(2) "Succession planning" means an ongoing process for ensuring the continuation and economic viability of a business over generations of owners or operators. It may include strategies to identify, develop, and empower the next generation of owners or operators, a plan to transfer business and family assets, and arrangements for each generation's retirement and long-term care. Succession plans are fluid and may be reviewed and updated throughout the existence of the business.

698-025-0030
Applicant Eligibility

(1) Eligible applicants for Succession Planning Grants are:

- (i) Public institutions of higher learning,
- (ii) Nonprofit entities,
- (iii) Political subdivisions of the state that are not state agencies,
- (iv) Tribes, and
- (v) Agricultural cooperatives.

(2) Individual agricultural landowners or operators and individual persons or business entities not listed above that are advising them are not eligible to apply for a Succession Planning Grant.

698-025-0040
Application Requirements

Succession Planning Grant applications shall:

(1) Not require match contributions; and

(2) Comply with Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program general grant application requirements in OAR 698-005.

698-025-0050
Eligible Activities

The following activities benefitting agricultural landowners or operators in Oregon and the persons who advise them are eligible for Succession Planning Grants:

(1) Education and outreach about the importance of succession planning and available resources;

(2) Trainings on topics related to succession planning;

(3) Development and distribution of educational materials and curriculum related to succession planning; and

(4) Advising agricultural landowners or operators on succession planning.

698-025-0060
Evaluation Criteria

Succession Planning Grant applications will be evaluated on:

(1) The extent to which the proposed project would help achieve the purpose of this grant program as identified in OAR 698-005-0010;

(2) The capacity and competence of the applicant to deliver the proposed program;

(3) The applicant's relevant background and experience in delivering successful succession planning programs, including prior projects funded through this or other grant programs.

(4) The cost-effectiveness of the proposed project;

(5) The extent to which the application reaches diverse audiences, including: producers of diverse commodities, agricultural landowners or operators in diverse geographic locations in Oregon, young or beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, veteran farmer or ranchers, limited resource farmers or ranchers, and participants in diverse stages of succession planning. The Commission may also consider the extent to which a suite of approved grant projects will combine to reflect this diversity; and

(6) The extent to which the project introduces participants to conservation tools as resources for succession planning.

698-025-0070
Succession Planning Grant Application Technical Review and Funding Process

(1) The Commission may fund projects submitted through an open solicitation for applications, or by requesting applications from one or more specific eligible entities.

(2) Applications shall be evaluated according to criteria in OAR 698-025-0060.

(3) The Commission shall appoint one or more technical committees to evaluate and rank applications for grants for working land conservation covenants and easements. Those rankings will be provided to the commission to inform the commission's final ranking and funding recommendations to the OWEB board.

(4) The Commission shall make funding recommendations to the Board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.

(5) The Board may fund a grant application in whole or in part.

698-025-0080
Grant Agreement Conditions

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

(2) The Director will consider project modifications, including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation, if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project.

698-025-0090
Grant Funding Conditions

1) All Succession Planning Grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved.

2) Final reports are due within 60 days of project completion. Any unexpended OAHP funds must be returned to the Commission with the final report.

3) Upon receipt of the final report, the Commission shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval.

4) Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.

698-025-0100
Grant Reporting Requirements

(1) Upon project completion, the grantee will provide the Commission and OWEB's Board with a copy of the project completion report. Final project accounting and reporting are due no later than 60 days following the project completion date.

(2) The project completion report and annual reports shall demonstrate how the grantee's funded project(s) demonstrated clear succession planning benefits to Oregon

agricultural landowners or operators and their service providers. Evidence of this may include, but is not limited to:

(i) The number of people who participated in the program;

(ii) The geographic, commodity, and other demographic indicators of participation in the program;

(iii) Documented improved understanding of succession planning by program participants;

(iv) Documented measurable changes in behavior of participants, including the percentage or number of agricultural landowners or operators who take the next step toward succession planning, complete a plan, and implement the plan;

(v) Documented improved understanding by participants of tools to reduce conversion or prevent fragmentation of working land, and promote economic viability and ecological sustainability of agricultural operations; and

(vi) Other documentation of the project's success in contributing to achieve the purpose of this grant program.

(3) The Director or the Commission may authorize an independent performance audit of any Succession Planning Grant grantee. The Director may restrict future grant funds if the Director determines the grantee is not complying with the rules of the Succession Planning Grant Program.

(4) In addition to project reports, the Commission may conduct program evaluations that may include:

a. Changes in USDA Census of Agriculture or similar data that would indicate a change in adoption of succession planning by Oregon agricultural landowners or operators;

b. Surveys of agricultural landowners or operators on the status of succession plans; or

c. Other trends in working land ownership and use.

698-025-0110
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 025 unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Succession Planning Grant Program. Any waiver must be in writing, included in the grant file to which the waiver applies, and reported to the Commission within a reasonable time. The administrative rules for Succession Planning Grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Commission and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Rules: General Comments

Commenter(s)	Comments	OAHC Recommendation	
		Response	Rule Change
Pete Schreder[1], Lake County Rancher ***Oral Comment, at Burns Hearing 7/17/18***	Mr. Schreder is excited about the support features for ranch succession planning, including helping the next generation update their operations and make them more productive. OAHP seems to be a good, comprehensive package of programs with menus that landowners can explore. It can help preserve conservation efforts and tie conservation back into the rural communities that are vital to supporting this work. It will be important to have regional review teams who know local agriculture to diversify projects. And it is important to have a regional contact who can explain the program to landowners and organizations so it actually gets used and is not too daunting.	Thank you for your comment. Consistent with OWEB's grantmaking process, review team membership will represent diverse geographies and areas of expertise.	N/A N/A
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), *Gen. Comm. #1*	COLT is excited to see a new program in Oregon that is designed to protect agricultural lands from fragmentation and conversion, and leverage the federal Agricultural Land Easement program. COLT applauds Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for shaping this program and for leading a conversation about the need to integrate conservation and working lands.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), *Gen. Comm. #2*	COLT strongly encourages OWEB staff or a Commission-appointed body to walk through the proposed OAHP rules with staff from NRCS Oregon or their national office to ensure the intended complementary nature of the two programs are borne out in the OAHP rules.	NRCS has been engaged in the rulemaking and will be asked to review the final draft rules.	N/A
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), *Gen. Comm. #3*	COLT recommends that rules provide consistency in various purposes and definitions.	OWEB will work to create consistency in purposes and definitions.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), *Gen. Comm. #4*	COLT supports changing the statute to "maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, or other natural resource values on the land."	OWEB has proposed this statutory change, and it will be reflected in rule.	Yes
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), *Gen. Comm. #1*	DLCD expresses general support for OAHP, which can help access federal funding for the preservation of working agricultural lands and natural resources, including voluntary conservation easements and covenants that can be used to compliment land use regulations (especially Goals 3 and 5). Support for farm succession planning.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD),	DLCD recommends that the grant evaluation criteria not be eligible for waivers under OAR 698-005-0100, 698-010-0150, 698-015-0180, 698-020-0090, and 698-025-0120, to prevent the use of a waiver to approve grant applications in	Limitations on the Director's right of waiver address this issue. Rules state that: "The Director may waive the requirements …	No

[1] All comments were submitted in writing, except for Pete Schreder's oral comment, recorded at the public hearing in Burns on 7/17/18

Gen. Comm. #2	locations that are inconsistent with statewide planning goals or local comprehensive plans, and/or locations that would not prevent fragmentation or conversion of working lands.	unless required by statute…]." Since ORS 197.180 requires state agencies to take actions that comply with land use goals and rules, and are compatible with comprehensive plans and rules, this cannot be waived.	
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Gen. Comm. #1*	EMSWCD offers general support for OAHP and the rulemaking process.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
East Multnomah Soil & Water Cons. District (EMSWCD) *Gen. Comm. #2*	EMSWCD recommends that the evaluation criteria's references to water quality be changed to read "maintaining existing acceptable water quality or improving unacceptable water quality."	OWEB has proposed a similar statutory change: "the maintenance or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values." It will also be reflected in rule.	Yes
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Gen. Comm. #3*	EMSWCD recommends that OWEB review OAHP rules for consistency with ACEP-ALE to ensure the two programs operate in harmony. E.g., achieving the maximum enhancement of habitat value on a property might be achieved through the conversion of all/most farmland to another habitat type. And maximizing outcomes associated with some of OAHP's purposes could create challenges in securing ACEP-ALE funding.	NRCS has been engaged in the rulemaking and will be asked to review the final draft rules.	N/A
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Gen. Comm. #4*	EMSWCD asks the commission to consider designating some purposes as primary and some as secondary, stipulating that pursuit of the secondary purpose(s) may not conflict with or significantly diminish the primary purpose(s).	Prioritization of some values over others would conflict with the statute's and commission's intention to integrate agricultural and conservation objectives. Limited funding and ranking criteria will result in the funding of only projects with high agricultural ***and*** conservation values.	No
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF)	FoFF is generally supportive of efforts to encourage family farm ownership and farmland conservation, as well as efforts to help farmland owners plan for succession as a means to support young, new, beginning, low-income, and socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers gaining access to farmland.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
McKenzie River Trust (MRT)	MRT appreciates the potential that OAHP has to transform the funding landscape and lead to meaningful conservation of Oregon's valuable agricultural heritage.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC)	NYFC applauds Oregon for creating a comprehensive package of programs that includes grants for conservation management plans and technical assistance and covenants and easements.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Oregon Department of	ODFW supports the development of new tools or programs to address the	Thank you for your comment.	N/A

Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) *Gen. Comm. #1*	challenges in a changing landscape, e.g. the critical need for succession planning, and recognizes the natural resource value that working lands provide, including fish and wildlife habitat.		
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) *Gen. Comm. #2*	ODFW encourages OWEB and the OAH Commission to discuss how the Department's Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) or the Riparian Lands Tax Incentive Program (RLTIP) (ORS 308A and OAR 635-430) can be integrated or improved upon with the implementation of the OAHP to support and strengthen the tools available, and needed, for working land conservation.	OWEB will work with ODFW to schedule a presentation and discussion for the OAH commission on these programs at a future meeting of the commission.	N/A
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) *Gen. Comm. #3*	ODFW requests at least one Department representative to participate on the technical committee(s) for evaluating and ranking conservation management plans and working land conservation covenants and easements.	Consistent with OWEB's grantmaking process, review team membership will represent diverse areas of expertise, including ODFW as appropriate.	N/A
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	This is a great program and we support it fully. We hope that it receives funding and results in projects with long-lasting benefits.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
WaterWatch	WaterWatch states that, if public funds are to be distributed to conservation projects, OWEB should ensure that the projects result in demonstrable public environmental benefits. WaterWatch states that the rules as currently written do not ensure this.	The evaluation criteria were designed by the commission to ensure that the grant programs provide public and environmental benefits.	No
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District	Give the highest priority and consideration to applications that: 1) ensure lands remain in agricultural production, and 2) provide protections for the longest timeframe possible, with the highest priority given to projects that provide permanent protection with conservation easements.	The evaluation criteria are designed to maintain the viability of agricultural operations. 698-015-0090(6)(b) prioritizes the duration and extent of the agreement, with a preference for longer term agreements.	No
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Gen. Comment #1*	The Board strongly believes the OAHP's main focus should be on working lands. While we believe implementing conservation management plans and improvements to soil health, water quality and fish and wildlife habitat are important objectives, the integration of conservation values with the protection of agricultural lands as working lands is critical to the OAHP success.	The commission agrees.	N/A
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Gen. Comment #2*	Because most Oregon farmers and ranchers have little experience in the use of easements today, ensuring that information about the program is disseminated in a form that is accessible and understandable will be critical in developing the trust needed in an easement program involving working lands. The Board recognizes that rules inherently can be lengthy documents however simplifying the rules, where possible, and ensuring the materials and forms available to producers are simple and easily filled-out is vital to building that trust.	OWEB agrees and will take this into account when developing guidance, forms, and other materials supporting the program.	N/A
Oregon Board of	Additionally, the Board was extremely interested in how the Commission and	OWEB agrees that regional expertise is	N/A

Agriculture *Gen. Comment #3*	the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) would use regional review teams to analyze and evaluate issues related to "regional significance" and other agricultural criteria. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has expertise and connections to the agriculture community in all regions of the State. We strongly encourage and recommend that OWEB and the Commission utilize that expertise in the development of any regional review teams.	required among technical review teams and will seek input from ODA regarding membership.	
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Gen. Comment #4*	Likewise, the Board requests OWEB work with ODA staff on several outstanding definitional questions we have.	OWEB will work with ODA staff on definitional questions.	Follow-up required
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts *Gen. Comment #1*	First, the variety of conservation strategies OAHP will support through its four grant foci (Conservation Management, Covenants and Easements, Technical Assistance, and Succession Planning) is critical to achieving conservation goals in Oregon. We commend OWEB and the Commission for supporting multiple approaches and stages of conservation. While OAHP's emphasis on easements and covenants is important for encouraging the longevity of conservation practices, the value of other technical assistance and conservation planning on working lands should not be underestimated.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Oregon Association of Conservation Districts *Gen. Comment #2*	Second, we strongly support the emphasis, throughout the OAHP rules, on monitoring the on-site conditions of funded projects. Site-specific monitoring is critical to ensuring conservation practices are achieving desired goals, and to continuing to improve the work of the many state and local partners in the Oregon Action Plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Candidate Conservation Agreement and Assurances program, mitigation credits, and other conservation programs in Oregon. Monitoring is essential to making informed decisions about how to most effectively and efficiently dedicate resources in these efforts. We applaud OWEB and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission's inclusion of monitoring in the eligible activities for grant funding throughout OAHP.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Gen. Comment #1*	We are among the original supporters of this program and write to express our general support for the rules developed by the Commission.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Gen. Comment #2*	Decision-Making Authority (throughout): For all three programs, the role of the Commission in reviewing and ranking applications for funding appears to be much more limited than our statutory intent. When we helped design the OAHP, it was intended that the Commission would be charged with reviewing and ranking the applications, taking into the account the recommendations of	The rule was changed to make it clear that the commission has the final authority to recommend funding of projects.	Yes

	any technical advisory committees and staff. The make-up of the Commission was created with this purpose in mind, to ensure that we had an appropriately crafted body making the final call about which projects should move forward. The draft rules are not clear that the Commission has the final authority to review, rank, and fund applications regardless of the recommendations made by the supporting committees and staff. For our organizations, it is critical that the Commission must have full authority decisions around ranking and funding. We recommend modifying the rules for CMPs, covenants and easements to clarify that the Commission has an independent obligation to review and make recommendations on grant applications under this program.		
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Gen. Comment #3*	For CMPs, covenants and easements, we think it is critical that the grantee organizations have an agricultural mission, farmers and ranchers on their board, and experience working with farmers and ranchers in Oregon. Whether this appears in rule or guidance, we think that the background, interest, and experience of the grantee organizations must demonstrate a commitment to maintaining agriculture in Oregon and previous work with farmers and ranchers in the state.	OWEB agrees with the information outlined by OFB and will elaborate on the importance of farming and ranching expertise on staff and boards in program guidance. The CMP evaluation criteria include "the demonstrated relevant commitment, expertise, and track record to successfully develop, implement, and/or monitor plans" [698-010-0090 (5) (b)], which rewards applicant organizations who have experience working with farmers and ranchers. The covenant and easement criteria include both having a working land preservation mission and demonstrated expertise in holding, monitoring, stewarding, and enforcing working lands easements and covenants [698-015-0090 (5) (b) and (d)].	N
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Gen. Comment #4*	Throughout the rules, there are references to the "proposed project." This term is confusing, as it not entirely clear whether the project is something broader than a conservation management plan, covenant or easement or whether the broader project may be seeking a combination of OWEB funds under difference programs. OCA and OFB would prefer that instead of referencing a "proposed project," the rules simply reference the proposed conservation management plan, covenant or easement as appropriate.	The intent of the word "project" is to include all eligible grant activities. For CMPs, eligible activities include developing, implementing, and monitoring plans; therefore, referring to just the plan is too narrow a reference. Similarly, for covenants and easements, eligible activities include a lengthy list of due diligence activities in addition to simply referencing the easement or covenant. To clarify, OWEB will include a definition of "project" in the rules.	Yes

Rules: Administrative Rules (OAR 698-005)

Commenter(s)	Comments	Staff Recommendation	
		Response	Rule Change
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	DLCD recommends amending the definition of "fragmentation" include "conversion of working lands to uses not associated with commercial agriculture" or alternatively referencing "fragmentation or conversion" in all instances, similar to OAR 609-015-0090(2)(b) and (8).	OWEB will include "conversion" where "fragmentation" is named, with "conversion" listed before "fragmentation." OWEB worked with DLCD to develop this definition of "conversion:" (1) (a) Cessation of accepted farming practices; (b) Construction of dwellings not occupied by farm operators or workers or other structures not related to agriculture; (c) Removal of infrastructure required for accepted farming practices unless necessary to accommodate a change in accepted farming practices; or (d) Cancelling or transferring rights to use water for irrigation in a manner that reduces the long-term viability of agriculture on the working land. (2) As used in this definition, "accepted farming practices" shall have the meaning set forth in ORS 215.203(2)(c); **ORS 215.203(2)(c)** (2)(c) As used in this subsection, "accepted farming practice" means a mode of operation that is common to farms of a similar nature, necessary for the operation of such farms to obtain a profit in money, and customarily utilized in conjunction with farm use.	Yes
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF) *Admin. Comm. #1*	FoFF recommends amending 698-005-0010 to read "Increased economic viability of Oregon's family owned agricultural operations and economic sectors."	Family owned operations are a valuable component of agriculture, but the term "family owned" is too limiting for the various types of family business ownership that exist. The evaluation criteria will speak to the operation's connection with the local community and economy, including ownership model.	No
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF) *Admin. Comm. #2*	698-005-0010: FoFF recommends adding the additional public benefit of "(4) Increased economic viability and farm ownership opportunities for: (a) small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, (b) beginning farmers or ranchers, (c) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and	The commission discussed this point extensively, and decided that the program should focus more on the land than the type of owners and operators. However, an application might point to such factors to demonstrate evaluation criterion #4 (agricultural	No, for this section of the

	(d) veteran farmers or ranchers."	outcomes) for the CMP and covenant/easement program. The Technical Assistance Grant Program evaluation criteria (OAR 698-020-0060(3)) have been revised to include engaging these constituencies.	rules.
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF) *Admin. Comm. #3*	698-005-0020: FoFF recommends the following definitions pertaining to the comment immediately above (from USDA programs): • "**Family farms**," are defined as farms in which the members of the family are primarily responsible for daily physical labor and strategic management. • "**Small farms**" are family farms that on average generate less than $500,000 in gross annual sales. • "**Medium-sized farms**" are family farms that on average generate up to $1 million in gross annual sales. • "**Beginning farmers or ranchers**" have owned or operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 years, are under 35 years of age, and are actively engaged in farming. • "**Socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers**" are those who are members of a group that that have been subjected to racial, ethnic, or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. • "**Veteran farmers or ranchers**" are those who have served in the Armed Forces and who have (a) not operated a farm or ranch or (b) operated a farm or ranch for no more than 10 years.	As above, the commission has decided that priorities for easements and covenants will focus on agricultural lands rather than types of owners and operators.	No, for this section of the rules.
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF) *Admin. Comm. #4*	FoFF recommends limiting the definition of "agricultural owner or operator" (698-005-0020(1)) to those "actively engaged" in farming activities, i.e. they make significant contributions to the farming operation and participate in the daily physical labor and management of the farm.	See above. OAHP focuses on the land rather than type of owner. Such a provision could limit the extent of the program in unintended ways. For example, this provision would limit participation in grant programs by elderly and retired landowners or family trusts.	No
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF) *Admin. Comm. #5*	FoFF recommends limiting the definition of "agricultural owner or operator" (698-005-0020(1)) to "individuals who are Oregon residents," and exclude corporate entities or "persons," e.g. out-of-state owned corporations and real estate investment trusts.	See above. OAHP focuses on the land rather than type of owner. Such a provision could limit the extent of the program in unintended ways. For example, this provision could disqualify a property from CMP funding if it is owned by an out-of-state owner but managed by an Oregonian operator.	No
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) *Admin. Comm. #1*	698-005-0020: ODFW recommends defining the terms "conservation management plan" and "conservation management plan holder." It is unclear if the definition of "management plan" in working land conservation covenant and easement section (698-015-0020(1)) is intended to apply to the CMP section as well.	OAHP will use the definition of "management plan" for easements and covenants and move it to this Admin section of definitions applying to the entire statute. We added a definition of conservation management plan to distinguish between a CMP and	Yes

		an easement/covenant management plan. Eligible "holders" of conservation management plans are determined by the criteria in Section 0030.	
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) *Admin. Comm. #2*	698-005-0050(8)a-c: ODFW recommends clarifying if "commitment" is a formal written agreement. E.g. would it include a commitment to include some sort of legal access easement to allow spot checking by the grantor's representatives to evaluate project efficacy over time?	The rules will clarify that this is an "enforceable agreement." The specific conditions that the parties commit to would be described in the grant agreement.	Yes
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Admin. Comm. #1*	SOLC recommends that the commission consider fee title ownership of qualifying lands, for example for the option of a land trust to implement ground leases to farmers.	The OAHP statute does not authorize OWEB to fund fee title acquisitions.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Admin. Comm. #2*	698-005-0010(3): SOLC supports enhancing fish and wildlife, but recommends a clearer definition in rules, e.g. purpose statement, definitions, and criteria which all have differing language. What happens in the event of an unforeseen conflict, e.g., between irrigation and water for fish?	Purpose statements will be revised for consistency.	Yes
WaterWatch *Admin. Comm. #1*	WaterWatch recommends adding definitions for: • **Natural Resource Value**, as "other aspects of the natural environment," clarifying intent to fund projects that benefit the environment, not e.g. extractive natural resource values • **Conservation and/or Conservation Measure**: tied to statutory purpose of "maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values" as opposed to e.g. an irrigation piping/lining project that does not go through the Oregon Conserved Water Act to dedicate legally protected instream water. Rules should require evidence of demonstrable benefits rather than assumptions e.g. that it will enhance stream flow. • **Conservation Management Plan**: WaterWatch finds no definition in legislative record and none in statute except CMP components (698-010-0080). Explain how CMPs interplay with other statutory plans (e.g. Water Management and Conservation Plans) • **Fish and wildlife**: understand the purpose is to protect/enhance habitat for native fish and wild animals	There is no need to define natural resource values. As the comment explains, in context, this term refers to conservation because of the list it is in. Conservation is clearly tied to the statutory definition of "maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values." The Conserved Water Act is not applicable because the CMP grant program funds the plan implementation. Clarification on what will be funded in plan implementation will be provided in guidance. A definition will be added to the statute (see above under Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife #1). Evaluation criteria 698-010-0090(3)(b) asks applicants to describe interplay with other plans. The definition of "fish and wildlife" is clear from context, but may be included in guidance.	No No Yes No
WaterWatch *Admin. Comm. #2*	698-005-0030(2)(c): WaterWatch recommends that the location of the project also include information on the county and any stream (in addition to stream mile)	County is already included in the list, but rules will be revised to include stream.	Yes

WaterWatch *Admin. Comm. #3*	698-005-0050(3): WaterWatch recommends that Grant Agreement Conditions include remedies for if the project does not achieve the stated natural resource gains, e.g. return monies to the state.	Remedies exist within the conservation management plan itself, including annual monitoring and mutual modification, to ensure that the land is managed according to the plan.	No
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Admin. Comm. #1*	Notice to Landowners (OAR 698-005-0030(3)): The rules state that where applications involve physical changes or monitoring on private land, the application must state that landowners have been informed that the monitoring results will be public. For this program, this requirement does not seem necessary or appropriate. All necessary monitoring should be conducted on the property of the landowner who has enrolled in the program, and we are unclear why monitoring would need to occur on land belonging to others. To ensure that agricultural landowners in Oregon generally feel positively about the program, we recommend deleting this section and limiting monitoring requirements to land owned by the landowner who is the subject of the application.	This rule was drawn from general OWEB program rules is less applicable to the types of projects that will be funded by OAHP. The rule was deleted.	Yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Admin. Comm. #2*	Maintenance of the Project (OAR 698-005-0050(8)(b)): The rules contain a provision that authorizes the Board (not Commission) to place additional conditions on a grant agreement, including an agreement to maintain the project for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Board. This is a confusing requirement for this program. The program rules already state both minimum and maximum time periods for program participation based up whether the landowner seeks an easement, covenant or conservation management plan. It is unclear why the Board would need to designate an alternate timeframe, and it almost suggests they could designate a timeframe otherwise inconsistent with the rules. We recommend clarifying the intent of this section.	The Board rather than the commission is indicated in this section because it is the board that is legally responsible to execute the grant agreements to carry out the program. Regarding maintenance commitment, the intent is to run with whichever length of time is authorized by the particular grant project; we will clarify this rule.	Yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Admin. Comm. #3*	Restricted Funding (OAR 698-005-0060): We are happy the fund can accept outside dollars from other programs or donors. However, we recommend adding "and ORS 541.977- ORS 541.989" to ensure that any funds accepted also must be consistent with the purposes of the statute.	The rules will be clarified to include reference to the statute.	Yes
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Admin. Comm. #1*	OAR 698-005-0020(5) defines the term "fragmentation." This term is used throughout the draft rule. As defined it focuses on the division of lands or isolation from other agricultural lands. The issue of conversion is much broader and involves more than "fragmentation." Land divisions and the orphaning of land from other agricultural operations are problematic however conversion relates to change of use that would render the land unsuitable for farm use. Urbanization, nonfarm	The rules will include define the terms "fragmentation" and "conversion" and both terms will be used throughout the rules.	Yes

	development, etc. also need to be a part of the equation.		
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Admin. Comm. #2*	OAR 698-005-0020(10) defines "working land" in relation to active management in "farming or ranching." These terms are not defined anywhere. You might consider replacing "farming and ranching" with the term "farm use" as defined in ORS 215.203(2). This definition is used in other statutes (e.g. land use, taxation, right to farm) and is broadly understood and accepted. This would also promote consistency and compatibility with other programs geared towards protecting agricultural lands.	"Farm use" was added to the definition of "working land."	Yes
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Admin. Comm. #3*	OAR 698-005-0030(b) and 0050(8)(a). Suggest clarification that "agricultural owners" means (or includes) agricultural land owners. As drafted, it could be interpreted to mean the owner of the operation which could exclude a land owner who rents or leases the land to someone else to farm from participating.	This change was made throughout the draft rules.	Yes

Rules: Conservation Management Plan Grant Program Rules (OAR 698-010)

Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Staff Recommendation**	
		Response	**Rule Change**
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF)	698-010-0090: FoFF recommends evaluation criterion prioritizing projects that address the unique challenges of affordable access to land for (a) small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, (b) beginning farmers or ranchers, (c) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and (d) veteran farmers or ranchers.	The Conservation Management Plan Grant program is not designed to address the affordability of agricultural land.	No
Myron, Jim	Mr. Myron recommends that establishing riparian buffers where no agricultural activities would occur be a requirement of every conservation management plan funded through the OAHP.	If there is a stream in the project area, the planning process must present the landowner with alternatives that help achieve the local Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan goals. If the program pays for plan implementation, the selected alternative must support implementation of the local Ag Water Quality Management Area Plan goals in place at the time of plan preparation and of plan implementation.	Yes

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #1*	698-010-0010(2)/0090(3): ODFW recommends additional clarification on how enhancement of fish or wildlife habitat would be evaluated. Potentially acknowledge existing programs to maintain working landscapes and support natural resource values, such as the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program.	Technical review teams will apply evaluation criteria for fish and wildlife habitat using OWEB's current grant review process. Guidance will elaborate on how to apply these criteria.	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #2*	698-010-0010: ODFW recommends clarifying the terms "energy" and "human need considerations", how they will be evaluated in relation to "addressing particular priorities related to natural resource values," and consider how to prioritize when energy and human need consideration conflict with natural resource values.	Recommended for guidance. The program is designed to integrate agricultural and conservation values.	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #3*	698-010-0080: ODFW recommends providing more detail on the preparation and content of a conservation management plan, e.g. what details of the site, such as habitat structure, should be included in the CMP inventory.	Recommend for guidance.	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #4*	698-010-0090: ODFW states that the capability and capacity evaluation criteria are robust and well thought out. The Department appreciates the consideration of supporting implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including a specific reference to connectivity of wildlife habitat, in the evaluation criteria.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #5*	698-010-0120(7): ODFW requests clarification of the term "changes in science." Does it include habitat restoration techniques?	OWEB will change rules to read "changes in management approaches based on new scientific understanding of expected outcomes" and clarify in guidance.	Yes
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #6*	698-010-0120: ODFW recommends additional clarification on the modification process for the plan holder.	Recommended for guidance.	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #7*	698-010-0130: ODFW recommends clarification as to which instrument will guarantee access to site spot checks.	This will be included in the grant agreement.	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *CMP Comment #8*	698-010-0130: ODFW supports development of monitoring protocols on a programmatic (e.g., regional approach) level, which would allow for a more thorough evaluation of the program. Site by site monitoring protocols may create some challenges with data collection to show efficacy of the program over time.	The commission will provide guidance for consistent monitoring protocols under sub-3, and may establish monitoring protocols to evaluate the outcomes of CMP implementation on a programmatic level under sub-4.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *CMP Comment #1*	SOLC offers strong support for funding management plans. Be sure to protect fish and wildlife habitats in CMP implementation.	Thank you for your comment. Maintenance and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat is one of OAHP's goals, and part of evaluation criteria 3.	N/A

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *CMP Comment #2*	698-010-0050: SOLC states that the flexibility in match amount is helpful.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #1*	WaterWatch recommends splitting CMP rules into three subsections: (1) funding the development of a plan, (2) funding implementation of the plan and (3) funding monitoring. Each of these should have distinct requirements, with funding for the implementation of CMP projects needing the most specificity.	It is not the intent of statute or commission to establish separate criteria or requirements for each activity.	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #2*	698-010-0050: WaterWatch recommends, at least for implementation projects, requiring a specific minimum match. They state that the term "some portion" does not provide enough guidance.	The statute requires some cash match, but few match programs exist for CMPs. The commission wants to test implementation of the program prior to requiring a specific match percentage.	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #3*	698-010-0040/0090: WaterWatch recommends that applicants should have to provide evidence that the proposed project will enhance or protect fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality or support other natural resources values.	Grant application evaluation criteria require consideration of "the extent to which implementation of the plan would protect, maintain, or enhance significant fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality, or support other natural resource values."	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #4*	689-010-0080: WaterWatch recommends looking at OAR 635-430-0040, Preparation and Content of a Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Plan as an example of what components as an example of additional requirements (e.g. maps identifying rivers/ponds/lakes, T/E species, vegetation types, description of objectives to be achieved, management practices to be used, etc.)	Staff will review OAR 635-430-0040 as an example of plan components and will include them in guidance as appropriate.	N/A
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #5*	698-010-0090(3)(a): WaterWatch states that the rules weaken the statutory protections for fish and wildlife habitat, improving water quality, or supporting other natural resource values by merging different directives of the statute into one single directive which, among other things, would allow human needs considerations to qualify as a natural resource value.	OAHP and the CMP grant program are designed to integrate agricultural and conservation values. The term "human needs" mirrors language in a federal program that could be a match.	No
WaterWatch CMP Comment #6	698-010-0090(3)(a): WaterWatch recommends that the rules include more parameters connected to protecting, maintaining or improving fish and wildlife habitat, improving water quality and supporting other natural resource values, e.g., if the landowner commits to put a project through the Conserved Water Act which will result in legally protected water instream, or commits to transferring water instream, this should garner high scores. See other funding sources for examples, e.g. SB 839.	Any information included in the grant application will be considered by the review team, but the grant evaluation process does not use numeric scoring.	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #7*	698-010-0090(3)(a): WaterWatch notes that the list includes some state programs/regulations but not all, e.g. it includes the Oregon Conservation	OWEB will change this section to read "(a) Protecting, maintaining, or improving the	Yes

	Strategy, but not the Conserved Water Act. The "catch all" phrase in (b) is not narrowed to habitat improvement plans/tools but would rank projects higher for conformance with any type of local, regional, state, federal or tribal priorities or plans. And it is not qualified by "including but not limited to".	land, including soil, water, plants, animals, energy, or human needs considerations; (b) Supporting implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, or other local, regional, state, federal or tribal conservation priorities or plans <u>that support fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, or other natural resource values</u>;"	
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #8*	698-010-0090(3)(a): WaterWatch notes that the list is tied together by "and", meaning that to score competitively, it would need to meet all the provisions on this list	OWEB will change the connector to "or."	Yes
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #9*	698-010-0090(3)(e): WaterWatch states that it makes no sense that the CMP qualifies as evidence of sustaining ecological values. Same for "inherent site conditions".	The grant review team will evaluate the plan and its stated outcomes. Monitoring will evaluate compliance with the plan, and mutual modifications allow for changes to the plan that support ecological outcomes.	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #10*	698-010-0090(1): WaterWatch recommends striking this section, since limiting the program to "significant" agricultural operations appears to conflict directly with the statute's directive that the type of agricultural operation conducted on the working land cannot be considered in the ranking of a project, and "significance" is subjective.	The type of agricultural operation in ORS 541.984(4) refers to the type of agricultural products grown on the property. Ranking targets "significant" properties for grant funding, as demonstrated by each applicant, and elaborated on in guidance.	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #11*	698-010-0090(3): WaterWatech recommends that the rules provide for the evaluation of any negative, as well as positive, effects of a proposed conservation measure on fish/wildlife habitat, water quality, etc.	This is implied by the words "extent to which" at the beginning of the sentence.	No
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #12*	698-010-0100: WaterWatch recommends guidance as to the make-up of the technical review team, e.g. include ODFW, WRD, DEQ, and affected Indian Tribes and exclude project consultants.	This issue will be clarified in guidance.	N/A
WaterWatch *CMP Comment #13*	698-010-0100(1): WaterWatch recommends striking the requirement that the review be limited to information provided in the grant application, as it does not take into account technical review team expertise about the area and project.	The section was amended to include technical review team expertise about the area and the project.	Yes
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District *CMP Comment #1*	The criteria identified in section 698-010-009 include several categories and elements that should be considered. However, the rule provides no guidance of how individual criterion will be ranked. It would be useful to list the most important criterion or standards (e.g. Tier 1 Criteria) that must be met for an application to be considered. This might include item #2, #3, #4 and #8.	The commission discussed whether to give preference to specific evaluation criteria and decided that the goal is to fund projects that have the highest likelihood of success in achieving the purposes of the program. In	No

	Reviews could consider other criteria if the application addresses the Tier 1 Criteria. Ranking or weighing the criteria in this section will help applicants understand and focus on the most important factors for ranking.	that context, the commission decided that it would not be possible to pre-determine which evaluation criteria are more important than others in reaching this determination.	
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District *CMP Comment #2*	In section 698-010-009 item #4, the definition of "regional significance" should be defined. Item #5(c), includes in part, " ... as measured by effective governance." It is unclear how OWEB would evaluate effective governance. If this cannot be better defined or clarified in rule, then clarification should be provided in guidance documents.	The commission discussed regional significance at length and decided that due to the variation of working lands from region to region it would be difficult to adequately define the term for statewide application. The commission will rely on regional expertise on technical committees to help determine regional significance. The commission will develop guidance on evaluating effective governance.	No
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District *CMP Comment #3*	Section 698-010-0100. The OAHP has its primary focus on agricultural lands. The district suggests the rules specifically include the requirement to include representation from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Oregon State University Extension Service on all technical committees.	While the commission intends to engage experts from ODA and OSU Extension on technical committees, it decided not to specify committee membership in rule. Generally, technical committee representation will be reflective of the commission membership, which includes both representatives selected by the Board of Agriculture and Extension, along with Land Conservation and Development Commission, Fish and Wildlife and OWEB.	No
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *CMP Comment #1*	Purpose of CMP (OAR 698-010-0010(2,3)): We would prefer that you leave subsections 2 and 3 in this section, as they add clarity and consistency to the purposes of CMPs.	The text retains the language of subsections (2) and (3)	N/A
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *CMP Comment #2*	Match Contributions (OAR 698-010-0050(2)(c)): This section seems to indicate that conservation management plans are an "acquisition of the property." They are simply a contract between the grantee and a landowner, so this section should be changed to reflect that CMPs are not acquisitions.	There is no section (2) (c) in the CMP rule; the provision cited is in Section 015 Covenants and Easements.	N/A
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *CMP Comment #3*	Reporting Requirements (OAR 698-010-0140(2)): This section requires accounting and reporting within 60 days of the project completion date. For CMPs, we are not clear which date would be the project completion date, or if that date would vary depending on the application. This may warrant	The rules will clarify that the project completion report is due 60 days after the project completion date listed in the grant agreement to ensure that the completion	Yes

	clarification.	date varies and would align with the individual project.	
Oregon Board of Agriculture *CMP Comment #1*	OAR 698-010-0090(2)(a) Evaluation criteria for conservation management plans. The term "fragmentation" should be redefined or teamed with the term "conversion" as found in other areas of the draft rule.	The definition of "conversion" was expanded and the term "conversion" combined with "fragmentation throughout the draft rules.	Yes
Oregon Board of Agriculture *CMP Comment #2*	OAR 698-010-0090(4) assesses the "regional significance" of an "agricultural operation." This could be a very narrow consideration without better defining "operation." Agricultural operations and practices can and do change. The suitability of land to be used for a "significant operation" is just, if not more important just what is the current operation character or use.	This was expanded to include suitability of soils, slope, location or other relevant factors.	Yes
Oregon Board of Agriculture *CMP Comment #3*	OAR 698-010-0090(8). Good use of the term "fragmentation" with the term "conversion." See #1 and #4 above.	See CMP Comment #1 above.	Yes

Rules: Covenant and Easement Rules (OAR 698-015)

Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Staff Recommendation**	
		Response	**Rule Change**
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	COLT recommends that 698-015-0010 Purpose be changed to read "A~~n~~ willing agricultural owner ~~or operator~~ may enter into a working land conservation covenant (covenant) with or grant a working land conservation easement." **Owner of working land**: A conservation easement or conservation covenant must be entered into by the person or entity listed on the title of a property; an agricultural operator, generally, does not have the legal authority to sign a conservation easement or covenant. This would also bring the rule into line with the corresponding ORS (541.982), which reads, "An owner of working land may enter into a working land conservation covenant with or grant a working land conservation easement …" Adding "willing" here (or elsewhere in the rules) will help clarify that the OAH **Willing:** Program emphasizes that it is voluntary and accomplished through willing landowners. Land acquisition grants include this: "OWEB may consider grant applications that propose the acquisition of interests in lands from ***willing*** sellers for the purpose of…"	The purpose statement was completely revised so that it now reads as a purpose statement. The language in the comment was dropped from rule.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #2*	698-015-0020(3), 698-015-0060 and 698-015-0070: COLT recommends changing the term "stewardship endowment" to "stewardship fund" here and throughout. The word "endowment" refers to a very specific type of	OWEB will change "stewardship endowment" to "stewardship fund."	Yes

	financial account, and we do not recommend the rules implicitly or explicitly require an "endowment" for land trusts or other entities to manage their stewardship funds.		
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #3*	698-015-0020(3): COLT recommends that this be changed to read "…resolution of violations, ~~and~~ or any enforcement of the covenant or easement." • Stewardship funds are meant to monitor and steward the conservation easement, • Legal defense funds are meant to enforce or defend any potential violation matter involving a conservation easement. For some organizations, these are managed as the same fund, while for others they are different. Encourage commission and OWEB to discuss with COLT	This language was incorporated in section 0070 to clarify that use of grant funds can be for any one of the components of stewardship. OWEB will encourage the commission to discuss this distinction with COLT.	Yes N/A
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #4*	698-015-0050(1): COLT recommends making (1) consistent with the purpose sections contained in 698-015-0010 and refer to the overall purpose in 698-005-0010	OWEB will work to create consistency in purposes and definitions.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #5*	698-15-0050(4): COLT recommends reconsidering the requirement that a pre-existing or new management plan must be agreed to by the landowner, applicant, and commission before closing. Challenging to fulfill within 18 months.	While it is challenging to fulfill this requirement within 18 months, if it is not complete, a waiver may be granted.	No
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #6*	698-015-0060: COLT recommends using the current language in OWEB's land acquisition program rules (695-045-0175): "All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% of the actual land acquisition project cost is being sought as match".	To be consistent with OWEB programs, this language was amended to require that all applicants demonstrate that at least 25% match is being sought, based on the total OAHP grant request for the covenant or easement.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #7*	698-015-0060(3): COLT recommends that the match for stewardship section is better suited in the next section, 698-015-0070, Use of Grant funds.	OWEB will move this section.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #8*	698-015-0060(3): COLT recommends leaving it up to OWEB staff, the review team, and the Commission to determine reasonable grant funds for stewardship on a per project basis. 5% is arbitrary, stewardship doesn't depend on appraisal value, but on other factors.	OWEB agrees that the amount of the fund is absolutely different based on each property. However, the Board needs to set some limit on what the contribution from the fund is. The commission believes that 5% of OAHP funding is reasonable for a stewardship fund.	No
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT)	698-015-0070 (1)(b): COLT strongly recommends the Commission establish a methodology for appraising covenants, or establish a process to develop a	The commission is in the process of doing so.	For future

Cov/Ease Comm. #9	methodology to do so.		consider ation.
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm.# 10*	698-015-0090(4): COLT recommends that the language be changed to "…benefits or other agricultural or conservation values important to the region…"	OWEB will make this change.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. 11*	698-015-0090: COLT recommends adding wording in this section similar to existing OWEB acquisition rules under 695-045-0180, where "the soundness of the legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction" is considered in the application process.	OWEB will add "the soundness of the legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction" to the covenant and easement ranking criteria.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #12*	698-015-0110(3): COLT recommends "Conditionally approved grant funds shall be encumbered for disbursement only after all conditions are fulfilled. The encumbered funds may be made available for other uses by OWEB if all conditions required by the Board are not satisfied within 18 months of the conditional Board approval, unless approved by the OWEB director." For flexibility	OWEB will add "unless approved by the OWEB Board" to this section.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #13*	698-015-0130(1)(d): COLT notes that the section refers to title restrictions under OAR 698-015-0110, but it doesn't. The land acquisition program (695-045-0195) refers to title restrictions in ORS 541.960	OWEB will change this section to read "the required title restrictions are approved by the director."	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #14*	698-015-0130(1)(g): COLT notes that the section refers to the Director's right to hold the grant funds pending Board consideration under OAR 698-015-0140, which refers to the director's ability to issue penalties, "including recovery of the OAHP grant funds." But it doesn't refer to withholding.	OWEB will make these provisions consistent: • Add "recover" funds to 0130(1)(g)	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #15*	698-015-0170 (1): COLT recommends changing this section to read: "If the term of the covenant has not expired, the fair market value of the easement will be reduced by a proportion equivalent to the time remaining on the ~~easement~~ covenant."	OWEB will make this change.	Yes
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #16*	698-015-0170: COLT asks: What is the underlying concern and corresponding definition of "profit" in OAR 698-015-0020? Acknowledges that similar language appears in 695-045-0210. There is potential opportunity for a future landowner to steward the project.	This section was amended to address only the transfer of a covenant or easement. The reference to "cash" was omitted and the definition of "profit" deleted.	Yes
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	DLCD recommends that the proposed rule OAR 698-015-0090(6)(d) be amended to require grant awards for conservation easements and covenants to be consistent with local comprehensive plans and statewide planning goals.	OWEB will amend 0090(6)(d) to read "Consistency with local comprehensive plans and statewide planning goals"	Yes
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)	DLCD recommends that the proposed rules be amended to prioritize acquisition of conservation easements rather than covenants on rural lands whenever possible	698-015-0090(6)(b) already prioritizes the duration and extent of the agreement, with a preference for longer term agreements.	N/A

Cov/Ease Comm. #2			
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #3*	If an easement is not possible, DLCD recommends that covenants be pursued on rural lands before conservation management plans, which provide relatively limited opportunities to prevent fragmentation and conversion of working lands.	The covenant and easement program, and the CMP program perform distinct functions. Also, the statute requires CMPs alone to be ranked separately from covenants/easements. ORS 541.984(3)	No
Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #4*	DLCD strongly encourages OAHC and OWEB to adopt language prohibiting easements and covenants within Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) and urban reserves as this might otherwise reduce supplies of urban land planed for development and result in attempts to expand UGB boundaries into adjacent agricultural and forest lands, among other reasons.	See the response to comment #1 above. OAHP will be implemented consistent with local comprehensive plans and statewide planning goals. Any projects inside a UGB or Urban Reserve would need to demonstrate consistency with land use laws.	No
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	EMSWCD recommends that 698-015-0060(1) be modified to simply state that "a match must be sought," since timeframes might make it impossible to have matching cash or agreement in hand at the time of OAHP application.	OWEB will delete "as demonstrated by a formal application or agreement."	Yes
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #2*	EMSWCD recommends that 698-015-0090(2) include evaluation criteria around the easement's prospects for improving future farmland affordability (e.g. through limiting residential size or incorporating an Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value). And, going forward it would be instructive for OAHP to track the sales of eased properties to identify impact of the easement (or covenant) on land values.	Applicants may describe the agricultural benefits for affordability and access in their narrative description for evaluation criteria 2 or 4. OWEB supports the evaluation of future sales of properties with covenants or easements to identify the impact of easements/covenants on land values.	No
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #3*	698-015-0090, 2, 3 & 4: EMSWCD recommends that the commission consider establishing ***qualifying*** criteria tied to the agricultural capability of a property, and qualifying criteria of a non-agricultural nature, e.g. enhancement of natural resource values, capacity or competence of the easement holder and benefit to the state.	The only qualifying criterion in rule is that the property must be working land to participate. Agricultural capabilities in different regions of the state are very different. Therefore, the ranking process will establish the agricultural (and natural resource) values.	No
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #4*	698-015-0090, 5(a): EMSWCD agrees that a considered and rigorous approach to land transactions and stewardship is vital, and yet that accreditation under the Land Trust Alliance is not the best fit for all organizations.	Thank you for your comment. OWEB agrees with this statement.	N/A
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #5*	698-015-0100, 4 – 8: EMSWCD asks the commission to consider ways to reduce the number of entities responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on program applications, while still maintaining appropriate and effective oversight. Similarly, for 698-015-0130(1)(c),	A streamlined system is established for the use of technical committees in the review of OWEB grant proposals.	N/A

	ensure that Director review and comment on specific transactions (e.g. proposed Purchase and Sale Agreements) does not have substantial timing implications for transactions.	OWEB will heed this advice.	
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #6*	698-015-0140(1): EMSWCD asks the commission to consider removing the allowance for OWEB to recapture grant funds and the ability to require punitive damages and instead work toward the satisfactory resolution of compliance issues.	Recovery only happens if "significant compliance issues cannot be resolved to the full satisfaction of the Director" and the Director first informs the commission, Board, and grantee. Even then, recovery remedies are at the Director's discretion.	No
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #7*	698-015-0140(2): EMSWCD recommends that this language be modified to state that legal access by OWEB, its contractors, and cooperating agencies to a property encumbered by an easement or covenant acquired with OAHP funds be consistent with those access rights granted by the easement to the easement holder.	The purpose of OWEB's monitoring obligation differs from a grantee's, in that OWEB monitors to confirm that the grantee is accurately monitoring the investment. Therefore, the type of access and the designees that OWEB might assign might differ from those specified in the grantee's and landowners' agreement.	Yes
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #8*	698-015-0140(2): EMSWCD recommends removing right of access to "cooperating agencies" as a broad allowance, and one that may be unacceptable to prospective easement Grantors.	OWEB will remove "cooperating agencies" from this section.	Yes
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #9*	698-015-0140(2): EMSWCD recommends deleting "and evaluations" and limiting the ability to enter to the sole purpose of determining compliance.	OWEB will remove "and evaluations" from this section.	Yes
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (EMSWCD) *Cov/Ease Comm. #10*	698-015-0160(1): Since a covenant might not have ***only*** a negative effect on easement value, EMSWD recommends modifying the text to state that the appraised fair market value of a proposed easement shall account for the impact – if any – of an extant working land conservation covenant.	This provision does not refer to the covenant's impact on fair market value, but rather to the use of public funds to purchase nearly identical sets of property rights that overlap in time. Therefore, the easement will be reduced by the remaining value of the covenant, regardless of its impact on fair market value.	No
Friends of Family Farmers (FoFF)	698-015-0090: FoFF recommends including in evaluation criteria prioritization for projects that address the unique challenges of affordable access to land for (a) small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, (b) beginning farmers or ranchers, (c) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and (d) veteran farmers or ranchers.	As with CMPs, the Commission discussed this point extensively, and decided that the program should focus more on the land than the type of owners and operators. However, an application might point to such factors to demonstrate evaluation criterion #4	No, for this section of the rules.

		(agricultural outcomes). The Technical Assistance Grant Program evaluation criteria (OAR 698-020-0060(3)) have been revised to consider these constituencies.	
McKenzie River Trust (MRT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	MRT recommends that the rule give guidance for OWEB staff on how to address conflicts between agricultural values (e.g. 698-015-0090(2)) and habitat values (e.g. 698-015-0090(3)) by prioritizing working land values over habitat values. Without such a priority, easement holders could be forced to require landowners to discontinue an agricultural practice that was permissible in an easement funded by OAHP, but which is later found to not maintain the baseline habitat or water quality values. Specifying a priority could allow flexibility for producers due to climate change, changing agricultural markets, and changes to the land, and make it less difficult to find agricultural landowners willing to participate in the program. There are other programs that protect conservation values.	OAHP and the CMP grant program are designed to integrate agricultural and conservation values. To rank high with the review team, a project must demonstrate the maintenance or enhancement of both agriculture and natural resource values.	No
McKenzie River Trust (MRT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #2*	698-015-0060 and 0070: MRT appreciates the inclusion of a stewardship endowment in regards to its allowance as match and an allowed cost, but recommends the term "long term stewardship funds," instead of "endowment," as endowment has specific accounting definitions.	OWEB will change "stewardship endowment" to "stewardship funds"	Yes
McKenzie River Trust (MRT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #3*	698-015-0060(3): MRT recommends removing the cap on funds contributed to a stewardship endowment to 5% of the total appraised value of the easement, and recommends negotiating the contribution to stewardship endowment as part of each grant award process. Estimates that agricultural easement values will likely be low (due to land use) and the stewardship costs high compared to a habitat easement, depending on the management plan.	OWEB agrees that the amount of the fund is absolutely different based on each property. However, the Board needs to set some limit on what the contribution from the fund is. The commission believes that 5% of OAHP funding is reasonable for a stewardship fund.	No
McKenzie River Trust (MRT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #4*	698-015-0060(1): MRT recommends deleting "as demonstrated by a formal application or agreement," since NRCS ACEP conservation easements which call for secured match before they can be applied for.	OWEB will delete "as demonstrated by a formal application or agreement."	Yes
McKenzie River Trust (MRT) *Cov/Ease Comm. #5*	698-015-0090: MRT states that the evaluation criteria is vague and it is difficult to have meaningful comments without understanding how the words "significant," "important," and "viability" will be assessed.	Given the diversity of Oregon agriculture, it is preferable to allow the applicant to make the case that a particular project is "significant," which will be assessed by the review team, OWEB staff, commission, and OWEB Board.	No
Myron, Jim	Mr. Myron recommends that establishing riparian buffers where no agricultural activities would occur be a requirement of every easement and covenant funded through the OAHP.	If there is a stream in the project area, the covenant or easement application shall describe how either the easement or the management plan and associated monitoring addresses the local Ag Water Quality	Yes

		Management Area Plan goals. Easement monitoring shall include any riparian monitoring identified in the application.	
National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	NYFC recommends prioritizing funding for projects that encourage protected farmland to remain affordable and in the hands of farmers.	Applicants may describe the agricultural benefits for affordability and access in their narrative description for evaluation criteria 2 or 4.	No
National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) *Cov/Ease Comm. #2*	NYFC supports 75% program match for project costs with in-kind matching funds allowed for 100% of the landowner contribution	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#3*	NYFC supports 698-015-0010(2) "providing for the opportunity for continued use of the land for agricultural purposes," in the program purpose and 698-015-0090(2)(d) "Improving or maintaining the economic viability of the operation, including future transfer of ownership," in the evaluation criteria	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) *Cov/Ease Comm. #4*	698-015-0090: NYFC recommends that OAHP encourage applicants to utilize innovative strategies to promote farmer ownership and affordability of farmland. Specifically, NYFC recommends that: • the ranking criteria prioritize farmer ownership and affordability tools in easements/covenants funded by the program, including the Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value (OPAV) easement provision. • OAHP allows covenant/easement applicants to apply for funds to place a covenant or easement on property that they own while they are in the process of identifying, and transferring ownership to, a farmer (a.k.a. buy-protect-sell). • Easement holders be given the flexibility – and encouraged – to write easements that do not consider ground leases to be an impermissible subdivision of land. Ground leases are land affordability tools that split ownership of the property, so that the organization owns the land and provides a long-term—such as 99-year—lease to the farmer, while the farmer owns the infrastructure. • The program give weight to projects that utilize easement funds to facilitate the transition of the farm from one generation to the next and provide access to a young or beginning farmer.	As stated above, applicants may refer to affordability in criterion 2 or 4. It will be made clear in guidance that the rules do not prohibit "buy-protect-sell" arrangements. Permission to use ground leases will be included in guidance and grant agreement. As with affordability, applicants may refer to the project's effect on intergenerational transition in criterion 2 or 4.	No No No No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm.# 1*	698-015-0090: ODFW believes that the capability and capacity evaluation criteria are robust and well thought out. The Department appreciates the consideration of supporting implementation of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, including a specific reference to connectivity of wildlife habitat, in the evaluation criteria.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm.#2*	698-015-0020(1): ODFW recommends that the rules clarify the entities that may develop a "management plan."	The definition for conservation management plan was moved to the Administrative rules. All eligible CMP holders are listed in 698-010-0030.	Yes
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm.#3*	698-015-0020(3): ODFW recommends that the rules clarify "stewardship endowment" and/or clarify in a separate section of the rule the applicable standards for an endowment. This may include details on calculating the initial funding, maximums per acre and other limitations for the landowner, such as using the funds for payment of taxes. Does this include the opportunity for these funds are set up as an endowment that provides interest funds yearly for operations and maintenance costs? How will the stewardship endowments be tracked or monitored by the program? Will there be an annual stewardship report to the program on spending and investment performance?	OWEB will change the term "stewardship endowment" to "stewardship fund." Calculation, etc. of a stewardship fund can be included in guidance, the grant agreement, or a link to best practices/ accreditation.	Yes
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm. 4*	698-015-0080: ODFW recommends that the rules include terms and expectations for easements (as well as covenants), i.e. permanent per the definition.	OWEB will change the title of 0080 to "Terms of Covenants and Easements" and specify that easements are permanent.	Yes
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm. #5*	698-015-0140(2): ODFW recommends that the rules clarify if third party right of enforcement can be assigned.	After consulting with DoJ, OWEB can assign third party rights of enforcement if such language is included in the easement document, which is currently standard practice for OWEB's land acquisition program.	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm.#6*	ODFW prefers easements over covenants because of their permanence. This could be accomplished during the application reviews, such as the establishment of a point system where covenants would be ranked significantly lower than projects with permanent easements.	698-015-0090(6)(b) provides ranking criterion that "The duration and extent of the agreement, with a preference for longer term agreements"	No
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) *Cov/Ease Comm.#7*	ODFW recommends clarification in how a covenant would be appraised for payment.	The commission is currently valuation methods for covenants, which will be included in rule when finalized.	For future consideration
Restore Oregon's Heritage Barns Task Force *Cov/Ease Comm.#1*	698-015-0090: Restore Oregon recommends that the rules include language that specifically calls for the preservation of historic buildings, structures, or objects associated within the agricultural fabric of the lands under review. Specifically, Restore Oregon recommends that the rules encouraging the maintenance and use of historic barns as agricultural buildings and/or their adaptive reuse when their historic use is no longer viable.	OWEB will include this in program guidance.	No

Restore Oregon's Heritage Barns Task Force *Cov/Ease Comm.#2*	Restore Oregon recommends that the rules encourage the application for conservation easements on lands with historic agricultural buildings or structures as a tool in holistic succession planning.	OWEB will include this in program guidance.	No
Restore Oregon's Heritage Barns Task Force *Cov/Ease Comm.#3*	698-015-0090(4)(b): Restore Oregon recommends that the presence of a historic barn on the property represent one way of demonstrating the regional significance of the agricultural operation's associated infrastructure.	OWEB will include this in program guidance.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#1*	698-010-0010: SOLC recommends that the purpose language be consistent with other rules re: fish and wildlife, and agriculture practices.	OWEB will work to create consistency in purposes and definitions.	Yes
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#2*	698-015-0060: SOLC recommends removing the requirement to have match already approved because this makes it difficult to rely on another grant program – NRCS – as a match because of timing of grants and each requiring secured funds; they have to work together	OWEB will delete "as demonstrated by a formal application or agreement."	Yes
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#3*	698-015-0060: SOLC recommends that the commission remove the 5% of appraisal cap for stewardship funds. This is arbitrary and may not reflect real stewardship needs.	OWEB agrees that the amount of the fund is absolutely different based on each property. However, the Board needs to set some limit on what the contribution from the fund is. The commission believes that 5% of OAHP funding is reasonable for a stewardship fund.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#4*	698-015-0070: SOLC expresses strong support for funds for interest on loans and for stewardship.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#5*	698-015-0090: SOLC recommends that the rules clarify "regionally significant" language. Concern that it appears to favor large-scale operations over smaller farms, without good rationale.	Given the diversity of Oregon agriculture, it is preferable to allow the applicant to make the case that a particular project is "significant," which will be assessed by the review team, OWEB staff, commission, and OWEB Board. These words will be clarified in guidance.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.# 6*	698-015-0090: SOLC notes that there is no criterion to evaluate the type of agriculture, which have differing impacts and economies: e.g., grazing, versus food crops for local markets.	Given the diversity of Oregon agriculture, ORS 541.984(4) prohibits considering the type of agricultural production on the working land.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#7*	698-015-0090(5)(b): SOLC states that while Land Trust Accreditation is probably a good thing overall, there is a concern for requiring costly participation in a private organization so the option to demonstrate sufficient practices is a good and necessary option.	Thank you for your comment.	N/A

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#8*	698-015-0090(5)(b): SOLC states that it cannot understand why "working land preservation" has to be in a mission statement (I imagine land trusts might be tempted to change their missions statements as a result). The language here seems to be flexible enough though.	This ranking criterion (and all others under 0090) are not required, but are rather the set of factors considered by the review team, OWEB staff, commission and board in conducting ranking. An applicant with "working land preservation" in its mission statement may rank higher, but the ranking process is holistic in considering all criteria.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#9*	698-015-0090 (8): SOLC states that, in some cases, it is difficult to demonstrate threat of fragmentation with certainty especially with larger properties (e.g., ranches).	Given the diversity of Oregon agriculture, each applicant can make a case for the threat of fragmentation and conversion for the parcel at hand. Guidance will advise how to demonstrate this.	No
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) *Cov/Ease Comm.#10*	698-015-0160: SOLC recommends limiting the time period between when a covenant and subsequent easement are conveyed to avoid intentional working of the funding system to one's advantage.	An easement may be conveyed after a covenant for many reasons, including new ownership.	No
WaterWatch	698-015-0120: WaterWatch recommends adding more specificity to the public involvement section of the rules, including: • opportunity to comment on applications (1) before the technical team review, and (2) to the Commission based on the technical team recommendations to the Commission. • Each review period should be a minimum of thirty days. • Applications and review team recommendations should be posted on OWEB's website and notice should be send to OWEB's mail serve list, as well on the OWEB website.	The public involvement process is described in ORS 271.735. Additional procedures may be added in guidance.	No
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District	The district suggests terms of covenants be no less than 30 years, nor longer the 100 years, instead of 20 years and 50 years, respectively. As stated previously, permanent easements should be prioritized over covenants.	The statute prescribes that covenants shall have terms between 20 and 50 years [ORS 541.989 (1)(b)].	No
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	Purpose of Covenants and Easements (OAR 698-015-0010(2)): We prefer the original language of this section, which provides for "ensuring" the continued use of the land for agricultural purposes. We think that the mandate of this program – particularly at the application stage – is greater than to simply ensure land is available for agriculture. Land should be actively used in farming or ranching when enrolled in the program or have a definite plan to return the land to farm or ranch use. While we agree that no one can mandate that the land remain in production, without interruption, in perpetuity, we think that a purpose of the covenant or easement should be ensuring the continued use of the land for agriculture production.	The purpose has been changed to "preserve and protect the continued use of a working land for agricultural purposes…," consistent with proposed changes to the enabling statute.	Yes

Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Cov/Ease Comm. #2*	Definitions (OAR 698-015-0020(1)): The final sentence is a little difficult to read. We recommend rewording it to "If applicable, it may also address any proposed agricultural projects…" We recommend leaving out the reference to public access, as that is not a purpose of this program.	This subsection was moved to Division 005 Program Administration since it may apply to both CMP and easement/covenant projects. The reference to public access was deleted.	Yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Cov/Ease Comm. #3*	CMPs vs. Management Plans (OAR 685-015-0050): While we understand that they are separate plans, we think it would be useful if the rules clarified the difference between a Conservation Management Plan and a management plan for easements and covenants. We recommend that the rules either come up with a different term for "management plan" or always capitalize "Conservation Management Plan" to reduce the potential for confusion between the two.	Created a separate definition for "management plan" and moved both definitions to the administrative rules (division 005).	Yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Cov/Ease Comm.#4*	Stewardship Endowment (OAR 698-015-0060(3)): We are not clear what a stewardship endowment fund is as outlined in the rules, and believe the term could use additional clarification.	A definition of "stewardship" was added and the definition of "stewardship fund" was revised.	Yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Cov/Ease Comm.#5*	Evaluation Criteria (OAR 698-015-0090): We appreciate the thought that went into the evaluation criteria for the statutory factors. a. For both the agricultural and conservation factors, we note that an "or" is more appropriate in the list than an "and" because all factors may not present for all applications, and all factors should not be required to fund a project. b. On comment NM7, we recommend adding infrastructure to the comments. c. On comment NM12, water quality goals should be driven by the local area plans, which is the plan for achieving any applicable TMDL. d. On comment NM17, we recommend adding "economic value/contribution to the local economy." e. For 6(c), we recommend changing "including OAHP" to "including other OAHP funded plans, covenants or easements"	a. The evaluation criteria are based on the "extent to which" the project addresses the agricultural and conservation factors, and does not require a project to address all of them. b. We will add infrastructure to the list of topics addressing agricultural viability. c. Agreed. Guidance on water quality will reference local area plans as the plan for achieving any applicable TMDL.. d. Guidance on regional significance will include economic value/contribution to the local economy. e. Agreed.	a-no b-yes c-yes d-no e-yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association *Cov/Ease Comm. #6*	Payment Relationship (OAR 698-015-0170(1)): The last word in this sentence should be "covenant" and not "easement".	Agreed	Yes
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Cov/Ease Comm. #1*	OAR 698-015-0090(2)(a) Evaluation criteria for working lands easements and covenants. Similar to previous comments, use of the term "fragmentation" as currently defined or without the addition of consideration of other types of land conversion. See items #4 and #6 above.	The definition of "conversion" was expanded and the term "conversion" combined with "fragmentation throughout the draft rules.	Yes
Oregon Board of Agriculture	OAR 698-015-0090(3) Working lands and conservation management plans. It appears that this criterion limits the consideration of working lands to	Definitional changes address this issue.	Yes

Cov/Ease Comm. #2	those that also have "conservation management" issues. We are concerned that important working lands under the threat of conversion to nonfarm development with no conservation management issues will not be given consideration for needed protection.		
Oregon Board of Agriculture *Cov/Ease Comm. #3*	OAR 698-015-0090(4) Over all, this section does a great job considering the assets needed to maintain viable farm use in a given region. OAR 698-015-0090(4)(b) Assesses the "regional significance" of an "agricultural operation." This could be a very narrow consideration without better defining "operation." Agricultural operations and practices can and do change. The suitability of land to be used for a "significant operation" is just as, if not more important than what is the current operation character. Lands that are currently "under-utilized" yet are capable of high value production based on capability and suitability should be given strong consideration as viable agricultural land.	This was expanded to include suitability of soils, slope, location or other relevant factors.	Yes

Rules: Technical Assistance Rules (OAR 698-020)

Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Staff Recommendation**	
		Response	**Rule Change**
Friends of Family Farmers	698-020-0060: FoFF recommends the commission define the term "underserved populations" to include (a) small- and medium-sized family farms and ranches, (b) socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, and (c) veteran farmers or ranchers using the definitions recommended above, in addition to 'beginning or young farmers and ranchers'	OWEB recommends including as criteria and matching the USDA the definitions of "underserved populations" to include "socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers," "veteran farmers or ranchers," and "limited resource farmer or rancher" and using the USDA definitions for these terms.	Yes
Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregon Cattlemen's Association	Evaluation Criteria (OAR 698-020-0070): We agree with the recommendation to change the criteria around unserved populations to reference beginning farmers and ranchers.	Agreed.	Yes

Rules: Succession Planning Rules (OAR 698-025)

Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Staff Recommendation**	
		Response	**Rule Change**
None.			

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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I-2 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Appointments
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) was established by law in 2017 to provide voluntary tools to protect and enhance working lands while maintaining or enhancing valuable fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values. By statute, the OAHC is nested under the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board is tasked with appointing commissioners. This item requests board approval to reappoint two commissioners to the OAHC.

II. Background

The OAHC was appointed by the board on January 31, 2018, with four-year terms that were initially staggered from one to four years. Two initial one-year appointments expire at the end of January: one recommended by the Board of Agriculture and one recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Both of these boards/commissions have recommended reappointing their representative commissioners: Ken Bailey, representing the Board of Agriculture, and Mary Wahl, representing the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board reappoint Ken Bailey and Mary Wahl to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms.

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Agenda Item #J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J– Development FIP Grant Awards
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2018 Development Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant offering, and provides staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board adopted its 2017-2019 spending plan and allocated $1 million for Development FIP grants. The funding supports existing partnerships to build their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, generate a new strategic action plan (SAP), enhance an existing SAP, and/or development a financial plan. In October 2017, the board awarded four Development FIP grants, and included funding for partnerships to develop financial plans as a part of their Development FIP proposals.

III. Solicitation Process and Review

In May 2018, staff solicited for a second round of 2017-2019 Development FIP applications. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to consult with FIP staff and the Capacity Programs Coordinator to better understand the program's purpose, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing. Five consultations with potential applicants were held between May and October 2018.

Four applications were received by the October 22, 2018 deadline. Applications were evaluated based the evaluation criteria included in the FIP rules, 1) capacity to partner, 2) performance history and composition of the partnership, 3) catalyze additional investments, 4) engage the community, and 5) extent to which the initiative addresses the board priority . Reviewers provided a 'fund' or 'do not fund' recommendation, and ranked applications. Based on the reviews, staff recommend three projects for funding.

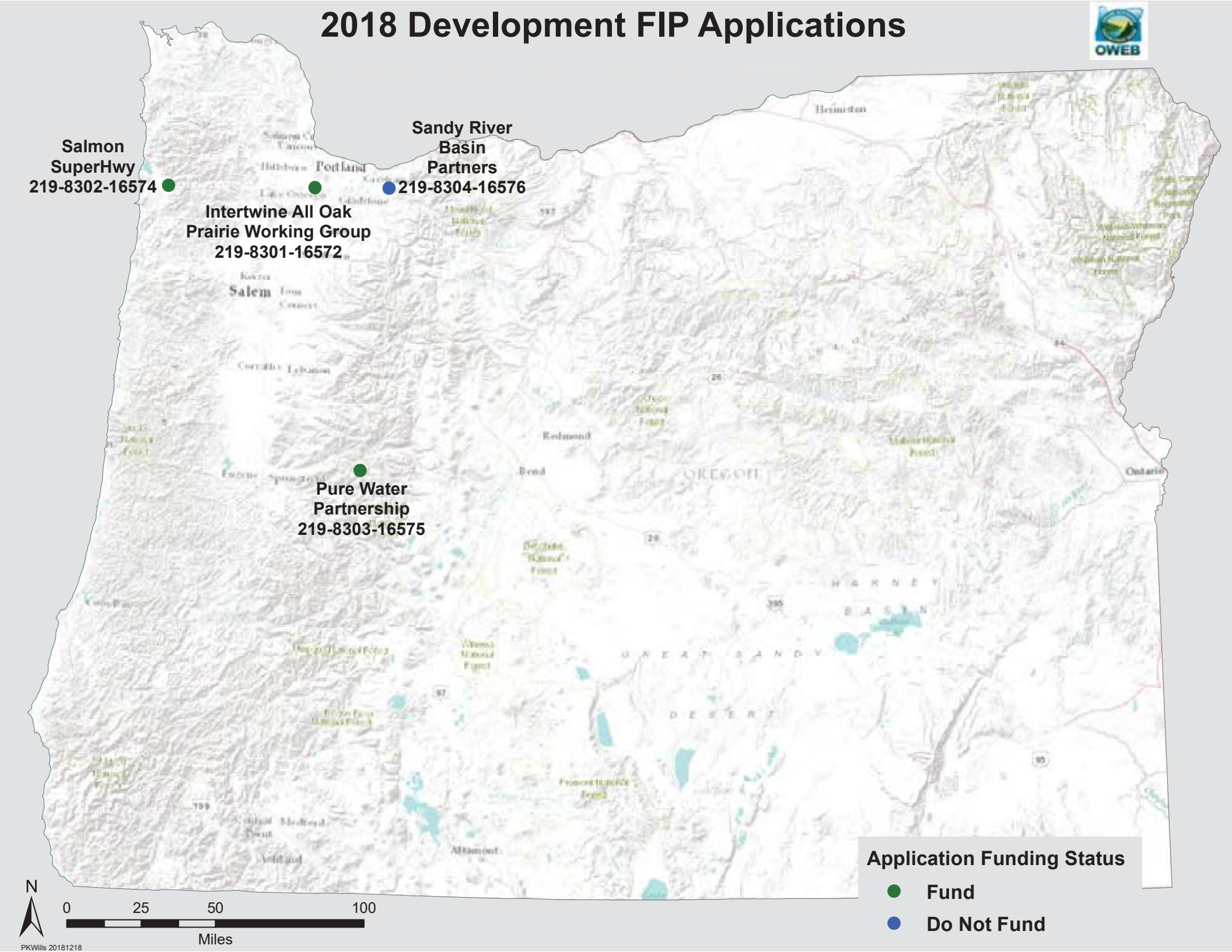
IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award Development FIP grants as described in Attachment B.

Attachments

A. Map of Development FIP applications
B. Staff Funding Recommendations
C. Evaluations

2018 Development FIP Applications



PKWills 20181218

Staff Funding Recommendation
2017 Capacity Building FIP Applications

Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	OWEB Request	Amount Recommended	Brief Description
219-8301-16572	Urban Greenspaces Institute	The Intertwine Alliance Oak Prairie Working Group	$69,000	$69,300	The Intertwine Alliance Oak Prairie Working Group is a 30+ member conservation partnership in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region, which has recently completed a strategic action plan. The goal of this proposal is to incorporate an 'open standards' approach in to the strategic action plan, engage new partners, build capacity with new and existing partners, and formalize our governance structure.
219-8302-16574	Trout Unlimited	SalmonSuperHwy	$90,750	$90,750	The Salmon SuperHwy partnership is working to restore connectivity to 180 miles of historically available habitat for Coho, Chinook, Chum, Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and Pacific Lamprey. The partnership will update an existing strategic plan, enhance partnership performance, and develop a financial plan.
219-8303-16575	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Pure Water Partners	$136,224	$136,224	The Pure Waters Partners program is a locally-developed effort designed to engage private landowners in the McKenzie River Sub-basin in long-term watershed restoration and conservation projects. The proposed project seeks to elevate the partnership's current level of performance through the development of planning documents that will create a programmatic approach to outreach, assessment, project development, and fundraising that protects and enhances habitat for native species and water quality at a landscape scale.
219-8304-16576	Sandy River WC	Sandy River Basin Partners	$147,378	$0	The Sandy Basin Partners will enhance an existing strategic action plan by evaluating reach targets utilizing current habitat conditions. The Partners will update the model to refine targets, track progress towards meeting objectives, and have a better understanding of where the next 10 years of habitat restoration can take place.
Total capacity Building FIP Request			**$443,352**		
Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**$296,274**	

Development FIP Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 219-8301-16572

OWEB Region: 3

Partnership Name: The Intertwine Alliance Oak Prairie Working Group

Requested Amount: $69,300.00

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

- Elevate the partnership's current level of performance
- Enhance an existing strategic action plan

Applicant's Summary:

The Intertwine Alliance Oak Prairie Working Group (OPWG) is a 30+ member conservation partnership in the Portland-Vancouver metropolitan region, which has recently completed a strategic action plan. With this proposal, the OPWG is seeking OWEB support to augment our strategic plan, incorporate an 'open standards' approach, engage new partners, build capacity with new and existing partners, and formalize our governance structure. Core OPWG partners involved include: Portland Parks & Recreation, Tualatin Hills Parks and Recreation, Clackamas and Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation Districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Metro Regional Government, and the Urban Greenspaces Institute. We envision the following social and ecological outcomes:

- High-value representative native oak and prairie habitats are permanently safeguarded within the region;
- The general public values and helps steward these imperiled habitats across a mix of public and private lands both within urban and rural settings;
- Public and private landowners with oak and prairie habitats value these remarkable habitats and are appreciated, recognized, and supported by the community-at-large for their stewardship and conservation;
- There is active human management of native oak and prairie habitats to promote ecosystem resiliency, protect dependent at-risk species, and celebrate indigenous cultural legacy lifeways that gave rise to them.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The challenges of the partnership are clearly articulated and the proposed solutions clearly tie back to the challenges.
- The need for an updated strategic action plan is clearly articulated.
- There is excellent match from a variety of partners.
- This is an inclusive and active partnership.

- This is a complex landscape. The partnership has clearly articulated the need to engage the community and has the right people in place to deal with those complexities.
- The partnership has clearly described the need to increase tribal engagement.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- This is a large partnership, over 30 partners; a strong facilitator will be needed to keep the group on track.
- While the partnership described the need, they need to clearly articulate their approach towards tribal engagement. This will be important to successfully engage tribal partners.
- It is unclear how this work interacts with the work of the Oak Accord in the Willamette Valley.
- OSU Extension and Oregon Small Woodlands Association seem to be missing as partners.

Concluding Analysis:

This is a large, active partnership, with the right groups at the table to be successful. The partnership clearly understands their challenges and the need for an updated strategic action plan. The partnership is actively engaged with OWEB's three other Oak Woodland Development FIPs, which enables peer-to-peer learning and cross-pollination of ideas.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 2 of 3

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $69,300.00

Development FIP Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 219-8302-16574

OWEB Region: 1

Partnership Name: Salmon SuperHwy

Requested Amount: $90,750.00

Board Priority Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species and Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

- Elevate the partnership's current level of performance
- Enhance an existing strategic action plan
- Develop a financial plan

Applicant's Summary:

The intended ecological outcome of the Salmon SuperHwy is to restore connectivity to 180 miles of historically available habitat for Coho, Chinook, Chum, Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, and Pacific Lamprey. The partners recognize that addressing connectivity is a high priority, cost-effective approach to protecting and restoring anadromous fish populations. Improving connectivity can increase habitat diversity and population resilience and thus compensate for the effects of climate change induced stream flow reductions, temperature increases, and extreme storm events. Restoring connectivity allows for natural stream processes like transport of sediment, debris, and nutrients, normalized flow and temperature regimes, and reduced catastrophic culvert failures that increase sedimentation and are a threat to both aquatic organisms and public safety.

Salmon SuperHwy core partners include: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Tillamook Bay Watershed Council, Nestucca-Neskowin Sand Lake Watersheds Council, Tillamook County Public Works, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Fish Passage Task Force, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and Trout Unlimited.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has an existing charter that was developed in 2015. The partnership plans to update the charter to address their evolving needs and challenges.
- The application clearly describes the partnership's challenges and the proposed actions directly address those challenges.
- The application clearly describes the need to engage with working lands landowners.

- Partners demonstrate the need and desire to work together and the application demonstrates a strong commitment. This proposal will help the partners build off the initial commitment and develop clear roles and responsibilities.
- The application has good match from the USFWS and there is a desire among the partners to diversify funding sources through the development of a financial plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The proposal covers a large geography, but the restoration focus is very narrow (fish passage). It is unclear what the broader ecological objectives are of the partnership.
- The application does not articulate the broader value of participating in the partnership beyond pursuing fish barrier removal.
- The application clearly describes the need to access private lands, but it does not clearly describe why this has been a challenge or provide detail about how the partnership would address this challenge.
- The application does not clearly describe the role of NRCS, which seems critical in this rural, agricultural landscape.
- There has recently been significant turnover among organizations located in the North Coast. It is unclear from the application as to whether there is enough capacity in the core partners remaining to carry the workload for thi proposal.
- A stronger emphasis on outreach and communication would likely benefit the partnership.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership has a history of successfully working together with a very specific focus on fish passage. As the partnership works to update its charter and strategic action plan, they should think about developing a larger vision for the partnership and developing clearly ecological outcomes for the geography. The application lays out several components, which are critical to success, including the charter update, outreach plan, financial plan, and updated strategic action plan. It is unlikely the partnership will find one contractor that can successfully assist with all these needs. The partnership should consider hiring separate contractors to help with different aspects of the project.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 3 of 3

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $90,750.00

Development FIP Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 219-8303-16575

OWEB Region: 3

Partnership Name: Pure Water Partners

Requested Amount: $136,224.00

Board Priority Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

- Elevate the partnership's current level of performance
- Develop a financial plan

Applicant's Summary:

The Pure Waters Partners (PWP) program is a locally-developed effort designed to engage private landowners in the McKenzie River Sub-basin in long-term watershed restoration and conservation projects. The intended ecological outcomes of the project are enhanced habitat for native fish and other key species, and maintenance and improvement of high-quality drinking water for local residents, and downstream water users. PWP partners successfully completed a Pilot Project in 2017 with 15 private landowners and are currently engaged with initial outreach to priority landowners. Partner organizations include Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development (CPRCD), Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB), McKenzie River Trust (MRT), McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC), Eugene-Springfield Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC), Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District (UWSWCD), University of Oregon (UO), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The proposed PWP Partnership Development Project (Project) seeks to elevate the partnership's current level of performance through the development of planning documents that will create a programmatic approach to outreach, assessment, project development, and fundraising that protects and enhances habitat for native species and water quality at a landscape scale.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Although the application proposes to pursue partnership enhancement and the development of a financial plan, the activities involved are not typical of a Development FIP application; however, it demonstrates that the partnership knows what they need to do and are ready to do it.
- The partnership has many guiding plans already in place, but the work proposed in this application will pull everything together in a strategic, geographic approach.
- The partners clearly understand the challenges and the proposed actions directly address those challenges.
- The Watershed Conservation Fund is a very interesting model, and the partners clearly already have an agreement in place for sharing funding.

- The community engagement aspects of the proposal are well described.
- The budget includes excellent detail.
- The partnership has a strong adaptive management structure.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Fish aspect is a secondary benefit to the drinking water source benefit; however both are important and clearly benefit the other.
- The partnership will likely need two facilitators to assist with the different and diverse aspects of the project.
- The project timeline is very ambitious, it is unclear from the proposal if all of the project components listed in the application as complete in January are already in motion or will begin after funding is awarded. The partners might need to adjust the timeline.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership has a history of successfully working together and actively practicing adaptive management over the history of the partnership. This proposal builds off the partnerships past successes and supports their growth as they continue to evolve and explore expanding into a new geography. The partnership should consider hiring separate contractors to help with different aspects of the project.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 1 of 3

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $136,224.00

Development FIP Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 219-8304-16576

OWEB Region: 3

Partnership Name: Sandy River Basin Partners

Requested Amount: $147,378.00

Board Priority Addressed: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

- Elevate the partnership's current level of performance
- Enhance an existing strategic action plan

Applicant's Summary:

The Sandy River Basin Partners include the Sandy River Watershed Council, Metro, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, the Portland Water Bureau, the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Freshwater Trust, and the Sandy Chapter of the Northwest Steelheaders. Each partner, both individually and collaboratively, have had extensive experience planning and completing restoration activities improving the Sandy populations of listed salmon and steelhead. Ecological outcomes identified by the partnership will address limiting factors of degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas presenting habitat for all life stages of salmonids in the Sandy River basin. The Sandy Basin Partners will enhance an existing strategic action plan by evaluating reach targets utilizing current habitat conditions. Restoration strategy objectives are derived from the EDT model that compares historic vs. current conditions for metrics limiting salmon and steelhead populations. The Partners will update the model to refine targets, track progress towards meeting objectives, and have a better understanding of where the next 10 years of habitat restoration can take place.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has a history of working together and has completed important restoration work in the basin.
- The proposal focuses on important fish habitat.
- This project occurs in a relatively urban area with good visibility, which could lead to opportunities to tell the restoration story.
- The partnership has a facilitator for the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment process.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The partnership challenges were not clearly described in the application.

- The proposed solutions did not clearly connect to the challenges described in the application. The partnership, as described in the application, seems to rely heavily on watershed council staff, the roles and responsibilities of other partners were not clearly described.
- The idea behind updating the EDT was not clearly described, it was unclear how the update would occur and how the resulting information would be used.
- The narrative of the application and budget were not well tied together, it is unclear what specific tasks the watershed council executive director and development director will be doing over the course of the project.
- It is unclear how the communications plan will be used by the partnership to engage the local community.
- The timeline feels very tight and may not be realistic.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership has been working together for a long-time and has a history of successfully implementing complex restoration projects in the Sandy basin. However, the application lacked key details and information needed to effectively evaluate its likelihood for success. The application did not clearly describe how the partnership challenges would be addressed through the actions proposed in the application. More detail was needed on which partners would be doing which activities. The proposed rerunning of the EDT model might be a better fit for an OWEB open solicitation technical assistance grant application.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: $0.00

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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Implementation FIP Update
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Implementation initiatives that were awarded for the 2017-2019 biennium. Staff will provide summary information, and Implementation FIP partners will provide a progress report to the board and answer questions from board members.

II. Background

At its January, 2016 meeting the board awarded funding to six partnerships as part of the Implementation FIP program. In the spring of 2016, agreements between each partnership and OWEB were developed which govern the process for technical project reviews, grant awards, and reporting. Those funds supported the partnerships in pursuing their conservation initiatives in the 2015-2017 biennium. A map of the Implementation FIP geographies is provided as Attachment A.

At its July, 2017 meeting the board awarded funding to the six partnerships to continue their initiatives for a second biennium. The following table outlines the amount of funding awarded to each partnership to date:

Partnership	2015-2017 Award Amount	2017-2019 Award Amount	Total Award Amount
The Deschutes Partnership	$4,000,000	$4,000,000	$8,000,000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group	$2,550,000	$2,445,000	$4,995,000
Upper Grande Ronde Initiative	$1,771,610	$2,416,500	$4,188,110
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative	$1,780,000	$1,970,000	$3,750,000
Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties	$2,295,938	$2,355,250	$4,651,188
Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration	$1,660,000	$2,340,000	$4,000,000
Total	**$14,057,548**	**$15,526,750**	**$29,584,298**

III. Implementation

In order to implement their initiatives, each partnership has submitted project grant proposals to OWEB (i.e., capacity building, outreach, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration). Project proposals are reviewed by technical review teams (TRT) that have been developed with partnership input. The role of the TRT is to: a) verify that proposed projects contribute to the outputs and outcomes described in each partnership's Strategic Action Plan; and, b) to collaborate with OWEB and the partners to ensure that each project is technically sound, including the best possible design and necessary components for successful implementation. Attachment B provides an accounting of each partnership's projects, as well as projects intended to be submitted to OWEB before the end of the 2017-2019 biennium.

Nearing the end of the second biennium of FIP awards (2017-2019), and roughly halfway through each six-year initiative, the partnerships have provided feedback to OWEB on project implementation, adjustments to Strategic Action Plans, successes and challenges encountered, and progress toward desired ecological outcomes. These progress reports are also provided in Attachment B.

Following January's discussion, at the April board meeting staff will recommend third biennium awards for each of the six partnerships.

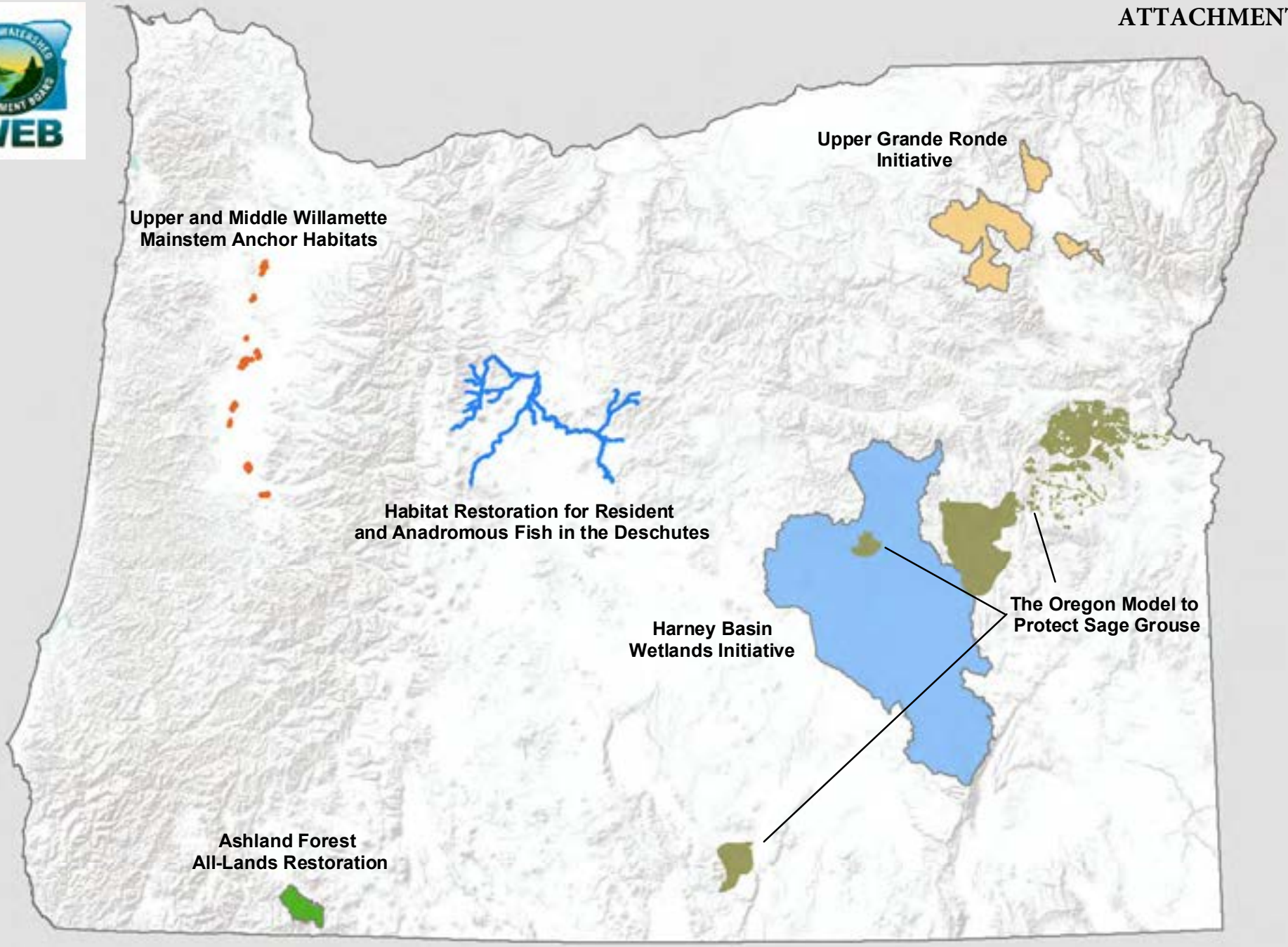
IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Implementation FIP partners will be at the January board meeting to update about progress in their initiatives.

Attachments

A. Implementation FIP Map
B. Partnership Progress Reports and Project Accounting

ATTACHMENT A



OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships: Implementation Initiatives 2017-2019

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2017-2019

Biennial Report – January 2019

Name of Partnership: Deschutes Partnership

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) How is your partnership making progress toward achieving its implementation objectives (outputs)? What factors (positive or negative) have impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals?

The Deschutes Partnership (Partnership) has made significant progress toward achieving its implementation outputs throughout the 2017-2019 biennium. Since the beginning of the biennium, we submitted grant applications to OWEB for a combination of project types from across our entire FIP geography (see Table 1.).

	Whychus	Crooked River	Metolius
FIP Partnership Capacity	X	X	X
Land Acquisition	X	X	
Technical Assistance	X	X	
Monitoring	X	X	
Outreach	X	X	X
Restoration	X	X	

Table 1: 2017-2019 Deschutes Partnership FIP grant application types and geography

In total, these projects account for approximately half of our total FIP funding for the 2017-2019 biennium. We are working on developing an additional seven project grant applications that we expect to submit for FIP funding in spring 2019, putting us on track to spend our $4M FIP allocation for this biennium. Proposed project types will include restoration, technical assistance and outreach.

The biggest factor impacting our ability to achieve the goals we identified in our Strategic Action Plan (SAP) was our ability to leverage opportunities in the Crooked River subbasin over this and the previous biennium, allowing for expedited project implementation in this geography. Last biennium, we were able to fund and begin implementation on the Opal Springs passage project ahead of our SAP timeline, freeing up FIP resources to allow for the purchase of a key piece of floodplain property at the

confluence of Ochoco and McKay Creeks and the Crooked River this biennium. These factors have enabled the Partnership to begin planning for and implementing habitat restoration actions in the Crooked River subbasin now, three years ahead of our SAP schedule. To do so using FIP funding, however, requires an update to our FIP workplan, which does not currently include habitat restoration in the Crooked River subbasin. The Partnership will be presenting a change of scope memo to the OWEB Board at the January 2019 meeting regarding the inclusion of habitat restoration in the Crooked River in the 2019-2021 biennium.

2) Describe how on-going and proposed monitoring activities will measure ecological progress? Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? What challenges and opportunities do you see in this work?

The Partnership and our restoration partners outside the FIP are implementing monitoring in the Whychus Creek, Metolius and Crooked River watersheds to measure the outcomes of streamflow restoration, stream habitat restoration, and fish passage and irrigation diversion screening projects. Monitoring indicators for each of the four restoration strategies are identified in the Partnership's 2015-2021 Focused Investment Program Progress Monitoring Plan (Deschutes Partnership, 2018). Indicators were identified in response to hypotheses about the ecological outcomes of each restoration action and include physical and biological parameters. Status and trends observed for each indicator are providing information about how, and how much, these indicators are changing following restoration. This information allows the Partnership to describe and quantify the ecological conditions observed following restoration work as a measure of ecological outcomes. We anticipate ongoing monitoring of these indicators by the Partnership, including baseline and post-project data collection, will allow us to measure the ecological outcomes of restoration. Of particular note is the baseline monitoring effort the Partnership will implement in the Crooked River subbasin (lower Crooked River and McKay Creek) ahead of restoration actions we anticipate implementing next biennium with the change in the scope of our FIP workplan.

Challenges include staff capacity to implement monitoring and manage, analyze, and report on monitoring data for an increasing number of restoration projects; identifying, staying current, and contributing to the development of emerging methods for monitoring large, complex habitat restoration projects; and linking biological responses, particularly fish population responses, to the physical conditions resulting from stream habitat and streamflow restoration. These challenges are in many ways also opportunities, particularly with regard to stream habitat restoration. We are presented with an opportunity to advance the practice of monitoring streams and innovative complex habitat restoration projects by 1) identifying a discrete set of methods, i.e. a protocol, for efficiently measuring geomorphic and hydrologic conditions, and 2) describing the relationships between key ecological attributes, e.g. fish population

metrics, and geomorphic conditions. In this vein, monitoring of the Partnership's complex habitat restoration projects, specifically on Whychus Creek, will be presented at three conferences in 2019.

3) How have the results chain and/or measuring progress tables informed your partnership's approach to prioritizing projects for implementation, tracking progress, and monitoring and/or adaptive management?

Monitoring ecological outcomes of each Partnership restoration strategy was refined in response to results chains for Partnership watersheds, which are included in the Progress Monitoring Plan. The process of developing a results chain with local experts was particularly useful for identifying expected ecological outcomes and monitoring indicators for McKay Creek, a naturally intermittent stream where the ecological outcomes of restoration could be different than in perennial streams, and about which Partnership partners had less information than for other streams and rivers in the Partnership geography. The results chain and measuring progress tables are also useful as a reminder of the metrics we identified for tracking both implementation and ecological progress and continuing to align our monitoring indicators with these metrics in analysis and reporting.

The Partnership identified FIP restoration projects a priori as part of our SAP and assigned the year we anticipated projects being implemented based on evaluation of project readiness. We consider all projects included in the SAP to be important for successful restoration of aquatic habitat for native fish and reintroduced salmonids within the Partnership geography, and projects are implemented when a number of factors, including funding and social license, are aligned. Thus, the order in which projects are implemented is informed by these factors rather than by a strict prioritization process.

4) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

In 2019, the Deschutes Partnership will update our FIP workplan to include Crooked River stream habitat restoration. The Partnership will present a change of scope memo to the OWEB Board at the January 2019 meeting for inclusion in the 2019-2021 biennium.

Habitat restoration in the Crooked River is a restoration action currently included in the Partnership SAP (SAP, p. 18, Objective 2.3.2.1) with implementation set to begin in 2022. The primary reason for delaying these activities until 2022 was that our initial focus for the Crooked River portion of the FIP was on funding and constructing fish passage at Opal Springs. Now that the Opal Springs project is funded and under

construction, we can consider advancing additional opportunities to implement SAP habitat restoration objectives for the Crooked River.

The Partnership's change in scope does not substantively change our FIP work plan or SAP, it simply advances the timing of activities to take best advantage of new projects and leverage opportunities. In addition, the change in scope will not displace other work—we've reviewed program needs for the upcoming biennium and concluded that these actions are both ripe and high-priority, our established measure for moving projects forward.

5) Beyond project implementation discussed in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. How has your partnership evolved as a result? What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

FIP Technical Review Team Process

Early in the biennium the Deschutes Partnership began working with OWEB staff to clarify the technical review process each OWEB grant must undergo. Previous technical review team (TRT) meetings had raised concerns regarding the roles of both reviewers and applicants and the goals of the TRT process, warranting clarification. OWEB staff listened to these concerns and worked collaboratively with both TRT reviewers and the Partnership to better structure the TRT process while still meeting OWEB's statutory obligations for technical review.

In February 2018, OWEB issued a memo to TRT reviewers and the Partnership outlining the structure and function of TRT meetings, clarifying the roles of participants and identifying three primary goals of the TRT process. Our most recent TRT meeting in October 2018 was the first meeting since the issuance of the memo and was regarded by the Partnership as the most productive TRT meeting of our FIP to date. The discussions were detailed and meaningful, yielding comments and suggestions from TRT reviewers that will ultimately benefit project development. OWEB facilitation of the meeting made for clear participant communication and identification of action items. The Partnership appreciates OWEB's diligence and collaborative approach to helping us find a way to make the TRT process meaningful to all parties.

Staff changes

Two of the Partnership's organizations are currently undergoing leadership transitions, resulting in new representatives at the Partnership table. Kate Fitzpatrick will replace Tod Heisler as the Deschutes River Conservancy representative and Kolleen Miller will be the acting representative for the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. While leadership transitions can be disruptive, the commitment of the individual organizations

to the work of the Partnership has ensured the diligent appointment of thoughtful replacement representatives.

6) Describe how your partnership has leveraged additional resources (direct and in-kind)?

RCPP

The Crooked River Watershed Council received a $6.5M Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant from Natural Resources Conservation Service for work in the lower Crooked River watershed. This five-year grant will leverage FIP funding to protect riparian areas through NRCS Farm Bill programs including the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

McKay Creek

The Partnership's recent FIP Technical Assistance grant for a largescale streamflow restoration project on McKay Creek revealed a significant increase in project cost due to irrigation infrastructure improvements needed for project implementation. Total project costs now leave a shortfall of approximately $5.6-6.1M. As the project is crucial to restoring streamflow to a major Crooked River tributary and supplying reintroduced steelhead and salmon access to suitable spawning grounds, the Partnership is working hard with its project partners to close this funding gap by leveraging current restoration investment, including FIP funding.

One possibility is funding under the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (PL-566), which will provide funds for the irrigation infrastructure improvements key to project implementation. Though PL-566 funding for the Deschutes basin is politically charged and highly competitive, the Partnership believes it can package the McKay Creek streamflow restoration project with the irrigation infrastructure improvement projects to develop a competitive application for PL-566 funds.

The Deschutes Partnership

2015-2017 Biennium

UDWC = Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
CRWC = Crooked River Watershed Council
DRC = Deschutes River Conservancy
DLT = Deschutes Land Trust

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
UDWC	Deschutes Partnership Capacity	Capacity Building	$95,000	$23,860	Completed	
CRWC	Opal Springs Dam Volitional Fish Passage Phases 2 & 3	Restoration	$2,500,000	$8,720,486	Active	
DRC	Three Sisters Irrigation District Main Canal Phase 8	Restoration	$258,695	$1,196,084	Completed	
DLT	Aspen Lakes (Willow Springs) Land Acquisition	Land Acquisition	$450,000	$397,922	Pending	Funding award complete. Grant agreement under review. November 2018.
DRC	McKay Creek Water Rights Switch	Technical Assistance	$225,000	$127,342	Active	
UDWC	Whychus Canyon Restoration Phase 2	Technical Assistance	$121,000	$41,050	Active	
UDWC	Plainview Diversion Passage/Screening Design	Technical Assistance	$67,000	$52,225	Active	
UDWC	Deschutes Partnership Community Outreach	Outreach	$84,700	$33,500	Active	
DRC	Three Sisters Irrigation District Main Canal Phase 9	Restoration	$421,399	$1,143,714	Completed	
UDWC	Whychus Watershed & Floodplain Monitoring	Monitoring	$175,000	$49,118	Active	
		Total	**$4,397,794**	**$11,785,301**		
		Total Award	$4,000,000			
		Balance	-$397,794			This balance is accounted for by $397,794 that was carried forward from the Deschutes SIP, and is currently at $0.

Table 7

The Deschutes Partnership

2017-2019 Biennium

UDWC = Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
CRWC = Crooked River Watershed Council
DRC = Deschutes River Conservancy
DLT = Deschutes Land Trust

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
UDWC	Deschutes Partnership Capacity	Capacity Building	$123,900	$31,018	Active	
DLT	George Property Acquisition	Land Acquisition	$825,000	$313,719	Pending	DLT and OWEB staff updating application and evaluation/funding award materials to include Williams SIP Property Acquisition. November 2018.
UDWC	Creekside Park Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration Project	Technical Assistance	$125,000	$65,661	Active	
DLT	Aspen Lakes (Willow Springs) Land Acquisition (additional funds to those allocated in 2015-2017 biennium to complete the project)	Land Acquisition	$113,750	$0	Pending	Funding award complete. Grant agreement under review. November 2018.
CRWC	Lower Crooked River Landowner Engagement Project	Stakeholder Engagement	$49,536	$30,216	Pending	Proposal submitted and reviewed October 2018. Funding award pending Board approval of proposed scope of initiative change.
CRWC	Lower Crooked River Baseline Monitoring	Monitoring	$54,890	$77,400	Pending	Proposal submitted and reviewed October 2018. Funding award pending Board approval of proposed scope of initiative change.
UDWC	Whychus Watershed & Floodplain Monitoring	Monitoring	$150,000	$39,555	Pending	Project funded. Grant agreement in development. November 2018.
UDWC	Plainview Fish Passage and Screening Project	Restoration	$200,000	$454,800	Pending	Project funded. Grant agreement in development. November 2018.
CRWC	Lower Ochoco Creek Fish Passage and Screening	Restoration	$123,779	$39,100	Pending	Proposal submitted and reviewed October 2018. Funding award pending Board approval of proposed scope of initiative change.
UDWC	Willow Springs Preserve Restoration Design Project	Technical Assistance	$150,000	$56,825	Pending	Project funded. Grant agreement in development. November 2018.
UDWC	Barton & Allen Diversions Passage/Screening	Restoration	$45,000	$30,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
UDWC	Sisters City Park Stream Restoration (Creekside REST)	Restoration	$100,000	$80,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
UDWC and DLT	Outreach - Whychus - UDWC and DLT	Stakeholder Engagement	$125,000	$40,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
DRC	McKay Exchange Phase I	Restoration	$1,500,000	$1,500,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
CRWC	EM Monitoring - Lower Crooked	Monitoring	$80,000	$20,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
DLT	Ochoco Preserve (George Property) Restoration Design	Technical Assistance	$200,000	$75,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
		Total	**$3,965,855**	**$2,853,294**		
		Total Award	$4,000,000			
		Balance	$34,145			

Table 8

OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships
2017-2019 Biennial Reporting

Written Reporting Questions

(To be submitted to your OWEB FIP Project Manager no later than November 30, 2018)

Name of Partnership: Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group (WAHWG)

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) *How is your partnership making progress toward achieving its implementation objectives (outputs)? What factors (positive or negative) have impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals?*

The partnership is making anticipated progress. We conduct our formal implementation reporting each December and so our 2018 reporting has yet to occur. As of the end of 2017, we had met 31% of our cumulative ecological targets for 2022. In response to an opportunity the group saw to refine our targets, a breakout group met and identified three sub targets that support our ecological actions. These will be rolled out and tested in our upcoming 2018 data collection effort.

With respect to our outreach targets, in 2017 we exceeded our anticipated progress toward educational targets (51% progress towards our 2022 goal). We are on track with volunteer targets (25% towards 2022 goal) and identified a need to revisit our outreach targets for salience to key audiences. The groundwork here is complete and we will roll out the revisions in our upcoming implementation data collection for 2018.

The partnership has been quite successful at implementing projects that expand the extent and health of floodplain forests but has found it more difficult to complete projects that involve earthwork (floodplain reconnection & side channel construction). Challenges include permitting, which has been a major hurdle. Bureaucratic red tape has hindered some partner's ability to do the significant earthwork that would result in big changes. The partnership would benefit from high level agreements between Army Corps, NOAA, SHPO, DSL, DEQ and the Counties to agree that all of these agencies want this work to happen.

One other challenge the partnership has been grappling with is the ability of partners to cultivate relationships/projects with willing landowners along the mainstem of the Willamette. The majority of our projects are taking place on public or otherwise protected land. Many partners have found it difficult to implement successful and impactful projects on private land due to the time and energy it takes to build these relationships and the uncertainty surrounding the future funding landscape in the Willamette. The partnership is exploring ways to engage

with private landowners in a way that continues to build trust and illuminates the value of our work now and into the future.

2) *Describe how on-going and proposed monitoring activities will measure ecological progress? Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? What challenges and opportunities do you see in this work?*

The Effectiveness Monitoring program for the partnership is focused on measuring changes in physical habitat that directly relate to WAHWG restoration activities and placing these changes within the context of broader floodplain processes. Because restoration projects directly change hydrologic, water quality and geomorphic conditions, our monitoring prioritizes data collection to assess hydrogeomorphic responses in different seasons that directly relate to native fish needs for different times of the year. Vegetation monitoring is also an important component. We recognize the long timescales for floodplain forests to establish and ecological benefits of re-vegetation to be realized, so we are developing monitoring approaches that assess changes in vegetation and the ecological responses to reforestation. Additionally, we are developing strategic monitoring indicators, metrics and approaches for assessing fisheries responses, focusing on clear linkages between restoration actions, changes in physical habitat and associated response by fisheries community. All monitoring plans are closely coupled with the WAHWG Results Chain.

The WAHWG Monitoring Program leverages expertise among key institutions that have a long-term commitment to this endeavor: these organizations include: USGS, BEF, TNC (leading the monitoring program); with fisheries experts from USFS and ODFW leading the fisheries monitoring; limnologists from PSU leading coupled water-quality and plant responses to ludwigia treatment; hydrologists from USGS leading temperature, inundation, geomorphic changes and vegetation experts from TNC, USGS and other groups leading the vegetation monitoring.

3) *How have the results chain and/or measuring progress tables informed your partnership's approach to prioritizing projects for implementation, tracking progress, and monitoring and/or adaptive management?*

We have used the results chain to inform prioritization of effectiveness monitoring questions. We view the results chain as a map of key assumptions, grounded in best available science, regarding how outputs relate to desired ecological impacts on aquatic habitats for native species. Seeing these assumptions laid out in the results chain has allowed us to hone in on the places where key questions and ecological impacts are in greatest need of focused monitoring. We have not used the results chain to directly inform our implementation monitoring because targets are essential for adaptive management, and the targets we have identified do not seamlessly align with those identified in the results chain. The results chain also allowed us to

think creatively about how indicators could be used to efficiently assess effectiveness of key actions. For example, we are planning to use an avian indicator of vegetation health to assess effectiveness of native riparian forest community enhancements over time. This shift was only possible as we reflected on the fact that other more common measures were not shedding light on key effectiveness questions relating to revegetation actions.

For now, our adaptive management process is guided by implementation monitoring, but when we have made more cumulative implementation progress we expect to derive information from effectiveness monitoring to inform adaptive management at different scales.

The temporal linkages made among limiting factors in the results chain and anticipated near-long term impacts has been extremely helpful in allowing us to scale expectations across stakeholder groups and plan our monitoring efforts.

4) *How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?*

There have been no changes made to the Willamette Action Plan since it was created in 2015. However, supplemental documents have been created that are helping to guide our work. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) completed a restoration and stewardship action plan for OPRD-managed properties in the Willamette Basin. The Willamette Aquatic Invasive Network is also in the midst of working on a prioritization exercise and drafting an action plan for addressing the restoration of off channel habitat and other locations where aquatic invasive plants are persisting. This plan will hopefully be completed by the late spring of 2019 and will inform updates to our strategic plan.

5) *Beyond project implementation discussed in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. How has your partnership evolved as a result? What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?*

A major challenge the partnership has encountered this biennium is a transition in leadership. Dan Bell served as chair of the working group since its inception and left the role early in 2018. The partnership worked through the first half of 2018 to bring on a new Chair. Adam Zucker was brought on to provide technical support to the partnership in the early spring, and in mid 2018 the partnership brought on Taylor Larson to chair the partnership. Getting up to speed on such a complex partnership has taken some time and it has been a challenge for the group to adjust to a more dispersed leadership style. Taylor was relatively unfamiliar with the working group prior to taking on a coordination role which made it hard to hit the ground running. As a partnership going forward we are working to become more resilient to change by working to build leadership capacity across organizations within our group.

Another challenge for our partners is a result of the wide breadth and geographic spread of the WAHWG, the large number of stakeholders in the basin, and the wide range of issues that the Partnership could be focused on. Because of these factors, there are a wide range of other partnerships operating in the basin, and many have partially overlapping goals or geography as the FIP Partnership. A few examples include: Rivers to Ridges, Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network, Willamette Mainstem Cooperative, and others. There have been times when our partnership has tried to widen our focus to bring in more of those partners and provide more varied topics during meetings. In the end, we have honed our focus to maintain an emphasis on mainstem-specific issues, science, and projects. We will continue to coordinate with the partners and stakeholders related to that geography. One emerging opportunity is the development by Meyer Memorial Trust and others of a new Willamette River Network model to continue the work of the Willamette River Initiative into the future. The development of this new model and an organization that will eventually lead it has been ongoing for a few years, and we are grateful for MMT's ongoing support of restoration investments in our three-partner funding collaborative through the life of the Willamette FIP.

6) *Describe how your partnership has leveraged additional resources (direct and in-kind)?*

The ability to leverage the FIP funding with funding from other entities has been a major positive influence on our partnership's ability to achieve our goals. The primary matching funders have been BPA and Meyer Memorial Trust, but also recently some private funding and some funding from a water utility have been used to leverage FIP funds. Additionally, our Partnership has been working hard to coordinate the design of projects with the latest science to ensure methods and actions are as beneficial as possible for our target species. USGS, PSU and OSU are some of the partners who are performing scientific inquiries and studies that relate directly to our partnership's work. A few examples include studies of how juvenile Chinook utilize gravel bars, the role of cold water spots in fish biology, improving the ability to predict where cold water spots are located, and understanding the cascading effects of aquatic invasive species on water quality and native aquatic plant communities.

BEF has worked to leverage non-profit and corporate investments in AHWG FIP projects and we saw a number of successes in 2017-2018:

A. Working with Intel and Coca-Cola, we leveraged an additional $310,000 for 2018-2019 actions of three AHWG partners whose projects deliver water-related benefits: Little Willamette (Greenbelt LT), Bowers Rock (Calapooia WC) and Snag Boat Bend (Long Tom WC).
B. BEF was awarded $67,340 from the Arbor Day Foundation for plants for the 2017 and 2018 planting seasons. Approximately 60% of these funds supported projects that are part of the AHWG FIP.

C. Nonprofit partner One Tree Planted worked with BEF to generate over $80,000 in tree planting-related funding offsets, 100% of which were directed to 13 Willamette partners, 10 of whom are AHWG partners.
D. A professional film crew was contracted by One Tree Planted to create a six-minute film short at the Willamette Mission FIP site. The film profiles a day in the life of a tree planter and will be screened in Portland at the 2019 Wild and Scenic Film Festival.

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group

2015-2017 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
The Nature Conservancy	Willamette Confluence Middle Fork Restoration	Restoration	$675,001	$547,909	Active	
Calapooia Watershed Council	Bowers Rock Phase 1	Restoration	$94,000	$44,102	Active	
Willamette Riverkeeper	Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 4	Restoration	$295,420	$436,040	Active	
McKenzie River Trust	Green Island Floodplain Phase 4	Restoration	$62,631	$431,883	Active	
Long Tom Watershed Council	Snag Boat Bend Floodplain Restoration Phase 3	Restoration	$200,000	$294,872	Active	
Long Tom Watershed Council	Sam Daws Landing Phase 3 Restoration Design	Technical Assistance	$60,000	$5,247	Active	
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Partnership Coordination	Capacity Building	$70,005	$17,690	Completed	
Willamette Riverkeeper	Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 4 - Channel Monitoring	Monitoring	$55,219	$25,654	Active	
McKenzie River Trust	Green Island - Bull Pen	Restoration	$100,130	$112,371	Active	
Willamette Riverkeeper	Gail Achterman, Phase 1	Restoration	$95,143	$270,340	Active	
Greenbelt Land Trust	Horseshoe Lake, Phase 2	Restoration	$158,698	$41,760	Pending	Grant agreement complete, waiting for grantee to resolve outstanding reports. December 2018.
Long Tom Watershed Council	Sam Daws Landing/Snag Boat Bend Restoration	Restoration	$299,947	$22,500	Active	
Calapooia Watershed Council	Calapooia Confluence	Technical Assistance	$30,000	$16,352	Active	
Willamette Riverkeeper	Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 5	Restoration	$213,516	$334,157	Active	
Benton SWCD	Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Monitoring Framework	Monitoring	$129,954	$40,033	Active	
		Total	**$2,539,664**	**$2,640,910**		
		Total Award	$2,550,000			
		Balance	$10,336			

Table 11

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group

2017-2019 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Partnership Coordination	Capacity Building	$101,661	$25,515	Active	
Luckiamute Watershed Council	Luckiamute State Natural Area Floodplain Reconnection and Reforestation	Restoration	$168,331	$347,561	Pending	Project funded and grant agreement in development, December 2018.
Calapooia Watershed Council	Bowers Rock Phase 2 Implementation	Restoration	$547,000	$593,114	Pending	Project funded and grant agreement in development, December 2018.
Friends of Buford Park	Glassbar Island Floodplain Reforestation	Restoration	$124,500	$127,747	Pending	Technical review complete, September 2018. Funding award and grant agreement in development, December 2018.
The Nature Conservancy	Willamette Confluence Lower Middle Fork Revegetation	Restoration	$321,324	$80,349	Pending	Technical review complete, September 2018. Funding award and grant agreement in development, December 2018.
Benton SWCD	2019 Data Collection for WFIP Effectiveness Monitoring	Monitoring	$119,983	$58,000	Active	
Long Tom Watershed Council	Snag Boat Bend - Alternatives Analysis and Project Design	Technical Assistance	$75,000	$15,000	Active	
Long Tom Watershed Council	Snag Boat Bend Floodplain Reforestation	Restoration	$290,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for 2019.
Long Tom Watershed Council	Sam Daws Landing Floodplain Reforestation (Gravel Pit)	Restoration	$240,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for 2019.
Greenbelt Land Trust	Horseshoe Lake - Hydrological Restoration	Restoration	$86,406	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for 2019.
Willamette Riverkeeper	Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation, Phase 5 (Channels and Riparian Edges)	Restoration	$270,864	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for 2019.
Calapooia Watershed Council	Albany Oxbow System	Technical Assistance	$80,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for 2019.
		Total	**$2,425,069**	**$1,247,286**		
		Total Award	$2,445,000			
		Balance	$19,931			

Table 12

OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships
2017-2019 Biennial Reporting
Written Report
Name of Partnership: _Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership_____

1) How is your partnership making progress toward achieving its implementation objectives (outputs)? What factors (positive or negative) have impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals?

The Partnership is making great progress in meeting implementation objectives. Working with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, the partnership identified 11 outputs and five reductions in limiting factors that we would measure to track progress. The most significant progress has been made in the areas of research, monitoring and landowner relationships. Although, the pace of instream and riparian restoration project implementation is beginning to speed up with the completion of the Dry Creek Aiwohi-Cisco Habitat Restoration Project and the Upper Grande Ronde River Bird Track Springs Restoration Project underway. Initially the partnership experienced a bottleneck in our capacity to fund technical engineering designs, but the flexibility in the FIP program for the Partnership to focus money where it is most needed has proven to be very helpful. After the first biennium, it was clear the partners needed even more technical assistance to stay on schedule with implementation. The Partnership benefits from technical assistance provided by the Bureau of Reclamation and Bonneville Power Administration, but they were unable to handle the increased workload associated with FIP projects so we needed other options. In this biennium, two more projects have received FIP funding for technical assistance and are now moving ahead on schedule.

The process meeting NHPA Section 106 requirements has also been a limitation to achieving our objectives on time with most projects experiencing a one- to two-year delay, without a clear understanding of what requirements will be from one project to the next. The Grande Ronde Model Watershed is working with BPA to provide some training for the partners, along with some additional funding to keep cultural resource surveys moving forward on time.

2) Describe how on-going and proposed monitoring activities will measure ecological progress? Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? What challenges and opportunities do you see in this work?

The Partnership identified four outcomes that we hope to achieve through the FIP.

1. **Improve knowledge of factors affecting survival rates of wild spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead and bull trout.** The Partnership has engaged in three separate efforts to improve our understanding of native fish species and what factors are affecting productivity, survival and abundance. First, working with CRITFC, ODFW and OSU, we evaluated how fish carcass additions affect growth of native fish during summer rearing. An OSU graduate student proposed carcass additions to determine if we can improve poor survival rates of out migrating smolts by improving growth rates of juvenile fish. The results showed increased growth of juvenile fish the first year, mostly due to direct consumption of eggs from the carcasses. Results from the second year of research are forthcoming.

ODFW and partners are working to install PIT Tag arrays in critical locations in an effort to improve our understanding of these same native fish populations. We have installed an array on the upper Grande Ronde River near Starkey and one is currently being built that will be installed on Catherine Creek, downstream of Union. These two locations will provide important migration timing, habitat use and survival information for Chinook salmon and steelhead.

The third effort is being led by the USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW). They are looking at a number of metrics on Meadow Creek to determine the effectiveness of an instream restoration project completed in 2014. PNW and partners are studying fish response, instream habitat change, riparian recovery, effects of cattle and wild ungulate browse in riparian areas, pollinators and more. Recently, at the request of local partners, they also incorporated research to look at the effectiveness of Plantskydd, a liquid browse deterrent applied to riparian plantings. The hope is that this product can effectively deter wild ungulate browse and provide another alternative for riparian plant protection.

2. **Improve habitat quantity for all life stages of spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead and other native species by protecting and restoring watershed processes and function, cold water refugia, and diverse, complex instream and floodplain habitats.** The Partnership has been utilizing the data from an existing monitoring program, the Columbia Habitat and Monitoring Program (CHaMP), to measure the increase in habitat quantity and quality as a result of restoration projects being implemented. Unfortunately, that program was defunded by BPA and is no longer operational. The partnership has worked to develop an alternative to measure progress. OWEB's willingness to provide supplemental monitoring funds will allow us to collaborate with the ODFW Aquatic Inventories Program and complete additional habitat and snorkel surveys within the Initiative Area. Some of these surveys will be completed for the first time on streams within the Initiative Area and serve as baseline data. The challenge in these areas will be securing funding to do repeat surveys once all the planned work is complete. In other streams within the Initiative Area these repeated surveys will help tell the story of how much the habitat has changed due to implemented actions. Consistent metrics will be measured to tell the story of change in habitat quantity including pools/mile, LWD pieces/100 meters, side channel length and main channel length.
3. **Increase habitat quality and diversity for all life stages of spring chinook salmon, summer steelhead and other native species.** Similar to monitoring for changes in habitat quantity, this outcome will be measured through habitat surveys. Metrics to determine change in habitat quality include pools >1 meter deep, sediment composition, cover and width-to-depth ratio. Stream temperatures and flows are being measured independently of habitat surveys by the partners and will be critical metrics in determining improvements in habitat quality. Additionally, partners usually collect basic monitoring data through photo points, aerial imagery, plant surveys and topographical surveys.
4. **Promote and build trusting relationships and partnerships with private landowners and public land managers to promote long-term ecologically-based conservation ethics.** The Partnership views this as an ongoing goal and knew it would take more landowner and

public engagement to be successful in implementing our FIP. Therefore, if we are successful in implementing our FIP, we have been successful in engaging and working with our community. So far, we have engaged fourteen different landowners about implementing restoration projects on their property. Additionally, we have collaborated with public land managers to improve our watershed conditions and leverage the relationships that specific members of the Partnership have with individual user groups. The partners are continually providing technical assistance and training to landowners, students and civic groups to increase awareness.

Ecological outcomes will be measured through analyses of the study results and monitoring data described above. The technical results of the three study efforts will be used to inform future project planning in the Grande Ronde River Sub-basin and this information will be combined with other known information to refine prioritization strategies and focus on recovery of key salmonid populations. The habitat quantity and quality monitoring data will provide information to measure project effectiveness of achieving physical condition goals and objectives and will be incorporated into an adaptive management approach to project planning and technical design. A significant challenge will be finding the capacity to analyze the data and monitoring results to ensure we properly incorporate the new information into future planning.

3) How have the results chain and/or measuring progress tables informed your partnership's approach to prioritizing projects for implementation, tracking progress, and monitoring and/or adaptive management?

The results chain forced us to focus on how we would determine success early on in the management of the FIP. It is easy to focus entirely on the process of project implementation (landowners, permitting, planning, design, funding) and not plan to measure improvement. The results chain has facilitated the upfront planning needed to monitor progress.

The partners in the basin have tried a variety of methods to measure change in habitat quality and quantity. The approach we keep coming back to is a consistent set of metrics measured in the Aquatic Inventories survey paired with snorkel surveys (metrics mentioned in response to question 2).

Recently the partners are looking into using Life Cycle Models (LCMs) developed at the NOAA science center. The Grande Ronde LCMs were designed to accept estimated changes in specific life stage survivals and capacities. The primary input parameters used to model historical, current, and four strategy specific restoration scenarios are multipliers reflecting the expected changes in parr rearing capacity and out-migrant survivals. In the model, over-wintering survival is linked to summer parr density reflecting the strong patterns in the empirical data sets for the Upper Grande Ronde, Catherine Creek, Minam, and Lostine/Wallowa Chinook salmon populations. A key working assumption of the approach is that the tributary stage production and survival relationships we derived from the 20 plus year adult spawner and juvenile data sets are related to the estimates of available habitat generated using the Oregon AQI data sets. We assume that habitat actions that would increase or decrease those levels over time would proportionally translate into changes from the derived parr capacities for each

population. Results from these four restoration strategies are currently being modeled and will be written up in a technical memo from NOAA's NW Science Center by the end of the year.

4) How has the Partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

The Partnership's SAP has been modified in several ways during this biennium. We recognized the need for better coordination in our monitoring efforts and hired a Monitoring Network Coordinator at GRMW to assist the Partnership in working as a team and minimizing redundancies in monitoring. We also underestimated the technical assistance capacity of the Partnership members. Initially we relied too heavily on BOR and BPA for engineering assistance, whose capacity we had overestimated (OWEB FIP committee members questioned whether we had allowed enough for TA during the initial evaluation process-seems they were right and we were wrong). Fortunately, we have been able to increase the amount of technical assistance design funding in our FIP. Additionally, two projects have been removed due to losing landowner support. The partners have also needed to delay some projects into a future biennium, and accelerate other projects ahead a biennium. The change of biggest magnitude has been the Catherine Creek Hall Ranch project. Initially this project was planned to be a small-scale side channel project that would also provide some protection to the existing highway (OR HWY 203). The partners invested in technical design of this project and ODFW even secured OWEB FIP funding to complete the implementation. During this time, the opportunity arose to drastically increase the scope and scale of this project and not just enhance side channel habitat and protect a highway, but completely move the highway out of the floodplain and design a large-scale side channel and floodplain restoration project. The change was largely brought on by the willingness of the new ODOT regional manager, Ace Clark, to consider relocating the highway. Previously ODOT had insisted that moving the highway was not an option. Once ODOT became supportive of the highway relocation alternative, the plans changed, and the existing OWEB FIP grants were cancelled. Currently a new proposal for the expanded project is being considered to finish designing the habitat portion of this large floodplain project. We were also able to leverage significant funding from Bonneville Power Administration and ODOT to complete the designs for the new highway.

5) Beyond project implementation discussed in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. How has your partnership evolved as a result? What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

One major challenge has been the changes we have experienced in the Core Partners and in the larger implementation partnership in the basin. Recently, the Grande Ronde ODFW Fish Habitat Program, funded primarily by BPA, experienced a budget cut which reduced their capacity. ODFW is one of the core implementers and this will affect both the amount of implementation and monitoring they can achieve. Another recent change in the partnership that has been both a challenge and a success is an agreement between BPA and the USFS Region 6, called the Headwaters Initiative (HI). This agreement between two federal agencies is

a positive change in that the USFS is able to bring some additional funding to the basin that will be matched by BPA. The challenging part has been trying to work out the details of which projects they will be doing, how they will be funded and which partners will be needed for assistance. CTUIR has taken on a large three-year project on the Wallowa Whitman that is part of the HI. The CTUIR Habitat Program is very experienced and is a logical partner for this project but it has also taken their time away from a couple large FIP projects they had planned in Biennium 3. The partners have worked to decide how to re-allocate those biennium 3 funds, particularly in directing those funds towards the Catherine Creek Hall Ranch project that has grown substantially in scale and cost. Another challenge has been the arrival of a new implementation partner in the basin. The Bureau of Reclamation funded a project manager position for Trout Unlimited in the Grande Ronde Basin. This addition has not affected the FIP core partnership directly, but there are always challenges when new partners arrive and try to find a niche where they can be most successful. The overall success of the partnership is evident in several large projects being developed with the help of FIP funds and OWEB support. Members of the Partnership must also recognize a challenge with meshing the subtle differences in agency focus and project goals between each member and between matching funders. Each implementing partner agency and each of the matching fund agencies have a slightly different emphasis that defines project success and the willingness to fund implementation. These differences combined with the various goals of landowners and land managers can make it difficult to settle on project actions that are acceptable by all stakeholders. Developing clear project goals and objectives through thorough communication and trusting relationships, as described under Question 2, can help to alleviate this challenge.

6) Describe how your partnership has leveraged additional resources (direct and in-kind)?

The Partnership has continued to leverage additional funding and technical services from BPA, USFS, BOR, ODOT and others. The Partnership has also been successful in securing funding from other sources like McNary Mitigation Fund, Federal Lands and Access Program, CRITFC, NRCS and others. The USFS has been able to add an aquatic engineer in our region to design projects on the Wallowa Whitman, along with valuable coordination in the Sheep Creek watershed to provide upland thinning projects that will supply wood for instream restoration. Another example of how we have been able to leverage additional resources is the Catherine Creek Hall Ranch Project. The project has grown substantially and now the partners, led by ODFW Habitat Program, are planning to move the highway out of the floodplain and implement a large restoration project in the core Chinook spawning and rearing reach of Catherine Creek. Having funds dedicated to this project in FIP has helped to secure BPA funds for highway relocation designs, the USFS was successful in getting a Federal Lands Access Program grant to resurface the new highway, and ODOT is contributing substantial in-kind to the design and construction of the new highway.

Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

2015-2017 Biennium

GRMWF = Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation
CTUIR = Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
GRMWF	Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration	Technical Assistance	$49,610	$130,259	Active	Proposed for funds to be carried forward to obligate to a revised project grant agreement per pending OWEB Board action January 16, 2019 (similar to Hall Ranch REST funds listed below).
GRMWF	Grande Ronde Basin Monitoring	Monitoring	$167,330	$30,098	Active	
GRMWF	Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership - Restoration Outreach Coordinator	Outreach	$29,772	$39,560	Completed	
GRMWF	Meadow Creek Effectiveness Monitoring	Monitoring	$15,000	$170,474	Completed	
GRMWF	Fence Reconstruction Project within the Grande Ronde Watershed Project	Restoration	$16,632	$9,120	Completed	
GRMWF	Upper Grande Ronde Culvert Replacements Project	Restoration	$87,505	$385,337	Completed	
GRMWF	Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration	Restoration	$0	$0	Canceled	Funds carried forward for a revised project grant agreement per OWEB Board action June 27, 2018.
CTUIR	Bird Track Springs Restoration	Restoration	$507,016	$1,614,214	Active	
GRMWF	Whiskey Creek Courtney Ranch Restoration	Restoration	$310,946	$113,766	Active	
GRMWF	Grande Ronde River Bowman's Restoration	Technical Assistance	$146,620	$48,251	Active	
Union SWCD	Dry Creek Restoration	Technical Assistance	$83,197	$89,999	Active	
GRMWF	Upper Grande Ronde Carcass Addition Evaluation	Monitoring	$18,095	$122,194	Completed	
		Total	**$1,431,723**	**$2,753,272**		
		Total Award	$1,771,610			
		Balance	$339,887			

This balance consists of the Hall Ranch Restoration funds that were canceled and carried forward to be used in a new Hall Ranch grant agreement.

Table 3

Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

2017-2019 Biennium

GRMWF = Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation
CTUIR = Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
GRMWF	Sheep Creek Restoration Project	Restoration	$73,632	$1,074,076	Active	
GRMWF	Restoration and Monitoring Network Communications Coordinator	Capacity Building	$61,200	$114,000	Active	
GRMWF	Meadow Creek Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring	Monitoring	$44,990	$86,688	Active	
Union SWCD	Dry Creek Aiwohi-Cisco Habitat Restoration	Restoration	$110,000	$245,195	Active	
Union SWCD	Catherine Creek Red Mill Reach Restoration	Restoration	$33,533	$65,851	Active	
GRMWF	Woodlee Restoration Project	Restoration	$112,382	$496,888	Pending	Project reviewed October 2018. Funding award and grant agreement in development December 2018.
GRMWF	Catherine Creek - Hall Ranch Fish Habitat Restoration Project, Fish Habitat Design	Technical Assistance	$238,350	$706,390	Pending	Project reviewed October 2018. Funding award and grant agreement in development December 2018.
Union SWCD	Free Willow, Lower Willow Creek Fish Passage Design	Technical Assistance	$250,000	$65,936	Pending	Project reviewed October 2018. Funding award and grant agreement in development December 2018.
CTUIR/USFS	UGR Longley Meadows	Restoration	$750,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
GRMWF (ODFW)	Catherine Creek Hall Ranch Hwy 203 Relocation and Habitat Restoration	Restoration	$1,118,242	$5,000,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
		Total	**$2,792,329**	**$7,855,024**		
		Total Award	$2,416,500			
		Balance	-$375,829			This balance would be accounted for with 2015-17 carry forward funds.

Table 4

OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships

2017-2019 Biennial Reporting

Written Reporting Questions

Name of Partnership: Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

1) How is your partnership making progress toward achieving its implementation objectives (outputs)? What factors (positive or negative) have impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals?

The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative is a diverse group of partners making tangible and authentic progress towards achieving Focused Investment Partnership implementation objectives for Harney County's Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitat. The overall goal of this Focused Investment Partnership is to enhance and restore a crucial ecosystem that is a magnet for migratory birds on the Pacific flyway while maintaining a sustainable ranching community in southeastern Oregon. The Initiative partners continue to meet regularly in facilitated meetings and are supported in collaboration and decision making by The High Desert Partnership.

Aquatic Health and Carp Control

Initiative partners completed the *Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline* project during the biennium and delivered a technical report that provides (1) an update on the geographic range of carp in the basin and (2) baseline data on aquatic health conditions including water quality parameters, fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and submerged aquatic vegetation cover. We have not achieved our goal of establishing the geographic range of carp in the basin due to site inaccessibility issues and to the unfortunate misplacement of eDNA samples by a contracted laboratory. We were able to achieve our goal of collecting baseline data on aquatic health conditions in the basin, which will enable Initiative partners to monitor ecological progress in the Closed Lakes Basin habitat. The *Carp Dynamics and Ecosystem Development* project is on-going and will provide a systems model that will offer Initiative partners the ability to test alternative restoration strategies for Malheur Lake (e.g., windbreaks, lake subdivisions or water management). Multiple sub-models that will constitute the systems model have already been completed to better understand (1) the effects of annual lake-level fluctuation on carp recruitment and mortality, (2) how managers may use lake-level fluctuation to suppress the carp population below target thresholds, and (3) the sediment dynamics in Malheur Lake in response to environmental conditions and morphological features. This project has been positively influenced by the continued assistance from collaborators and has benefitted from the *Predictive Model for Light in Malheur Lake* project (on-going), which has enabled the timely quantification of key model parameters that will help inform the systems model. Initiative partners are also in the process of establishing target carp population parameters for Malheur Lake and will complete the *Carp Biomass Threshold* project in summer 2019 to achieve this goal. High Desert Partnership's Aquatic Health Coordinator has been instrumental in providing field coordination and ongoing field support for all projects.

Flood Irrigated Wet Meadows

Initiative partners from The Wetlands Conservancy, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center and Malheur National Wildlife Refuge installed piezometers and conducted wet meadow surveys on privately-owned lands as part of the *Silvies River Floodplain and Vegetation* project. This project will increase the predictive ability of the state-and-transition model in understanding habitat management implications

and vegetation trends resulting from changing water regimes. Initiative partners also summarized the existing literature on wet meadows in the Harney basin during the biennium. A pair of workshops focused on wet meadow changes and existing management practices were organized and held in 2018 as part of the *HBWI Bi-2 Stakeholder Engagement* grant. Initiative partners invited landowners from the Silvies River floodplain and the Diamond/Malheur Refuge area to attend these workshops (total of 18 attendees) and developed a series of questions that allowed for productive conversations and sharing of information. The work undertaken by our partners will aid in the development and implementation of a community-based basin-wide wet meadow conservation strategy.

Initiative partners from Ducks Unlimited, the Harney County Watershed Council and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have been working with landowners to improve flood-irrigation infrastructure within the Focal Investment Priority Area. During the biennium, Ducks Unlimited was able to complete the Tyler Dam project design and is currently awaiting multiple permit clearances. Currently, we are expecting the Tyler Dam to be constructed in summer 2019. Engineering design is nearing completion for the Sweek Dam project and the permitting process has already been initiated. Sweek Dam is expected to be constructed in Fall 2019. Ducks Unlimited and Harney County Watershed Council have also submitted a survey/design application for the Dunn Dam and have already initiated project planning. Factors that have hindered our partners work include regulatory obstacles such as 'no-right' certifications and fish ladder requirements, which have delayed project timelines, significantly driven up project costs, and have led to one of our landowner pulling out of a project (i.e. King Dam project). The complexity of water rights has also affected our implementation of floodplain wet meadow management. Our partners have cleared many of these obstacles and are working to better understand the complexity of water rights to achieve our goal of improving irrigation infrastructure and water management efficiency to optimize habitat values for migratory waterbird species and forage production.

Communications and Outreach

High Desert Partnership's Communications Coordinator has worked closely with our partners to ensure valuable stories, scientific findings, and project results are shared internally with all initiative partners, their constituents and Harney County residents. This work is directly tied to *HBWI Bi-2 Stakeholder Engagement* grant objectives and has been achieved through website updates, monthly newsletter updates, social media posts, event and meeting involvement, fact sheets and other outreach materials. The Communications Coordinator has also helped plan and implement events including the Migratory Bird Festival and Fair-in-the Field, which attracts Oregonians and out-of-state visitors to witness the spring arrival of hundreds of bird species into the basin and contributes to the positive perception of restoration work that's taking place in the basin. The Fair-in-the-Field event is a collection of our partners who set up stations in a flood meadow to engage Harney County's youngest stakeholders in the work being conducted in the basin.

Portland Audubon's Eastern Oregon Field Coordinator has also participated in community activities designed to engage a diverse set of stakeholders as part of the *HBWI Bi-2 Stakeholder Engagement* goals. On-refuge activities included bird tours for visitors during the spring and summer months, work parties at Benson Pond, and assisting refuge staff with school visits, Burns Paiute Youth Days, and the Carp Derby. Off-refuge activities included conducting monthly field trips and education programs with the Burns Paiute Tribe's youth program, assisting the Burns Paiute Tribe's Culture Camp with a natural resources program, and event tabling at the Harney County Chamber of Commerce monthly summer events. The Field Coordinator met most of Portland Audubon's docent goals from May through November but found

that engaging local community with the refuge was time consuming and took consistency and dedication to build community trust. High Desert Partnership and Portland Audubon are making great progress in achieving our goal of increasing awareness, coordination and support for restoration activities taking place in the basin.

2) Describe how on-going and proposed monitoring activities will measure ecological progress? Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? What challenges and opportunities do you see in this work?

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative partners are on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes as described in the Strategic Action Plan. Our partners now have basin-wide baseline data on water quality conditions, fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and submerged aquatic vegetation cover and can monitor changes in these parameters over time to determine if restoration strategies are having the intended ecological outcomes (e.g., increased water clarity, recovery of lake vegetation, and recovery of invertebrate fauna). The systems model from the on-going *Carp Dynamics and Ecosystem Development* project will also demonstrate the best restoration strategies and help our partners determine priorities for future funding and implementation.

The ecological outputs from the *Silvies River Floodplain and Vegetation* project will increase our understanding of ecosystem process and function in flood-irrigated wet meadows, leading to better management practices that will enhance habitat values, suppress invasive species, and optimize agricultural production. The state-and-transition model will also illustrate the multiple pathways of plant succession and will provide a toolbox for restoration, conservation, and management actions that will support the conservation of wet meadows and continued flood-irrigation in the basin. Once completed, this project will provide the baseline information and guidance needed for future restoration actions in the wet meadows and will support ecological outcomes by enhancing native wet meadow plant communities and increasing the retention and abundance of breeding and migratory wetland birds.

3) How have the results chain and/or measuring progress tables informed your partnership's approach to prioritizing projects for implementation, tracking progress, and monitoring and/or adaptive management?

The results chain and measuring progress tables have been used as communication and validation tools by partners to prioritize projects for implementation, track the progress of projects, and inform monitoring or adaptive management. As a communications tool, the results chain and measuring progress tables provide (1) a clear and agreed upon understanding regarding the theories and underlying assumption of how long-term goals are expected to be achieved through strategy implementation and (2) the timelines for when implementation objectives are to be completed. Having this information established (as a graphic and table) helps our partners explain project priorities, the progress of each project, and the metrics that need to be monitored to assess implementation/ecological progress. As a validation tool, the results chain and measuring progress tables help determine whether proposed projects and monitoring activities align with stated goals and objectives. Validating proposed projects and monitoring activities will ensure that the partnership is working towards achieving the goals stated in the Strategic Action Plan.

4) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

The Strategic Action Plan has evolved and undergone necessary modifications during the biennium. In the original plan, carp control was the partnership's primary strategy to improve water quality and aquatic health in Malheur Lake. With new information, partners realize that additional factors (e.g., wind stress) are now contributing to the lake's highly turbid and degraded conditions. Partners have since proposed, come to a consensus on, and implemented projects that will help inform a comprehensive systems model that will enable partners to test alternative restoration strategies for Malheur Lake (e.g., wind breaks, lake subdivision, or water management). The partnership has also modified some of the original SMART Goal timelines due to project implementation issues or new scientific findings.

Adaptive management is addressed in the Strategic Action Plan, but at the time of the application, the partners were not entirely sure where adaptive management would be needed or how it would be implemented. We plan on developing a fully adaptive management plan as our Strategic Action Plan continues to evolve and be modified. This management plan could serve as a one-stop place to hold our collective scientific and institutional knowledge, which can then be carried forward to future iterations of the process of restoring aquatic health and enhancing flood meadows. The management plan could reference our systems model, results of various investigations, decision making process, and other elements of the Initiative's work and could help in securing potential future funds and demonstrate that we are ready for action and success. We envision that a fully developed adaptive management plan will help our partners understand how to stay resilient and survive the loss of key individuals in the collaborative and will help to incorporate our collective knowledge so that we may build on it in the future.

5) Beyond project implementation discussed in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. How has your partnership evolved as a result? What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative continues to see strong engagement and dedication from collaborative partners and considers this to be a key factor to success for the project. Capacity funding through the Focused Investment Partnership has also been crucial for maintaining consistent progress. With this funding, High Desert Partnership has been able to hire talented staff who have guided progress and been invaluable to overcoming challenges during the biennium (e.g., staff turnover at the refuge after the occupation). High Desert Partnership staff are also dedicated in building awareness to engage new stakeholders and have built stronger internal partner communications. As a result, partners are now seeing increasing stakeholder interest and coalescing around projects. Key lessons to date include:

1. *There is value in having the collaborative partners supported by an organization such as the High Desert Partnership to keep partners making decisions through consensus and providing grant management, communications, holding the collective knowledge of the initiative and overall coordination of the Focused Investment Partnership. Capacity funds have been critical for project implementation as they provide consistency, tracking and support to initiative partners.*

2. OWEB FIP investment in Harney County is more than an investment in restoration but also provides vital economic ripple-effect in sustaining community and our rural economy.

3. The Results Chain has offered the partners a mechanism to track progress, but as the Strategic Action Plan continues to evolve, we believe adaptive management planning will be vital for long-term success.

4. OWEB's role beyond a funder and as a partner in the Focused Investment Partnership, has been important to the Initiative's progress when we need to adapt or make changes to our projects as new information is learned.

5. The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative partners are committed to long-term solutions and realize future funding must be sought to continue work in the Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitat.

6) Describe how your partnership has leveraged additional resources (direct and in-kind)?
Partners were able to leverage additional resources to meet, or exceed, OWEB's 25% project match requirement during the biennium (see table below). The ability to leverage additional resources can be attributed to our diverse partnership, our approach in planning and developing projects for implementation, and to our success in securing Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds through the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

For the partnership, project planning and development requires the involvement of a project manager and a variety of project partners from multiple organizations/agencies. Our project managers are experts within their respective fields and contribute, through their organization or agency, in-kind services such as project planning, development, implementation guidance and analyses. Initiative partners also play a critical role in project planning and development and provide additional resources such as capacity for project implementation, materials (e.g., housing, vehicles and equipment) and direct funds. Natural Resources Conservation Service also developed a 'Waterbird Initiative' prior to the 2017-2019 biennium that enabled us to have an exclusive EQIP budget. These EQIP funds are specifically intended to upgrade flood-irrigation infrastructure within the Focal Investment Priority Area and have been used as match for such projects.

Project Name	Project No.	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	In-Kind	Cash
2015-2017 Biennium					
Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline	216-8202-12979	$56,619	$64,776	$64,776	$0
Carp Biomass Threshold	216-8202-12981	$100,996	$28,098	$18,498	$9,600
Carp Dynamics and Ecosystem Development	216-8202-15445	$213,684	$65,191	$65,191	$0
Silvies Floodplain and Vegetation	216-8202-15444	$79,541	$19,548	$14,832	$4,716
Silvies River Irrigation Diversion Structure Replacement 1 -Tyler Implementation	216-8202-15442	$295,009	$82,042	$3,300	$78,742
Survey and Design for Sweek Dam Replacement Irrigation Diversion Structure	216-8202-15443	$66,971	$20,131	$3,400	$16,731
Silver Creek Sub-basin Lidar	216-8202-15441	$320,004	$227,461	$45,476	$181,985
Predictive Model for Light in Malheur Lake	216-8202-16092	$170,794	$43,473	$43,473	$0
Malheur Lake Restoration Alternatives Summit and Feasibility Analyses	216-8202-16094	$102,404	$25,968	$25,968	$0
HBWI Biennium 2 Stakeholder Engagement	216-8202-16093	$50,961	$45,800	$45,800	$0
	TOTAL	**$1,456,983**	**$622,488**	**$330,714**	**$291,774**
2017-2019 Biennium					
Capacity Support for HBWI	218-8202-15847	$384,925	$96,500	$49,000	$47,500

Hotchkiss Ranch Automated Flood-irrigation Infrastructure Imp	218-8202-16168	$107,890	$31,527	$4,428	$27,099
Sweek Dam Replacement Installation	218-8202-16171	$408,914	$102,229	$2,460	$99,769
Technical Support for Ongoing Projects & Baseline Monitoring	218-8202-16160	$36,190	$30,555	$27,555	$3,000
King Dam Replacement Project-Survey and Design	218-8202-16170	$69,198	$18,968	$1,968	$17,000
Dunn Dam Replacement Project-Survey and Design	218-8202-16169	$67,033	$19,952	$2,952	$17,000
	TOTAL	$1,704,150	$299,731	$88,363	$211,368

Note: All projects listed in this table were implemented or were continuing to be implemented during the 2017-2019 biennium.

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

2015-2017 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Harney SWCD	Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline	Monitoring	$59,619	$64,776	Active	
Harney Watershed Council	Silvies River Irrigation Diversion Structure Replacement 1-Tyler	Technical Assistance	$61,276	$16,218	Active	
Harney Watershed Council	Carp Biomass Threshold	Technical Assistance	$100,996	$28,098	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Capacity Support for HBWI	Capacity Building	$153,890	$28,098	Completed	
High Desert Partnership	HBWI Outreach	Outreach	$54,541	$85,000	Completed	
High Desert Partnership	Harney Basin EQIP Engineering Support	Technical Assistance	$34,056	$15,593	Completed	
High Desert Partnership	Carp Dynamics and Ecosystem Development	Technical Assistance	$213,684	$65,191	Active	
Wetlands Conservancy	Silvies Floodplain and Vegetation	Technical Assistance	$79,541	$19,548	Active	
Harney Watershed Council	Silvier River Irrigation Diversion Structure Replacement 1 -Tyler Implementation	Restoration	$295,009	$82,042	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Survey and Design for Sweek Dam Replacement Irrigation Diversion Structure	Technical Assistance	$66,971	$20,131	Active	
Harney Watershed Council	Silver Creek Sub-basin Lidar	Technical Assistance	$320,004	$227,461	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Predictive Model for Light in Malheur Lake as a Function of Meteorology and Aquatic Vegetation	Technical Assistance	$170,794	$43,473	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Malheur Lake Restoration Alternatives Summit and Feasibility Analyses	Technical Assistance	$102,404	$25,968	Active	
High Desert Partnership	HBWI Biennium 2 Stakeholder Engagement	Stakeholder Engagement	$50,961	$45,800	Active	
		Total	**$1,763,746**	**$767,397**		
		Total Award	$1,780,000			
		Balance	$16,254			

Table 9

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

2017-2019 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
High Desert Partnership	Capacity Support for HBWI	Capacity Building	$384,925	$96,500	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Hotchkiss Ranch Automated Flood-irrigation Infrastructure Imp	Restoration	$107,890	$31,527	Pending	Application with applicant for edits.
Harney County Watershed Council	Sweek Dam Replacement Installation	Restoration	$408,914	$102,229	Pending	Application with applicant for edits to include fish passage structure.
High Desert Partnership	Technical Support for Ongoing Projects & Baseline Monitoring	Technical Assistance	$36,190	$30,555	Active	
Harney County Watershed Council	King Dam Replacement Project-Survey and Design	Technical Assistance	$69,198	$18,968	Pending	Director Funding Award Complete
Harney County Watershed Council	Dunn Dam Replacement Project-Survey and Design	Technical Assistance	$67,033	$19,952	Pending	Director Funding Award Complete
The Wetlands Conservancy	Wetland Plant Community Monitoring & Management	Monitoring	$100,000	$25,000	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
High Desert Partnership	Carp Dynamics and Ecosystem Development	Technical Assistance	$22,000	$65,191	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
High Desert Partnership	Nutrient Analysis of Malheur Lake	Technical Assistance	$282,545	$70,636	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
High Desert Partnership	Fish Distribution of Harney Basin	Monitoring	$234,723	$58,680	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019/may be utilize supplement FIP funding.
High Desert Partnership	Moon Reservior Rotenone Treatment for Carp	Restoration	$52,250	$13,062	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
Harney County Watershed Council	Fish Ladders Install	Restoration	$204,332	$51,083	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2018. Monetary admendments to previous wet meadow restoration grants, if supplemental FIP funds used for Fish Distribution project, will add $100,000 more to this request.
		Total	**$1,970,000**	**$583,383**		
		Total Award	$1,970,000			
		Balance	$0			

Table 10

OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships
2017-2019 Biennial Reporting
Written Reporting Questions

Name of Partnership:
Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) How is your partnership making progress toward achieving its implementation objectives (outputs)? What factors (positive or negative) have impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals?

We are proud to report that we have been able to achieve and exceed our goals within the FIP partnership. The FIP initiative has met our expectations and we have been able to put many projects on the ground that will benefit sage-grouse, local economies and overall ecological health. Factors that impacted our ability to achieve our identified goals begin primarily with factors such as weather unpredictability, and short time frames for planning and contracting. Positive factors included having the flexibility within our budget, understanding OWEB advisors, and the fact that we had shovel-ready projects, with the CCAA Site Specific Plans in place.

Occasionally, the short time frame made it difficult to coordinate contractors, conduct bid tours and award contracts. Implementation of projects are sometimes delayed by unpredictable weather conditions, lack of access to project sites, remote site locations, lack of pre-qualified contractors, or other unforeseen circumstances. Due to the long, dry Summer/ Fall, juniper pile burning was delayed. Actual project implementation, such as medusahead spraying, was also a challenge because of all factors listed above. In the end, projects fell into place and were able to be started or completed, with the exception of, juniper pile burning. These practices are getting underway at this time.

We were able to achieve many of our partnership's goals due to the flexibility with our FIP budget and the understanding, wonderful OWEB employees that we work with. In some cases, contractor bids came in lower than what was estimated in grant budgets so we were able to add more acres and/or conservation measures to projects to capture any leftover funds remaining in the actual project budgets. Also, by having completed CCAA Site Specific Plans, we had many projects that were ready for implementation due to the willingness of interested and participating landowners.

All County Implementation progress:

Harney County:

Harney County has implemented multiple years of juniper treatments, two years of medusahead spraying, fence marking, off stream water developments, and continues to install escape ramps. Specific project details are as follows:

For site specific plan HC-08 (SSP HC-08) – 1995 acres of juniper cutting was completed in 2017, and another 772 acres were cut in 2018.

SSP HC-10 - The 972 acres of juniper were cut in 2017 which exceeded projected acres. In the Fall of 2017, 145 acres of medusahead were sprayed, in the Fall of 2018, 304 acres were sprayed. Medusahead spraying was coordinated with NRCS, therefore acreages changed per year. All juniper pile burning is currently underway.

SSP HC-14 – Juniper cutting totaled 463 acres in 2017 and 333 in 2018. Medusahead was sprayed in 2017 on 144 acres and repeated on 10/18/18. 400 acres of pile burning is going to begin soon and 2 additional trough ramps will be ordered.

SSP HC-16 – 791 acres of juniper cutting was completed on 9/2/17 and 309 acres of juniper were cut in 2018. Trough ramps were installed in 2 troughs in October of 2017. Recently completed: 2 off stream watering facilities/ spring developments. Associated troughs were equipped with wildlife escape ramps. 84 acres of pile burning has recently been completed and more are in the process.

SSP HC-46 – In 2018, HC-46 converted 4 generator-powered well pump systems to solar powered systems. Each solar panel was equipped with an anti-landing strip to prevent predator birds from perching on the solar panels. 3 rubber tire troughs were placed and wildlife escape ramps were installed. 203 acres of juniper were cut, lopped and scattered and 31 acres were cut and hand piled.

HC-55 SSP HC-55 - Juniper treatments have been completed on 1456 acres as of 4/12/17. The projected acreage was 1353, so we were able to complete 103 additional acres. A total of 1832 acres of medusahead were sprayed between the Fall of 2017 and 2018. Crane Union High School's "Mustang Manufacturing" was contracted and completed 4.2 miles (4 miles was estimated) of fence marking on 5/17/17, and built 8 trough ramps that were installed by the landowner on 11/27/17.

SSP HC-69 – In 2017 444 acres of juniper were cut using the lop and scatter method. Additional acres were completed by NRCS as part of the HC-69 SSP. Conservation measures, including fence marking, trough ramps and juniper cutting on this property are complete and the acreages have shifted to State A sage-grouse habitat.

Lake County:

The **Twelvemile Creek Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation grant** includes a variety of conservation measures including ~1,404 acres of Phase I and Phase II juniper removal and 139.3 acres decadent bitterbrush treatment that will help restore several thousand contiguous acres of sage grouse habitat in the Warner PAC. Approximately 7,930 feet of fence construction and 2 spring developments and 1 well completion project will improve livestock dispersement and utilization near riparian zones and critical sage grouse brood rearing habitats. Four wildlife escape ramps and ~46,992 feet of fence marking will help reduce the risk of wildlife drowning in water troughs and mortality by collision with fences. Juniper and bitterbrush cutting/piling has been completed, as well as all fence construction and fence marking. The well completion project has also been completed and equipped with two troughs and wildlife escape ramps. The remaining items within the grant will occur in the spring once ground and weather conditions have improved.

Malheur County:

Grant 216-8203-12971 Juniper Mountain Off-stream Water includes 1 spring development to gravity feed water to six 1,000-gallon water troughs via 10,000 feet of 2-inch diameter pipe. These troughs will serve six pastures;each trough will have a wildlife escape ramp. The spring produces about 15 gallons per minute (gpm) measured during a sustained drought. The project will also include

one 6,000-gallon storage tank to ensure 3-day supply of water for 120 pairs and wildlife drinking water. Fence for this project will include 20,258 feet of wildlife friendly fence to create a 140-acre riparian pasture along 1.6 miles of creek and to prevent uncontrolled grazing in the riparian area. To enhance riparian and wet meadow vegetation (inside of the fence), the area (140 acres) will be seeded by a range drill with a mixture of native and introduced grass species at a rate of 16 pounds per acre. There will be about 2,000 linear feet, (1,000 feet of creek x 2 to account for both banks) of willows, dogwood and aspen planted with cage protection.

Grant 216-8203-12973 In the Shadow of Ironside includes 2 separate landowners. The first contains juniper removal on 3,001 acres consisting of 1,701 acres of Phase I, 1,090 acres of Phase II, and 211 acres of Phase III. All acres will be cut with a chainsaw using the lop and scatter brush control method where applicable. The 211 acres of Phase III will be machine piled with cool season burning. There will be 500 acres of reseeding in the dense areas of tree removal with a seed mix of Crested, Siberian, Intermediate wheatgrasses, Idaho Fescue, burnet & alfalfa.

In the other portion of this application, the landowner will treat 400 acres of Medusahead by burning where needed (to remove the thatch layer), herbicide treatment (to prevent sprouting of the soil banked medusahead seed) , then replanting the 400 acres with a competitive seed mix of crested wheatgrass and forage kochia. The goal is to use a highly competitive mix of species to outcompete Medusahead. These two species are proven to have competitive abilities. Crested wheat will be applied at 15 pounds per acre, either broadcast or drilled depending on the microsite conditions. Kochia seeding will be about a 0.25 pound per acre by broadcast or aerial application.

Grant 216-8203-12973 TA. Malheur SWCD hired a full - time employee (GS-5) to write CCAA plans for landowners, and a seasonal employee was also hired to help with monitoring on CCAA plans that have already been enrolled.

Grant 216-8203 Brogan Hill Thrill. This project consists of four parts. The first and second part of the project includes two buck and pole riparian enclosures that total a mile of fence. One is ¾ of a mile long and encompasses a large riparian area. The second is ¼ of a mile long and will encompass a spring and existing spring box. Within the ¼ mile enclosure is the 3rd part of the project. Located in the center will be a solar panel and pump that will supply water out of the already existing spring box to an already existing trough that is roughly 250 feet away uphill just outside of the enclosure. These enclosures will help bring the riparian areas back to a more natural state and will ensure that cattle do not disturb the area. The fourth part of the project is 200 acres of reseeding in a disturbed area of the property. This reseeding area was in the Kitten complex fire in 2014 and is now mostly annual invasive grasses. By reseeding the area with a broadcast spreader, we are hoping to out compete the annual grasses while keeping the sagebrush that is still present.

Watering Juniper: 218-8203-16157

-Juniper Cut- (320 acres) 35 acres of Heavy, 260 acres of Medium, and 25 acres of Light

-Spraying 15 acres of invasive vegetation

-6 water developments including (10 troughs, 10 bird ladders, and 10,000 gallons of water storage)

-2 riparian acres enclosed with 2,623ft wildlife friendly fencing

-3,618 ft of cross fencing

-6,241 ft of anti-collision fence markers

Mill the Boulder: 218-8203-16158

-Juniper cut of (234 acres) 172 acres of Heavy machine pile, 62 acres of Medium Lop and Scatter

-The slash will be used for erosion mitigation on the stream banks and for exclusion fencing of the fragile stream areas and aspen grove

-Seeding-Riparian Acres 23

-Seeding- Range mix Acres 211

Cut Above the Rest: 218-8203-16159

-Spraying 100 acres of invasive vegetation (2 applications)

-Juniper cutting (1093 acres) 62 acres of heavy machine piled, 372 acres of medium, 479 acres of light, and 180 acres of heavy done by hand.

-Seeding- (162 acres)

2) Describe how on-going and proposed monitoring activities will measure ecological progress? Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? What challenges and opportunities do you see in this work?

Monitoring is required as part of the CCAA's and are specified in each SSP. The SSP monitoring, and the FIP implementation monitoring requirements will adequately and thoroughly measure ecological outcomes of the conservation measures applied. The partnership is on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes within a year's time because we chose Conservation Measures within our FIP that are measurable as part of our Strategic Action Plan. Moreover, we had landowner interest/participation within our FIP Focus Areas and we had shovel-ready projects due to the completion of CCAA Site Specific Plans. The challenges are coordinating contracts, weather unpredictability and balancing workload with many other responsibilities. The partnership has approached the opportunity to begin measuring ecological outcomes. At this point in time we have been able to have projects commence and the most visible outcomes are shown in before and after photos. The FIP TA grants also allowed SWCD's to hire additional staff to help implement projects and develop grants within a short amount of time.

3) How have the results chain and/or measuring progress tables informed your partnership's approach to prioritizing projects for implementation, tracking progress, and monitoring and/or adaptive management?

The results chain has guided our partnership, and the progress tables have been informative. Our projects are prioritized based on sage-grouse priority habitats and private lands within these areas. Conservation measures are determined within the development of SSP's. It has been helpful in guiding and tracking progress.

4) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

The partnership's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) has slightly evolved but has not been modified during the second biennium. Due to the amendment to the RCPP, our SAP has shifted slightly but our goals remain the same.

5) Beyond project implementation discussed in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. How has your partnership evolved as a result? What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

The partnership has experienced a variety of successes and challenges beyond project implementation. The partnership has continued to increase recognition and appreciation by private landowners for having the ability to obtain a financial and technical assistance program that could help assist them in implementing a variety of Conservation Measures that are a required component of their CCAA Site Specific Plans. Furthermore, the partnership experienced improved communication and unity amongst the members of the partnership. As a core group we have become stronger in problem solving across county jurisdictional boundaries with project implementation and design. The partnership is also better able to collaborate on conservation implementation practices and budget management. We have established fluidity of funds across county lines and have managed to avoid rigidity in fund division and allocation between counties. Another welcomed success was the increased interest by existing partners outside of the immediate partnership. Having the knowledge of our Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties FIP, partners were more willing and able to work with us to combine partner funds and work on larger, landscape scale projects, increasing the success of our FIP.

Aside from successes, the partnership also had challenges along the way. Initially, we faced an increase in workload and the pressure to work efficiently and effectively with a very short timeframe. Private landowners and SWCD Boards & staff felt pressure and angst to get projects/grants put together with very little time to put a lot of thought/planning into them. It is felt by the partnership that all projects should be fully researched with plenty of landowner meetings and site visits prior to submitting an application. Nevertheless, we were able to produce complete and carefully designed projects that were ready for implementation. Lastly, some members of the partnership experienced staff turnover. This challenge caused complications with project development, as we were working under very short timelines. The timing of losing staff members and acquiring new staff could not have been worse for those who were left to pick up where others left off. We have learned that we can overcome many challenges and OWEB has been very understanding and adaptive. We appreciate all of our partners as we work toward our goals.

As a partnership, and with OWEB we have learned how to set manageable time frames. We have smoothed out the process of signing agreements and beginning implementation. The main lesson learned is that it is important to have flexible implementation timelines and good communication.

6) Describe how your partnership has leveraged additional resources (direct and in-kind)?

Additional resources have been leveraged in the form of in-kind labor, training opportunities, transportation, and through direct solicitation for cost share dollars from our partners.

Sage Grouse - Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee

2015-2017 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Malheur SWCD	Juniper Mtn. Off-Stream Water	Restoration	$124,938	$40,588	Active	
Lakeview SWCD	Honey Creek Sage-Steppe	Restoration	$232,806	$366,896	Active	
Malheur SWCD	In the Shadow of Ironside	Restoration	$445,144	$173,092	Active	
Harney SWCD	Model to Protect Sage-Grouse Landscape CM Implementation	Restoration	$846,918	$504,958	Active	
Lakeview SWCD	North Warner Medusahead Control	Restoration	$40,972	$148,500	Active	
Malheur SWCD	TA Conservation Objective	Technical Assistance	$55,623	$16,992	Completed	
Malheur SWCD	Upper Cow Creek I	Restoration	$0	$0	Canceled	Request to "carry-forward" funds.
Malheur SWCD	Brogan Hill Thrill	Restoration	$81,049	$34,286	Active	
Harney SWCD	Model to Protect Sage-Grouse SSP Development	Technical Assistance	$92,038	$33,120	Active	
Harney SWCD	Otis Moffet Table Habitat Enhancement -BLM	Restoration	$133,657	$500,423	Active	
Malheur SWCD	II Rangeland Specialists	Technical Assistance	$67,314	$17,322	Active	
Malheur SWCD	Strutting Down the Runway	Restoration	$40,032	$12,362	Active	
Malheur SWCD	Hermes Helps the Romans	Restoration	$147,283	TBD	To Be Submitted	Replace canceled project above, to be submitted spring 2019.
		Total	**$2,307,774**	**$1,848,539**		
		Total Award	$2,307,774			$11,836 moved from 218-8203 holding account. Brings total award from $2,295,938 to $2,307,774.
		Balance	$0			

Table 1

Sage Grouse - Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee

2017-2019 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Lakeview SWCD	Twelvemile Creek Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation	Restoration	$489,722	$296,705	Active	
Harney SWCD	Model to Protect Sage-Grouse CM Implementation Phase II	Restoration	$907,052	$250,000	Active	
Malheur SWCD	Watering Juniper	Restoration	$166,284	$74,172	Active	
Malheur SWCD	Mill the Boulder	Restoration	$117,136	$50,856	Active	
Malheur SWCD	Cut Above the Rest	Restoration	$243,873	$98,115	Active	
Harney SWCD	Sage-Grouse FIP Monitoring	Monitoring	$23,821	$6,005	Pending	Director Funding Award Complete.
Harney SWCD	Proposed Medusahead Treatments	Restoration	$125,882	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
Malheur SWCD	Rangeland TA	Technical Assistance	$77,186	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
Malheur SWCD	Fencing Romans In	Restoration	$70,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
Malheur SWCD	Justice for the West	Restoration	$90,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	Proposed for Spring 2019.
		Total	**$2,310,956**	**$775,853**		
		Total Award	$2,343,414			$11,836 moved to 216-8203 holding account. Brings total award from $2,355,250 to $2,343,414.
		Balance	$32,458			

Table 2

OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships

2017-2019 Biennial Reporting

Name of Partnership: ***Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Initiative***

1) **How is your partnership making progress toward achieving its implementation objectives (outputs)? What factors (positive or negative) have impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals?**

The partnership has enrolled 48 property owners with 2,723 acres into the program over Biennium (BN) 1 and 2. Our pace and scale have increased with 35 property owners and 1,653 acres recruited in BN2. Parcel size is decreasing as we finish the larger parcels and move to strategically connecting smaller parcels. Of the 1,653 BN2 acres recruited, we have completed the technical design, silvicultural prescriptions and layout for 1,050 acres and completed ecological thinning on 331 acres.

While landowner engagement, project design and layout, and ecological thinning are on schedule, completing pile burning and controlled underburning are continuing to be difficult to achieve due to dry weather and air quality restrictions on controlled burn smoke. Pile burning completes the treatment plan on each property and allows us to complete biennium billing and budget fulfillment. Because of this, we've had to swap BN2 thinning acres with BN1 pile burn acres to expend the BN1 budget.

Enabling factors for successes continue to be broad community support for ecologically based forest restoration and wildfire hazard reduction, additional neighbor-to-neighbor word-of-mouth recruitment, a high functioning partnership, and a solid foundation of technical and workforce capacity.

Lomakatsi maintains a highly skilled technical team, including a Lead Forester and a 10-person restoration workforce, which is vital to designing, explaining, planning, implementing and monitoring often complicated and nuanced ecological objectives for a site. At one level, the success of landscape-scale restoration and broad social engagement comes down to ongoing training and workforce development provided by Lomakatsi for all crew members. Recruitment, mentorship, and training have increased Lomakatsi's technical capacity. Training across the technical team builds the capacity of individual members to engage with landowners and deliver the full spectrum of technical duties. This capacity gives the partnership the ability to work simultaneously with more landowners and site-specific restoration plans.

Technical review by supervisors and partners ensures the quality of treatments and provides a framework for feedback and integration of adaptive management and learning within the organization and with partners. From prescription development to tree marking, each treatment is thoughtfully designed to meet ecological objectives, to restore resilient forest conditions by reducing overly dense stand conditions, relieve encroachment and stress on current and developing legacy trees, promote tree species diversity and

desired structure, reduce the risk of uncharacteristically severe fire, and promote wildlife habitat.

Capacity for landowner engagement is becoming more important as the parcel size of newly recruited properties decreases. Regardless of size, each parcel requires much of the same time commitment engaging with the landowner. Lomakatsi's technical capacity will be increasingly called upon in BN3.

Contractors also remain an essential part of accomplishing work, and Lomakatsi has been using collaborative peer-to-peer, on-the-job training to improve technical capability of three local businesses to implement these complex ecological restoration prescriptions. This allows the partnership to confidently subcontract, supporting an additional 40 jobs, which also builds and supports the regional restoration workforce.

Growing both technical and workforce capacity has created a solid foundation for continued success of the program while growing the pool of workers set to increase the regional pace and scale of restoration and fuels reduction.

2) Describe how on-going and proposed monitoring activities will measure ecological progress? Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? What challenges and opportunities do you see in this work?

Tree density and vitality: Across all treated units, thinning reduced tree densities by 163 trees per acre and 17 ft^2/ac of basal area. By thinning small trees, treatments increased average quadradic mean diameter ("diameter") by 1.3 inches on average, a shift necessary to increase the fire resistance of remaining trees. The largest increases in diameter were achieved in stands with more conifers and dense understory trees, while oak dominated units with smaller diameter trees experienced only minor increases. Underburns in general did not significantly change trees per acre, basal area, or diameter. However, mortality of small trees in one underburn helped reduce trees density by 65 trees per acre. All results followed predicted trends and show progress toward accomplishing our FIP goals.

Modeled fire behavior: Treatments significantly reduced modeled wildfire behavior and increased canopy base height, a measure related to crown fire initiation and post-fire tree survival. Completion of the full suite of thinning and prescribed burning yielded the best results (Table 1). This outcome changes conditions to those that both facilitate controlled underburning and wildfire suppression. Canopy cover of the mid-story (plants shorter than 16.4 feet), or ladder fuels, was significantly reduced with minimal, though significant, reduction in overall canopy closure. These results show that the primary ecological effects are on the smallest trees and shrubs. Leaving the overstory intact reduces solar exposure to the forest floor, ameliorating understory fuel development, but comes with a tradeoff

with restoring species adapted to open forest conditions and long-term viability due to the worsening effects of drought.

Table 1: Units monitored with OWEB funding in Biennium I. Units were either treated with non-commercial surface and ladder fuel treatments in 2017 and 2018 or where thinned previously, then underburned in 2017. Values are area weighted mean (standard error). Flame length was derived from Scott & Burgan (2005) fuel models parameterized by relevant burn-plan prescription ranges, recent local fuels and fire-weather data, and consultation with federal fire staff; herbaceous and woody live fuel moisture was held constant at 60% and 90% respectively. Canopy base height, canopy cover, and canopy closure shown are field measured.

	Mechanical Thin		Underburn	
Treatment Units	6		5	
Total Plots	38		25	
Acres monitored	118		112	
Timeline	**Initial**	**Post**	**Initial**	**Post**
Wildfire Flame Length (ft)*	12.2 (2.1)	7.6 (2.2)	4.8 (1.1)	1.4 (0.4)
Prescribed Fire Flame Length (ft)**	4.1 (0.6)	2.6 (0.8)	1.7 (0.5)	0.5 (0.1)
Canopy Base Height (ft)	4.5 (1.6)	10.7 (2.6)	17.9 (4.4)	24.6 (5.6)
Canopy Cover (% <16.4 ft)	31.8 (5.2)	10.9 (3.4)	8.8 (3.4)	3.0 (1.0)
Canopy Closure (% all vegetation)	72.5 (7.1)	65.3 (7.6)	73.3 (7)	68.7 (8.2)
Encroached Legacy Trees (%)	96	63	100	100

*Wildfire conditions, very low dry fuel moisture (1-hour fuels = 3% moisture content, 10-hour = 4%, 100-hour = 5%) and 14 mph mid-flame winds

**Prescribed burn conditions, high dead fuel moisture (1-hour fuels = 12% moisture content, 10-hour = 13%, 100-hour = 14%) and 5 mph mid-flame winds

Legacy tree release and vigor: A key ecological outcome of OWEB-funded work is to reduce competitive stress for legacy trees (trees >150 years old). Monitoring shows that encroaching vegetation was completely removed around 35% of legacy trees, with partial removal completed on a vast majority of legacies in treated units (larger conifers were left). Monitoring, with partners Southern Oregon University (report here) and Reed College (poster here), measured 5-year legacy tree responses to treatment within the Federal footprint of AFARI. Initial results found that legacy trees have not yet responded with anticipated increased vigor. Southern Oregon University monitoring suggests that restoration may be best directed at black oaks with greater than 30% of crown intact, while black oaks with greater dieback may not respond to treatments intended to improve their vigor.

Monitoring trajectory: Data to date show that monitoring is sufficient to characterize ecological outcomes at the treatment-unit scale (see standard errors in Table 1). These treatment-scale results suggest that we are on track to achieve our wildfire risk reduction

and some legacy tree release objectives. Retention of the largest trees suggests that we are accelerating development of late successional ecological structures (large trees) but not necessarily treating with sufficient intensity to increase legacy tree vigor and survival.

Landscape-level shifts in wildfire risk and proportions of seral states will be evaluated after project completion and our stand-scale data are sufficient to drive those analyses. These data and analyses will be useful for communicating treatment outcomes and informing development of future projects. Photo monitoring is useful to tell the story of treatment outcomes and facilitate outreach and engagement.

Adaptive Management: A chief challenge indicated by monitoring results to date, is implementing sufficiently intense treatments that transition stands to more open habitats and release legacy trees from stand-scale competition. There may be an opportunity to implement more thorough treatments as the project develops.

3) How have the results chain and/or measuring progress tables informed your partnership's approach to prioritizing projects for implementation, tracking progress, and monitoring and/or adaptive management?

Reviewing results chains with project partners has facilitated monitoring refinement and future project development. Results chains have not been used explicitly to track progress or drive adaptive management, though this is a potential growth opportunity for the AFARI Partners and supporters. This reflects the utility of a results chains for strategic planning, and the fact that units had been selected for implementation prior to completion of the AFARI results chain.

Through review of results chains, the AFARI monitoring partners prioritized supplemental monitoring of social outcomes and ecosystem services. This resulted in an OWEB supplemental monitoring proposal to: 1) Evaluate AFARI outreach and engagement effectiveness at increasing social support for upland forest restoration in Ashland and the Rogue Basin, 2) Quantify hydrological changes associated with forest restoration in AFARI footprint, 3) Quantify the ecosystem services of water production and carbon storage under climate change scenarios, and 4) Map and report on post-treatment tactical fire management opportunities within AFARI boundaries.

4) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

The AFARI strategic action plan has not changed, however, the way we meet objectives changed slightly to meet seasonal challenges caused by smoke management constraints and the need to get priority burning completed in the same year for key properties to avoid

leaving burn piles during summer fire season, and to minimize swapping acres between biennia. Also, after developing the results chain, we stepped up strategies to meet goals and objectives for introduction of fire. Finally, we worked on significantly more public land acres than originally planned, in part due to a $1 million award from the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry division that is earmarked for non-federal land (see below).

- Swamper burning (cutting and burning simultaneously) was used for a large project to reduce the amount of fuel carried over during the summer months on properties with homes near the city.
- Increased communication with public on controlled burning helped meet challenges with completing operations close to town. Community engagement also benefits goals in the results chain and the strategic action plan to restore low severity fire as a key ecological process on 2,000 acres. An emphasis on outreach with landowners and community supports these goals.
- After one year of implementation, an investment of over $1 million was made by the USDA Forest Service's State and Private Forestry program through The Nature Conservancy. Funding flexibility allowed for a greater investment toward completing the AFR project footprint in the City's watershed on federal lands.

5) Beyond project implementation discussed in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. How has your partnership evolved as a result? What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

A major success for the project in Biennium II is the strengthening of engagement with local landowners, increased partner communication and outreach with citizens on controlled burning and smoke.

Strengthened Partnership: Partners designed the landowner intake process, community engagement, and planning for implementation and monitoring to co-align individual partner roles with the overall project objectives. Increased partner communication under the OWEB-FIP resulted in more successful implementation, planning, and monitoring.

- Identify individual partner strengths and assign roles and responsibilities.
- Set goals and objectives where each partner can cross participate in planning and execution of projects.

Landowner Engagement: Aligning objectives for the project with landowner needs remains a challenge. Through a review process with landowners, foresters with Lomakatsi Restoration Project strike a balance between project objectives and respecting landowner site specific considerations. Partners also learned that communication with landowners is critical to ensure they understand the timeline for

work completion because the process can take many months before implementation is completed.

- Periodic updates reduce confusion and establish expectations for the timeframe.
- Develop a process-based intake program for landowners to manage documentation requirements, data collection and organize seasonal timeframes.

Community Engaged: During operations for controlled burn and thinning operations, partners communicate daily. Notifications are pushed out in multiple media outlets to the community with information on the location, estimated duration of the burn, and where smoke may be seen or smelled. Conditions are monitored through the day and another notification is sent if smoke is expected to enter town.

- Expanded partnerships with The Ashland Chamber of Commerce, Asante Community Hospital and Jackson County Health to help build a proactive culture around the use of fire and inevitable smoke from wildfires and controlled burns.
- Provide education on project benefits and address community health concerns.

Similar projects should engage the community by identifying needs around communication and outreach for smoke and grow community partnerships.

As we respond to challenges in community and landowner and partner engagement, one lesson we have learned is that more communication around forest restoration helps build a cohesive and process-based grants program, which positions partners to expand projects to a greater geography.

6) Describe how your partnership has leveraged additional resources (direct and in-kind)?

- **$31,000**: A grant with The Fire Learning Network via The Nature Conservancy, helped expand public communication and outreach for the project. AFR Partners conducted health education around smoke from wildfires and controlled burning, general education and outreach in support of controlled burning to reduce fuels.
- **$13,760**: As part of the required match, the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission partnered John Muir School and Oregon State University Spring Break Volunteers to pull invasive species at Acid Castle Rocks, an OWEB-funded project site.
- **$1,200,000**: A USDA, Forest Service State and Private Forestry Program investment, via The Nature Conservancy, leverages OWEB funding in BN1 to accomplish:
    - 734 acres of thinning on private lands
    - 95 acres of burning
    - Smoke Monitoring Camera and Community Outreach
    - TREX (Ashland Prescribed Fire Training Exchange)
    - Monitoring for Water Quality and Economic Impact

- **Southern Oregon University:** One capstone project was completed for two students, each committing about 100 hours for 200 total hours.
- **Reed College:** Two 10-week paid internships at $5,800 each, plus 120 volunteer hours on those projects. Class participation in planting and monitoring sugar pines with 200 hours of volunteer time.

Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative

2015-2017 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration TA	Technical Assistance	$407,511	$139,475	Completed	
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Initiative	Monitoring	$98,858	$29,443	Active	
City of Ashland	Ashland Forest All Lands Implementation	Restoration	$1,153,430	$1,989,844	Completed	
		Total	**$1,659,799**	**$2,158,762**		
		Total Award	$1,660,000			
		Balance	$201			

Table 5

Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative

2017-2019 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration TA	Technical Assistance	$449,778	$128,112	Active	
City of Ashland	Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration	Restoration	$1,780,680	$3,156,000	Active	
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Implementation-Monitoring	Monitoring	$109,542	$38,685	Active	
		Total	**$2,340,000**	**$3,322,797**		
		Total Award	$2,340,000			
		Balance	$0			

Table 6

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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Land Acquisition Conveyance
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's land acquisition administrative rules require board approval of subsequent conveyances of property acquired with OWEB grant funds. This is an informational item about a pending conveyance of the Keystone property (formerly the "Kahn Tract," OWEB grant #205-011), which was acquired by Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT), which was the Elk River Land Trust, with OWEB funds.

II. Background

The 163-acre Keystone property (Attachment A) was acquired in 2005 with $212,000 in OWEB funds to permanently protect critical habitat along the Elk River in Curry County. The property connects to inventoried roadless and wilderness areas in the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest. The Keystone property is bordered on three sides by the Grassy Knob Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA), and is adjacent to the Becker parcel, which includes late successional forest and 1,000 feet of frontage on the Elk River.

Due to the attributes of the Becker parcel, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is interested in acquiring the Becker parcel to add to the Grassy Knob IRA. However, USFS can only acquire properties contiguous to current national boundaries. In this case, given the similar attributes of the Keystone property (which is located between Grassy Knob and the Becker parcel), the USFS is interested in acquiring both parcels which will meet the requirements for contiguous properties.

As noted in the attached letters from WRLT (Attachment B) and USFS (Attachment C), the USFS cannot acquire a property encumbered by a conservation easement. Therefore, board approval of the conveyance would include relinquishing the OWEB conservation easement.

III. Review of Proposed Conveyance

Per ORS 541.960, the board may approve, approve with conditions, or deny the sale or transfer of land. The board may require conditions to ensure consistency with the intent of the original grant, ensure the ability of the party receiving the land to carry out the obligations under the grant agreement, and to address the disposition of proceeds. If

the easement is relinquished, the board can outline provisions for repayment, with interest, of any grant funds. The board may not allow a sale or transfer that results in profit to any person.

To determine whether the transfer is consistent with the OWEB grant, staff asked the USFS to confirm its intent to manage the property consistent with the IRA designation, which is protective of the habitat for which the initial OWEB investment was intended. See the USFS letter in Attachment C.

As noted above, the board can outline provisions for repayment, with interest, of any grant funds. At the January board meeting, staff will discuss an option for how funds could be invested, should the board move forward with approval of the transfer. Staff recommend the proceeds realized by WRLT be returned to OWEB for subsequent investment in supplemental habitat projects in the Elk River watershed.

In order to proceed, the WRLT must expend significant resources on due diligence, particularly the appraisal costs, and would like to have a sense of the board regarding the potential request to approve a subsequent conveyance.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Discussion, questions, and other feedback from the board will help inform WRLT and USFS as they consider next steps in this transaction. Any formal board action on this item will be considered at a future meeting.

Attachments

A. Map
B. WRLT letter
C. USFS letter

ATTACHMENT A

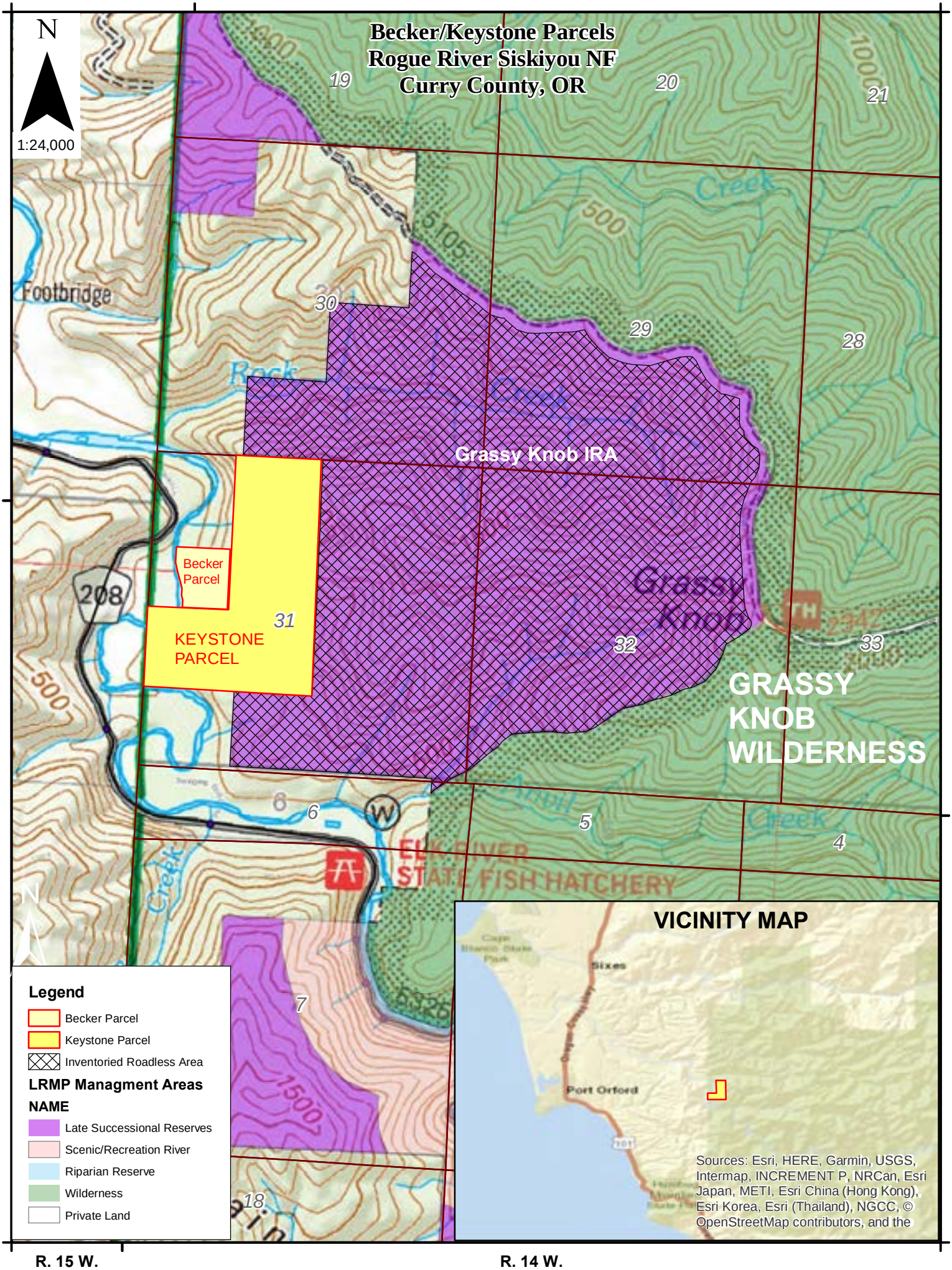
R. 15 W.

R. 14 W.

T. 32 S.

T. 33 S.

Becker/Keystone Parcels
Rogue River Siskiyou NF
Curry County, OR



R. 15 W.

R. 14 W.

Wild Rivers Land Trust

Protecting Natural Treasures and Working Lands on Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast

December 2, 2018

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Attn: Eric Williams, Grants Program Manager
775 Summer St, NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Keystone Property, Elk River Watershed, Port Orford

Board Members:

This letter is to describe the Wild Rivers Land Trust's (WRLT) rationale for seeking sale of its Keystone property in the Elk River Watershed to the United States Forest Service (USFS). Our decision to seek this sale is one we take very seriously, especially because sale to the USFS can only occur if the conservation easement on the property is extinguished. Extinguishing a conservation easement is a highly unusual step for us, and we only considered it because of the value of the ecological benefit to be gained in the process.

The Keystone property is surrounded on most of three sides by USFS "Inventoried Roadless Area," and on the fourth by a smaller property called Teaching Trees that fronts on Elk River. We will only enter into the sale of our Keystone property if the Teaching Trees property is purchased at the same time by the USFS. The ecological value of the Teaching Trees property is that it is a forested area with trees approaching the age they will be good Marbled Murrelet habitat, it has about 1,000' of Elk River frontage that is prime high-water floodplain providing high quality coho refuge. It also provides connectivity from the Grassy Knob Wilderness, the Inventoried Roadless Area and the Keystone property to Elk River. Finally, if purchased by the USFS, it provides valuable buffering for the Keystone property on the side not already protected by USFS Roadless Area.

The USFS has funds available for both these properties (WRLT's Keystone and the privately owned Teaching Trees holding), and is interested in purchasing both. The USFS cannot accept a property with a conservation easement on it, so the WRLT board has decided, after long and careful consideration, to move forward. Again, we do so because the ecological value gained by protecting the Teaching Trees property and the biological migration corridor from the upland Grassy Knob Wilderness Area all the way to Elk River, justifies removing the easement and selling to the USFS. The USFS cannot buy the Teaching Trees property without also buying the Keystone property, because they can only buy properties adjacent to USFS lands; Teaching Trees abuts USFS land if it is purchased along with the Keystone property.

We recognize that the USFS cannot give a permanent guarantee of how Keystone and the Teaching Trees properties will be managed, but the high value coho habitat, the potential for it being Marbled Murrelet habitat, the connectivity to the Wilderness and Inventoried Roadless Areas, and the fact that the Elk River watershed is designated a Key Watershed under the USFS management approach, all lend credence to the USFS' future management of this area for water quality, salmonid habitat, and other wildlife habitat values. We will work with OWEB to find an acceptable repayment or reinvestment strategy if the sale moves forward.

Wild Rivers Land Trust

Protecting Natural Treasures and Working Lands on Oregon's Wild Rivers Coast

We also recognize that if this transfer of both properties to the USFS does not go through, the Teaching Trees property is at imminent threat of private sale and likely logging, with significant damage to the ecological value of the land, the connectivity it provides, and to runoff and related damage to Elk River.

Finally, it is worth noting the USFS lands around the Keystone property are not Matrix lands, and were designated as Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) for the purpose of wildlife habitat enhancement. Transferring the two properties to the USFS opens the possibility of adding both to the IRA and Wilderness, which would increase the protection level for them.

Please contact us if you have questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

Ann Schmierer, Executive Director

John Jones, Board Chair

WRLT, Post Office Box 1158, Port Orford, OR 97465
541-366-2130 www.wildriverslandtrust.org info@wildriverslandtrust.org

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest | 3040 Biddle Road, Medford, OR 97504, 541-618-2200

File Code: 5420
Date: December 3, 2018

Grant Program Manager
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Forest Service is interested in acquiring a parcel of land owned by Wild Rivers Land Trust located in Section 31 of Township 32 South, Range 14 West, W.M, Tax Lot 200 in Curry County, Oregon. This parcel is encumbered by a conservation easement held by the Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB). Acquiring this parcel would support the protection of habitat for threatened species (coho salmon, marbled murrelets, and northern spotted owls) and provide an opportunity to manage and conserve a Pacific Northwest salmon stronghold watershed.

Unfortunately, it is against Forest Service Policy to acquire land that is encumbered by a conservation easement. It is my understanding that OWEB would be willing to terminate this easement if certain requirements are met. One such requirement is to understand how the Forest Service would manage this land upon acquisition.

The parcel is located within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Boundary in an area designated Late Successional Reserve under the Northwest Forest Plan (which amended the 1990 Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan). Late-Successional Reserves are identified with an objective to, "*protect and enhance conditions of late successional and old-growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for late-successional and old-growth forest related species including the northern spotted owl.*"

The parcel is also bordering the Grassy Knob Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA) on three sides. Construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest in inventoried roadless areas is prohibited in an IRA because they have the greatest likelihood of altering and fragmenting landscapes, resulting in immediate, long-term loss of roadless area values and characteristics.

Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations 254.3(f) states, "*… Lands acquired by exchange that are located within areas having an administrative designation established through the land management planning process shall automatically become part of the area within which they are located, without further action by the Forest Service, and shall be managed in accordance with the laws, rules, regulations, and land and resource management plan applicable to such area.*" This regulation is also stated in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation FEIS –Volume 1; November of 2000, page 3-248.

The Forest Service does not have the authority to make assurances regarding the future of National Forest System lands. However, the mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations (https://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/what-we-believe).

If you have any questions about the possible acquisition of this property, please contact Lisa Dilley, Realty Specialist, at lldilley@fs.fed.us or by phone at 541-225-6316.

Sincerely,



MERV GEORGE JR.
Forest Supervisor

cc: Kathy Allen, Mary Wahl, John Jones, Ann Schmierer, Susan Beall

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Agenda Item N supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Implementation FIP 2017-2019 Action Items
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item includes requests pertaining to two separate Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) board actions:

1) Staff requests carry-forward on 2015-2017 biennium funds for current Implementation FIP initiatives.
2) The Deschutes Partnership requests a scope of initiative change.

II. FIP Delegated Funds

Per OWEB's Delegated Funds policy, FIP funding allocated to a partnership's initiative at the start of a biennium has a limit of two years in which to be obligated in project grant agreements. Staff have observed that this two-year window is at times challenging for partnerships to meet for a variety of reasons, including: individual project conditions and/or demands shifting, delays in developing and/or implementing projects, and an increase in leverage funds covering a larger portion of project funding demand. Staff have most recently discovered that in cases where projects are finishing under budget, the balance of project funds are being held in the partnership's initiative account without the ability to access those funds given the expiration of the two-year limit.

Concurrent with the carry-forward request in this agenda item, OWEB staff are preparing to change the Delegated Funds policy to extend the funding window from two years to four years.

III. Deschutes Partnership Scope of Initiative Change

The Deschutes Partnership requests to adjust the scope of their FIP initiative to include stream habitat restoration in the Crooked River basin. Currently, FIP funding is restricted to fish passage in the Crooked River basin. This request is based on two recent developments in the Crooked River basin which offer new restoration opportunities for the partnership. First, the Deschutes Land Trust recently purchased an ecologically significant property that encompasses the confluences of both McKay and Ochoco

Creeks with the mainstem Crooked River, just downstream of Prineville. Both creek tributaries offer historically important spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook and summer steelhead. Second, the Crooked River Watershed Council and basin partners recently received a Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant for $6.5 million to pursue instream and riparian restoration in the lower Crooked River basin. The leverage funding opportunity is an excellent match for the FIP initiative. Attachment A is a memo submitted by the Deschutes Partnership that outlines the proposed scope of initiative change in greater detail.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the board carry-forward 2015-2017 biennium funding for each of the six current Implementation FIP partnerships to make any balance of funding available to the partnerships through the 2019-2021 biennium.

Staff recommends the board approve the proposed scope of initiative change for the Deschutes Partnership to pursue instream and riparian habitat improvement projects in the Crooked River basin.

Attachments

A. Deschutes Partnership Scope of Initiative Justification Memo

TO: Andrew Dutterer

FROM: Deschutes FIP Partners

DATE: November 30, 2018

RE: Inclusion of Crooked River Stream Habitat Restoration in Deschutes FIP

The Deschutes Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) respectfully requests the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to approve inclusion of Crooked River stream habitat restoration (Crooked River Restoration) in its FIP workplan beginning with the 2019-21 biennium.

Crooked River Restoration is included in our current Strategic Action Plan (SAP), but at the time we drafted the SAP we anticipated permitting these restoration actions over the next few years and implementing them beginning in 2022 (SAP, p. 18, Objective 2.3.2.1). The primary reason for delaying Crooked River Restoration until 2022 was that our initial focus for the Crooked River portion of the FIP was on funding and constructing fish passage at Opal Springs. Now that the Opal Springs project is funded and under construction (http://www.deschutespartnership.org/accomplishments/crooked-river/opal-springs-fish-passage-project/), we are able to consider additional opportunities to implement SAP objectives for the Crooked River.

One opportunity is restoring the Deschutes Land Trust's recently-acquired Ochoco Preserve, a property that includes Lower Crooked River frontage along with the confluences of the Lower Crooked River's two largest tributaries, Ochoco and McKay Creeks (https://www.deschuteslandtrust.org/protected-lands/ochoco-preserve).This project contemplates restoring up to two miles of stream habitat and as much as 120 acres of associated riparian and wetland habitat. The Land Trust and a large partner group are currently developing a conceptual restoration design, and the Deschutes Partnership has prioritized FIP funding for design and implementation in the 2019-21 biennium.

A second opportunity is the Crooked River Watershed Council's recent receipt of a $6.5M NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant for the Lower Crooked River (https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/or/programs/farmbill/rcpp/?cid=nrcseprd1377248). The program's proposed activities include instream and riparian restoration, providing great match potential for the FIP. This program was established in 2018 and will continue through 2022. The Crooked River Watershed Council is developing projects now and will be ready to design and implement stream restoration actions during the 2019-21 biennium.

This request does not substantively change our FIP workplan or SAP, it simply advances the timing of Crooked River Restoration to take advantage of new projects and leverage opportunities. In addition, it will not displace other work — we've reviewed program needs for the upcoming biennium and concluded that Crooked River Restoration actions are both ripe and high-priority, our established measure for moving projects forward.

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Agenda Item #O-1 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O-1 – 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Selections
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board select Implementation FIP initiatives for the 2019-2021 biennium as recommended by the board's Focused Investments Subcommittee. A summary of the process leading to this recommendation is provided below.

II. Background

In June 2013, the board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity; Open Solicitation; Focused Investments; and Effectiveness Monitoring. Following an extensive public process, the board established the following priority areas for Focused Investments at its April 2015 meeting:

1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
7) Coastal Estuaries

A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified focused investment priority of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; uses integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Implementation FIP funding supports partnerships in pursuing conservation initiatives with up to $12 million over 3 biennia. At the October 2018 meeting, the sense of the board was that they would be comfortable with $6-$10 million in funding for new FIP initiatives in the 2019-2021 biennium.

III. Solicitation and Review Process

In February 2018, staff solicited for Implementation FIP initiatives. Partnerships were required to formally consult with staff prior to potentially submitting an application by June 29, 2018. Ten Implementation FIP applications were submitted by the June deadline, and covered all board-identified priorities except the Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat priority.

Initiatives were reviewed from July-September 2018 in two phases by expert review teams. Attachment A provides the criteria on which the initiatives were evaluated. The first review phase consisted of a partnership capacity evaluation in which the initiatives were reviewed by experts in organizational capacity. The second review phase involved an ecological review organized around the board-designated priorities. Evaluations were provided to applicants and posted on OWEB's website on October 18, 2018, and are found in Attachment B.

The Subcommittee on Focused Investments met at a public session on November 7-8, 2018 in Salem to interview representatives from each of the 10 Implementation FIP initiatives, and to make funding recommendations to the full board. After the initial interviews, the subcommittee conducted a preliminary ranking. Clear breaks were evident in this ranking, and subsequent deliberations were focused on the initiatives that were clustered in the middle of the rankings. The final subcommittee rankings and recommendations are found in Attachment C. The total funding recommendation for these initiatives is $9,214,565. Attachment D displays how the recommended initiatives, along with current and future FIP initiatives, would fit into 25% of the board spending plan over the next several biennia.

At the January 15-16, 2019 meeting, the board will select new Implementation FIP initiatives for the 2019-2021 biennium. Contingent on funding available from the legislature, the selected initiatives would commence following board funding awards at the July 16-17 meeting.

IV. Recommendations

The Focused Investments Subcommittee recommends the board select the four gray-shaded FIP Implementation initiatives in Attachment C for the 2019-2021 biennium.

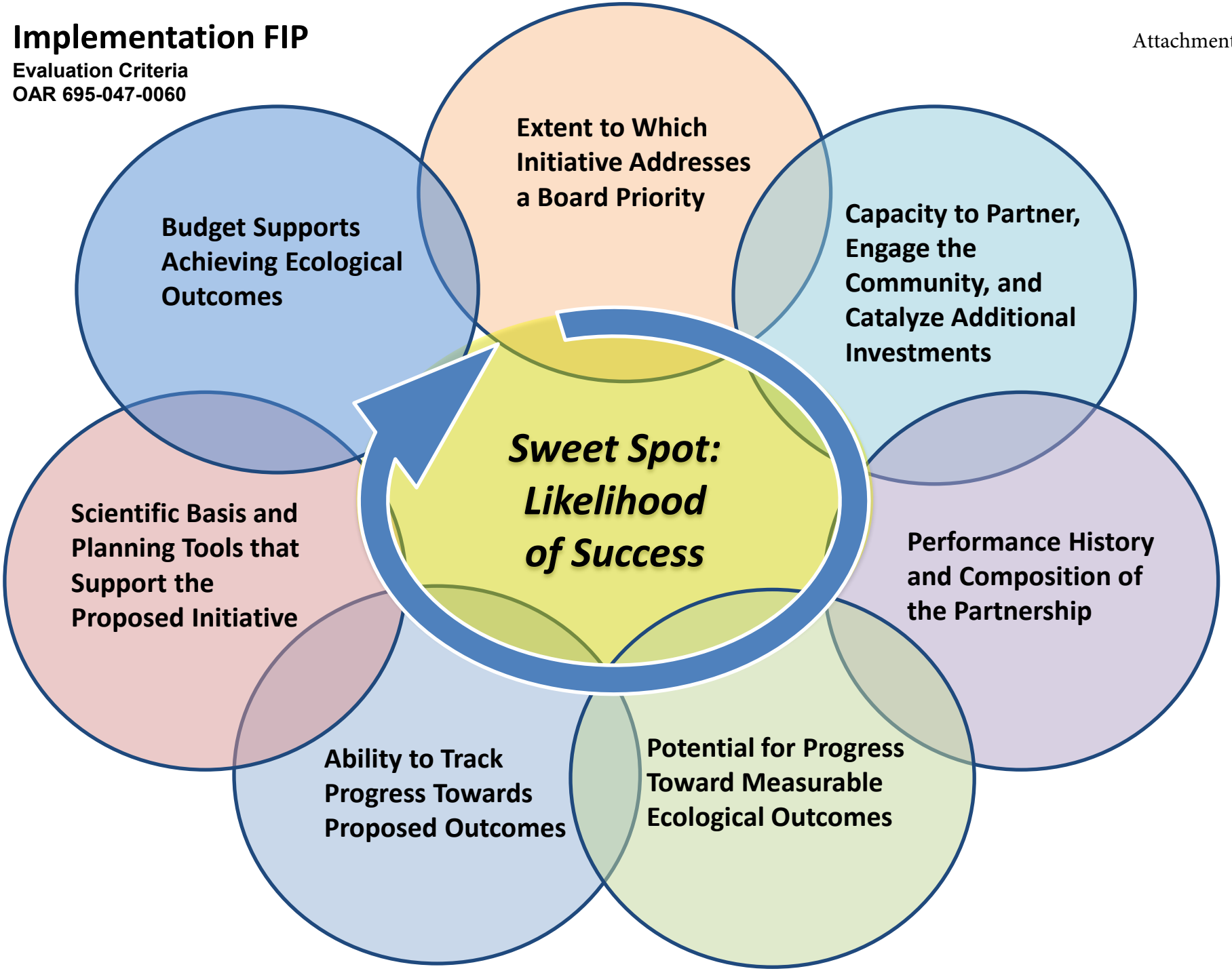
Attachments

A. FIP Evaluation Criteria
B. Evaluations: 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Initiatives
C. Focused Investments Subcommittee Rankings & Recommendations
D. Future FIP Funding Graph

Implementation FIP

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-047-0060

Attachment A



1. **Name of Initiative:** Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

2. **Name of Partnership:** Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team

3. **Application Number:** 220-8206-16481

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Sagebrush/Sage–Steppe Habitat

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***

The Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team's (LIT) core partners are: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (Tri-County CWMA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Baker County, Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC), and private landowners. Our targeted ecological outcome is an increase in the quantity and quality of sage-grouse habitat and ultimately an increase in the Baker sage-grouse population. With FIP funding, we will implement several actions in our Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Plan (TRP): 1) treat invasive annual grass/noxious weeds; 2) augment understory vegetation; 3) enhance mesic habitat; 4) reduce anthropogenic subsidies to sage-grouse predators; and 5) remove juniper. FIP funding will fulfill capacity needs, support alternative grazing opportunities to promote treatment success, and address key information gaps. Our goals are directly aligned with the OWEB board-approved "Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat" priority because our: 1) geography is the Baker PAC and other sage-grouse "strongholds" within the Baker LIT Planning Area; 2) actions address the primary ecological threats to sagebrush habitats; and 3) TRP is designed to improve ecosystem function specifically for sage-grouse. Our approach embodies the implementation and monitoring vision of the Oregon Sage-grouse Action Plan.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$1,714,566	$2,422,496
Biennium 2	$2,062,724	$3,750,846
Biennium 3	$2,347,620	$2,395,584
Total	$6,124,910	$8,568,926

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** High (-)
(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	High (-)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium (+)
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium (+)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	High
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
   - The partnership is diverse, and includes the right entities to address complex issues related to sage-grouse conservation in the Baker PAC.
   - The proposed initiative will require the partnership to dramatically increase the amount of sage-grouse conservation in the county.
   - There are enormous challenges associated with treating, and restoring, vast areas of invasive annual grasses; however, the partners are operating under the best available science to address the issue.
   - The partnership has prioritized restoration actions in areas of strong sage-grouse breeding concentrations.
   - Landowner commitment to sage-grouse conservation is critical in Baker County to ensure cross-boundary restoration, and it was encouraging that a landowner representative attended the subcommittee interview
   - Continued Bureau of Land Management treatments on federal land are important to the success of this initiative.
   - There are ongoing discussions of the correct entity to hold the Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances in Baker County.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 2 of 10

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Figures

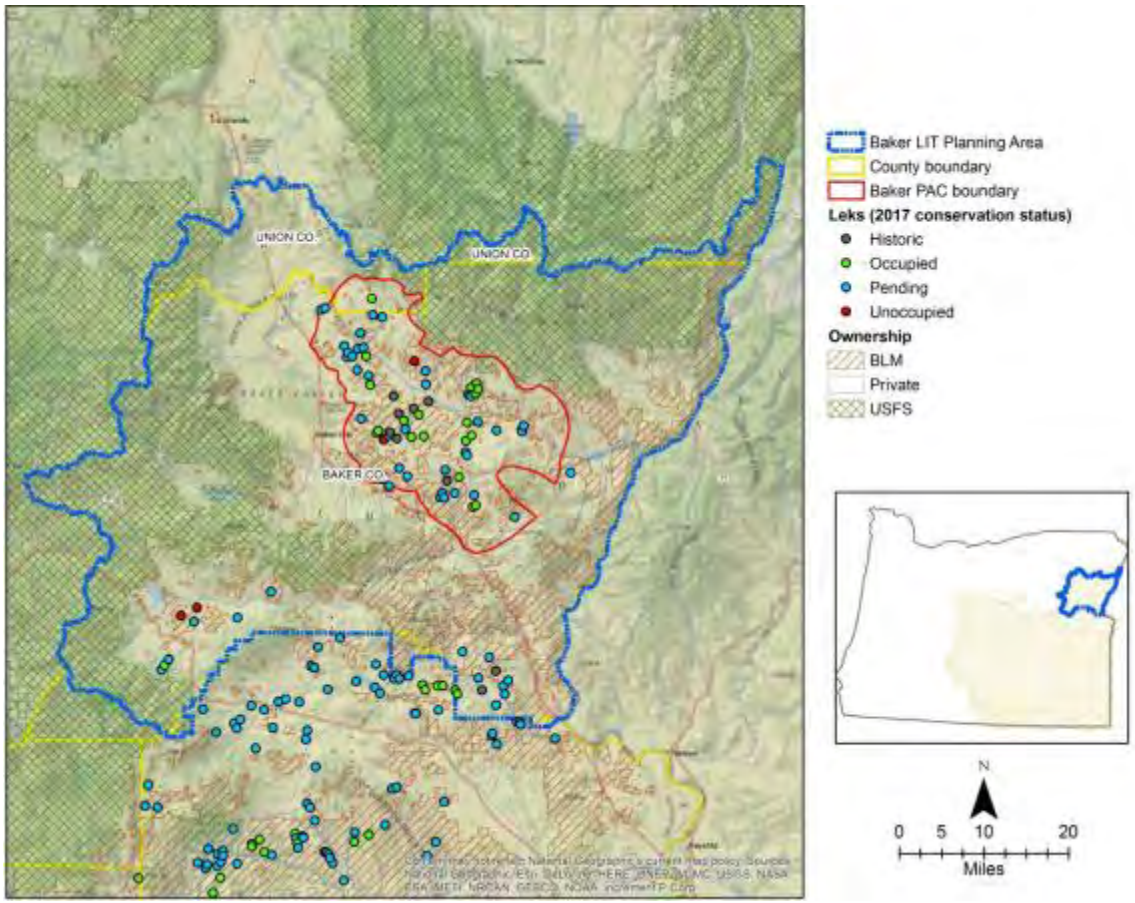


Figure 1. Baker LIT Planning Boundary, Priority Area for Conservation (PAC), leks, and land ownership. Lek conservation status is assigned annually[3].

[3] Historic: Unoccupied prior to 1980 and remains so; Occupied: a regularly visited lek that has had ≥ 1 male counted ≥ 1 of the last 7 years; Pending: A lek not counted regularly in the last 7 years; Unoccupied: A lek that has been counted annually and has had 0 birds for ≥ 8 consecutive years; Unoccupied-pending : A lek not counted regularly in a 7-year period, but birds were not documented at last visit.

FIP Priority Review: Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

Name of Initiative: Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

Name of Partnership: Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The initiative is focused on the Priority Area for Conservation (PAC) and important connectivity corridors for sage-grouse in Baker County.
- The Strategic Action Plan and associated planning documents provide extensive details on implementing conservation actions in prioritized areas near sage-grouse leks.
- The initiative is seeking to treat invasive annual grasses at a landscape scale, which is a challenge that is directly tied to a key limiting factor identified in the Board-identified priority.
- The initiative will leverage other resources with similar goals and priorities (e.g., NRCS focal area).

CONCERNS:

- While invasive annual grasses are a critical ecological threat to the sagebrush ecosystem, successful treatments are challenging, and benefits may be slow to accrue.
- As the majority of the focus area is located on private land, success measured at a landscape scale depends on landowners signing up for voluntary programs, such as Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs).
- The Threat Reduction Plan identifies nearly 70,000 acres within the Baker PAC dominated by invasive annual grasses. The initiative proposes to address 25,000 acres of invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds; it is unclear if this will be enough to tip the balance in the right direction for sage-grouse.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The Baker PAC is isolated, and sage-grouse populations are struggling. There are concerns that if one portion of the sage-grouse range is lost here, local adaptations may be lost, as well as the sage-grouse. The general sense is that there are still enough sage-grouse in the Baker PAC to sustain a viable population into the future if appropriate management is put into place.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership may currently be constrained by a lack of staff capacity and funding, but the partnership recognized this limitation and developed an approach to address the issue with their proposal.
- The partnership provides good details for both stakeholder engagement, and recruiting landowners.
- The partnership appears to be well-organized, with good governance documentation and a clear, well-thought out strategy to implement projects.

CONCERNS:

- There may be too heavy a reliance on one person as the partnership coordinator. It was unclear how other core partners will be involved in managing the partnership.
- While adding capacity was well-articulated as a limiting factor for the partnership, it is a large portion of the overall budget, which limits funds available for restoration.
- While leverage was noted in the proposal, the partnership did not make clear what the fundraising strategy was for the LIT.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area is lead partner for implementation, and is supported by local, state and federal agencies and landowners through the Local Implementation Team (LIT).

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The Threat Reduction Plan demonstrates that the partnership has clear goals, and the partnership has experience in successfully implementing projects that benefit sage-grouse.
- The process for soliciting and evaluating individual projects within the partnership is strong.
- The right partners are involved, all of which bring important strengths to the initiative. The partnership is also open to adding partners as appropriate and has a governance mechanism for doing so.

CONCERNS:

- While the decision making process for identifying and evaluating projects is strong, it is less clear how decisions related to partnership governance would be made.
- It is not clear how the partners will use capacity funding to manage and guide the partnership.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The partnership is part of larger sage-grouse conservation efforts across the western United States. The opportunity exists to communicate lessons learned to similar efforts over a large geography.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The implementing bodies of the partnership are experienced in treating invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds.
- A FIP in this area may leverage NRCS funding for weed treatments.
- If CCAA enrollment targets are met, the initiative will have a higher likelihood of success, as landowners will be engaged in the process for the life of the 30-year commitment.

CONCERNS:

- The primary concern is that progress is uncertain in successfully treating invasive annual grasses, and more discussion would be helpful on past treatment successes and lessons learned by the partners.
- More information about grazing impacts on federal land should have been included in the proposal. In addition, more specifics about how grazing will be used as a management tool across the landscape would have been helpful.
- There is some uncertainty if CCA/CCAA enrollment targets will be met, particularly if the holder of the programmatic CCAA is not known at this time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The establishment of grass banks in the area would be a major accomplishment, and given the complexity in developing these tools, it is advised to make this a priority for the partnership.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal includes detailed baseline information which can serve as a reference point to measure change over time.
- The proposal utilizes remote sensing and geospatial technology at different scales.
- The partnership will also be using the state and transition model which has been used in other landscape treatment efforts to conserve and restore sage-grouse habitat.
- The proposal provides good detail on project-level monitoring actions.

CONCERNS:
While useful, remote sensing alone is not an appropriate tool to reflect sage-grouse habitat suitability. Additional metrics and indicators are required, and more detail about this could have been better described in the proposal as it pertains to programmatic monitoring.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The development of a monitoring database should be coordinated with similar efforts currently underway through the Oregon Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal does a good job referencing, and building off of, all relevant conservation plans. These plans have guided the partnership in identifying restoration needs critical for sage-grouse.
- The implementation plan proposed by the partners is excellent.
- The ongoing study of raven predation of sage-grouse in Baker County will dovetail nicely with the timing of the initiative, as the results could be integrated into program implementation in 2019.

CONCERNS:

- The project level prioritization is good, but there are concerns that there are many high priority projects listed, and it may be difficult to prioritize between them.
- More discussion in the application could have been provided on treatment details (e.g., what actions have worked treating invasive annual grasses in Baker County and lessons learned that can be applied to this initiative).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The allocation of funds across grant types to be utilized by the partnership is appropriate for what they are intending to accomplish with FIP funding.
- The importance of investing in the right staff positions has been correctly identified by the partnership.

CONCERNS:

- Stakeholder engagement will be critical, and with a lot of work assigned to the LIT Coordinator, it may be difficult for the staff person to have the capacity required for effective communication.
- The allocation in the proposal budget and work plan between partnership capacity and stakeholder engagement could have been described more clearly.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The partnership intends to utilize OWEB funding to fully support an ODFW position to coordinate the LIT. OWEB funding cannot be used to solely support state or federal agency positions. If the LIT coordinator position is funded through a FIP award, the position must be sponsored by an eligible grantee.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Restoration for Native Fish Recovery
2. **Name of Partnership:** Clackamas Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 220-8207-16482
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***

   The Clackamas Partnership Core Partners: The Clackamas River Basin Council, Greater Oregon City Watershed Council, North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Metro, US Forest Service (Mt Hood National Forest, Clackamas Ranger District), Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Partnership's anticipated restoration outcomes are improved aquatic riparian/floodplain habitats and watershed processes. The Partnership's Initiative builds on the Lower Columbia River Conservation and recovery plan. The improved environmental baseline will enhance habitat quality and capacity for ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, and bull trout, and improve conditions for Pacific lamprey. The primary focus of the initiative is on improving aquatic and floodplain habitat complexity, including floodplain access for juvenile fish. Most of the geographic focus is on the mainstem and floodplain of the Clackamas and lower Willamette rivers because these areas support both the Clackamas ESA-listed Fish Population but also Willamette basin stocks. The implementation funding will support restoration projects, feasibility studies to identify future projects, implementation capacity, outreach, and monitoring.
6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$3,454,580	$5,023,215
Biennium 2	$2,980,500	$548,000
Biennium 3	$2,309,000	$1,753,000
Total	$8,744,080	$7,324,215

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Medium (+)
   (see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

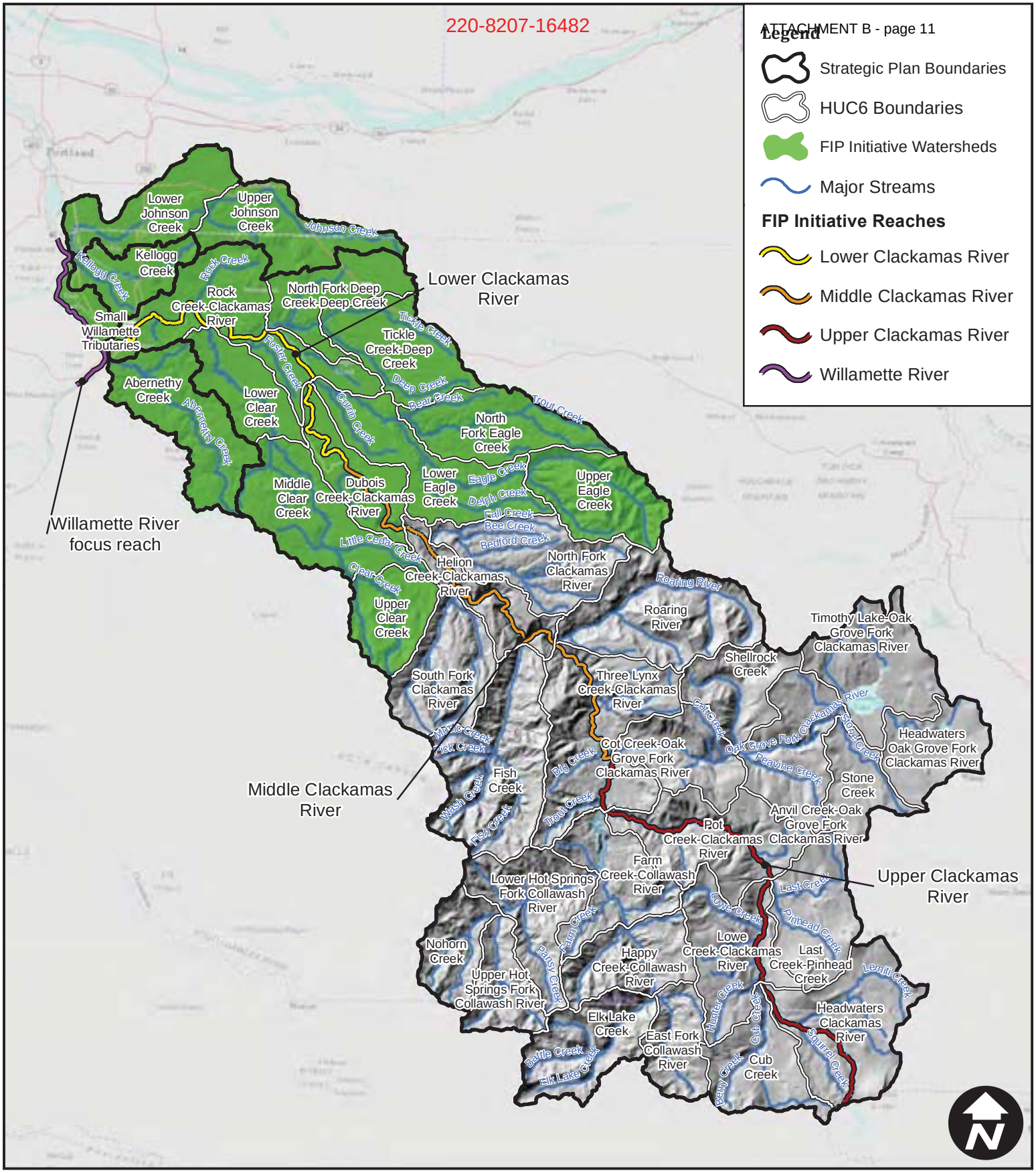
Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	High (-)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High (-)
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium (+)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium (+)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium (+)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary**
   - The strategic action plan covers a large geography, but the proposed FIP initiative is focused on the lower mainstem Clackamas River. This focus provides the greatest restoration cost/benefit and increases resilience among numerous ESA-listed salmon/steelhead fish populations.
   - The initiative addresses priority actions in the Lower Columbia River recovery plan: increasing and improving off-channel habitat and instream habitat complexity.
   - This is not an urban proposal. The initiative encompasses a diversity of land-uses with a focus on the mainstem Clackamas, which is predominantly a rural river corridor. Proposed projects in urban settings provide access to critical habitat upstream.
   - This is a high performing partnership with a track record of success.
   - ODFW is a key partner and strong collaborator and will update the Lower Columbia River recovery plan in 2025 in coordination with the partnership.
   - A strong outreach plan guides landowner and community engagement and clearly defines outreach roles among the partners.
   - Pinniped predation is a threat in the basin, but is not directly connected to the scope of the proposal.
   - The initiative is highly visible given its proximity to an urban center. A successful initiative would provide positive momentum for future restoration work in the basin.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 5 of 10.

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet



Date: 4/5/2018

Scale: 1 inch = 7 miles

Data Source: ESRI, 2018; USGS, NHD, 2016

Strategic Action Plan Geography and FIP Initiative Areas

CASCADE ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

0 2.5 5 10 Miles

Clackamas Partnership

FIP Priority Review: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Name of Initiative: Restoration for Native Fish Recovery

Name of Partnership: Clackamas Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The SAP and application align with the OWEB Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species Board-identified priority.
- The SAP was developed based on recovery plans.
- The partnership understands the general needs as described in relevant recovery plans, and has translated this well to the approach in the Clackamas basin.
- The geography is important for meeting Upper Willamette River and Lower Columbia River recovery goals.
- The proposed work in the mainstem Clackamas is important for recovery.

CONCERNS:
The rationale for selecting the specific geographies proposed in the FIP application, specifically the urban areas of Johnson and Kellogg Creeks, is not clearly described in the application. Although the concept of building population diversity and resilience is generally valid, the benefit of including these tributaries to achieving the stated ecological goals for the initiative is not clear from the application.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Including urban streams in the initiative geography, such as Johnson and Kellogg Creeks, provides funding for areas that are customarily challenging to attract funding.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership is well-structured to conduct stakeholder engagement. The application thoroughly describes how individual partners engage diverse audiences, including the greater community, landowners, and elected officials. The partnership has good knowledge of audiences to be reached throughout the basin.

- The partnership demonstrates thorough knowledge and insights regarding the benefits and leveraged resources individual partners will bring to the initiative. The application provides good examples of how the partnership will conduct stakeholder engagement and other activities related to partnership coordination and management.
- The partnership has outlined appropriate opportunities for leverage funding and has the capacity to successfully pursue these funding opportunities.
- The Project Tracker tool is highly advantageous for the partnership in organizing and prioritizing their restoration approach in the basin, as well as for stakeholder engagement.

CONCERNS:
The application describes an evaluation and ranking process in great detail, but it is difficult to decipher exactly how this will be applied in practice.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
- The partnership has clear leadership in the Clackamas River Basin Council; however, the other partners' roles in managing the partnership were unclear.
- The partnership has a strong communication plan, but there was concern that the partnership hasn't allocated enough funding to implement the plan.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:
- The partnership consists of high performing partners, and includes all of the right partners for successful implementation of the initiative.
- The partners have a history of being supportive of one another in providing assistance and guidance to successfully implement projects.
- The application demonstrates a strong track record of working individually, while the Project Tracker illustrates how the partners are coordinated in pursuit of their larger vision.
- The partnership is structured appropriately for conducting conservation work in an urbanized area.

CONCERNS:
It is unclear whether the ecological actions proposed in the initiative are based on the highest priority actions or the scope and capacity of the individual partner organizations.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Some partners seem to be in more supporting roles and it is unclear what resources they are bringing to the partnership.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The work plan is clear and is tied to recovery plan goals. The appropriate actions/outputs have been identified to support the initiative's ecological goals.
- The specific restoration actions and locations of those actions proposed in the application support recovery plan goals. The focus on the mainstem Clackamas is a strength of the restoration approach.
- The partners have successfully implemented similar restoration actions previously, including success in restoring alcove backwater channels.

CONCERNS:

- The FIP application and work plan are broad; it is difficult to connect the application goals across the variety of geographies in the application.
- Creating fish passage is an appropriate goal of the application; however, the application did not clearly articulate the number of miles that would be opened with the passage work or the quality of the habitat that would be made accessible.
- Deep, Eagle, and Clear Creeks, all tributaries to the mainstem Clackamas, are noted as the highest priority areas; however, the work plan includes only three projects in those streams. More attention should be focused on these streams in order to achieve the stated ecological goals of the initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Urban settings are complex locations for implementation of restoration actions; achieving measurable ecological outcomes could be difficult in the urban geographies.
- There are social and ecological benefits to completing restoration actions in urban setting.
- There is some uncertainty whether the proposed actions will be sufficient to achieve process-based restoration. Long-term ecological outcomes were not clearly articulated.
- The Clackamas River is a popular recreation river. The proposal does not describe how recreation activities and restoration actions will be compatible.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- Project Tracker, the program being used by the partnership, appears to be a great tool for tracking projects and progress toward implementation across multiple partners.
- Existing ODWF fish and habitat monitoring provides for baseline and future monitoring data. ODFW has also committed to doubling AQI habitat surveys under the FIP initiative.

- PGE's PIT tag monitoring at the dam provides important fish migration data.
- The application proposed significant efforts and resources towards macroinvertebrate monitoring. This approach is quantitative, engages the community, and helps tell the story of water quality and watershed health.

CONCERNS:

- It is unclear how the partners will link macroinvertebrate monitoring to fish recovery. Additionally, it is difficult to understand whether the macroinvertebrate studies will provide the necessary near-term indicators to know if the initiative is on the right trajectory and how the partners might adaptively manage their progress.
- The application did not clearly describe how juvenile fish will be monitored in the lower basin.
- The initiative could benefit from incorporating stronger water quality monitoring, both baseline and trends over time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The partners have all of the relevant pieces to monitor progress from the project to the program level, but the application narrative did not clearly connect all of the dots concerning how the monitoring and analysis would articulate the story of progress of the initiative.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- Project tracker is a strong planning tool, which features project summaries that are useful from a planning perspective.
- The restoration approach is supported by numerous recovery and other planning efforts.
- The application highlights temperature being a threat and addressing that threat with restoration projects.

CONCERNS:

- While the importance of population resilience in the context of climate change is discussed in the Lower Columbia River recovery plan, it is unclear from the application how initiative planning decisions incorporated consideration of climate change.
- The application lacks detail in the explanation of the methodology and rationale for identifying and prioritizing projects. The process as generally described appears to be sound, but it isn't clear how that process yields the priority projects.
- The proposed reach analysis on the mainstem Clackamas for planning biennium 2 and 3 projects may not be necessary given the significant research completed on the Clackamas over time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The application includes discussion of three categories of land use development and assigns a category to proposed projects, which is a unique and important approach for restoration in a relatively urban area. However, it is not clear how the partnership prioritized projects based on those designations.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: Medium
STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has successfully leveraged in-kind services and funds.
- PGE and Metro are active partners contributing funding.
- The capacity budget is appropriate for the initiative.
- The first biennium features clear costs for projects and match.

CONCERNS:

- The amount allocated to Stakeholder Engagement appears light relative to the work required and there is no match budgeted. This is particularly the case in an urban environment that requires important landowner relationships.
- The partnership may be underestimating the cost of monitoring, although there is match budgeted in each biennium.
- Technical Assistance is entirely lacking in biennia 2 and 3. It is unclear whether the $250,000 budgeted in biennium 1 is sufficient to design all proposed projects.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

1. **Name of Initiative:** John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative

2. **Name of Partnership:** John Day Basin Partnership

3. **Application Number:** 220-8208-16483

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***
   The John Day Partnership formed in 2014 from a diverse group of stakeholders; currently 28 organizations have signed onto the Memorandum of Understanding. Core partners include five SWCDs, four Watershed Councils, six federal agencies, three state agencies, three tribal governments, two conservation groups, two forest collaboratives, and one land trust. The 4 major ecological goals of the Partnership are: 1) Summer base flows met per the strategic action plan in high priority watersheds by 2030; 2) Water quality standards met per the John Day River Basin TMDL in high priority watersheds by 2030; 3) Passive and active habitat restoration implemented that addresses primary limiting factors and restores ridge-to-ridge ecosystem functions and processes in high priority watersheds by 2035; 4) Long-term trend of increasing fish populations per local, state, federal, and tribal plans by 2040. The partnership intends to use the implementation funding to meet these goals by implementing restoration actions identified in the BPA Atlas process to be of the highest priority. All of the restoration actions identified in the SAP will address one or more limiting factories identified in the Mid-C Recover Plan for Steelhead and align with the OWEB board-approved Focused Investment Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species Priority.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$4,000,000	$9,713,746
Biennium 2	$4,000,000	$7,789,866
Biennium 3	$4,000,000	$4,719,866
Total	$12,000,000	$22,223,478

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** High (-)
(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	Medium (+)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	High (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
    - This is a high performing, well-structured partnership that meets the vision of the FIP program.
    - The partnership's interview responses were deep, comprehensive, and shared across all partners at the table.
    - The partnership estimates that it is currently implementing $9M in conservation projects in the basin. The addition of FIP funding would not require a significant ramping up. The proposed projects are ready to go; funding is the only limiting factor. The cost/benefit of the proposed initiative is strong.
    - The Restoration Atlas is complete for the FIP initiative geography, and is a highly strategic, science-based restoration planning tool.
    - The initiative builds on other investments in the basin, including BPA funding and three RCPP funded projects.
    - A strong outreach plan guides landowner and community engagement and clearly defines outreach roles among the partners.
    - The future of the CHaMP monitoring program is uncertain and the partners will have to adapt. ODFW is a strong monitoring partner and considerable data has already been collected in the basin, including a 10-year Intensively Monitored Watershed project in the Middle Fork John Day sub-basin.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 1 of 10.

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet



Figure 3. John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative Watersheds

FIP Priority Review: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Name of Initiative: John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative

Name of Partnership: John Day Basin Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The John Day basin hosts anadromous fish populations that are feasible for recovery. The lack of dams in the John Day watershed will contribute to the prospects for recovery.
- The North Fork John Day is designated as a Salmon Stronghold in Oregon (Wild Salmon Center 2012).
- The Middle Fork John Day has seen strong restoration momentum in recent years and the extensive monitoring work there was factored into prioritizing this watershed in the determination of the initiative geography.
- The SAP constitutes a 50-year plan that addresses high priority areas outlined in the Mid-Columbia recovery plan.

CONCERNS:

- The proposed initiative's geography focuses on three sub-basins within the John Day basin. Based on OWEB's Board-identified priority map for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, two of those sub-basins are designated as highest priorities, while the third is a second highest priority.
- Bull trout are a listed species, but the initiative does not focus on bull trout with restoration actions. Bull trout are a secondary benefitting species to the restoration work.
- Steelhead is the only listed species; Chinook are a sensitive species.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The selected geography for the initiative includes three sub-watersheds and three sub-populations.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has developed strong governance documents that they employ well and have successfully used over the past several years.
- A 28-partner group can be challenging to coordinate; however, the partnership's governance structure with a Steering Committee and active leadership from core partners has made for efficient and effective management of the partnership.
- Recognizing the challenges of coordinating a large partnership, the application also discusses supporting additional staff to assist with the leadership needs of a large partnership.
- The partnership has a strong Outreach Plan, which reflects the thorough nature of the work of the Outreach committee. This includes a well-conceived outreach tool kit, and a strong understanding of their outreach audience, including the right tools and approaches for addressing different audiences. A highlight is the consideration of landowner ambassadors, and the notion of two-way exchange for landowners to provide input on the results of projects.
- The partnership has an appropriate allocation of funds in the partnership capacity category to support the coordination of the partnership through the initiative.

CONCERNS:
It is unclear how additional investments will be identified and secured given that the fundraising committee has not yet been established.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- All the right partners are involved in the partnership.
- The proposed initiative is ambitious and has significant ecological goals and the partnership is well poised to implement the FIP initiative.
- The partnership has demonstrated a strong history of effective planning processes.
- The partners have already dedicated a tremendous amount of work to building the partnership and demonstrated a strong commitment to success.

CONCERNS:
None.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:
- The initiative's ecological outcomes are well-articulated in the application and provide a clear path to benefitting the targeted species.
- The application clearly linked restoration strategies to proposed ecological outcomes.
- The proposed restoration strategies and ecological outcomes clearly align with the restoration work that is needed in the basin to address recovery plan limiting factors.
- The application outlines a clear process for adaptive management throughout the course of the initiative.
- The initiative supports both water and land acquisitions, which are important to contributing to long-term sustainability of restoration strategies.

CONCERNS:
- The work plan is difficult to follow. Projects are not identified on a map, which proves challenging to understand whether the right actions are occurring in the right places.
- Although the restoration strategies are strong and well-articulated, they are lacking in detail and are not presented as actual restoration actions.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:
- The population scale hypothesis testing is described well and presents a new and interesting approach. This also offers the opportunity for larger scale adaptive management.
- The right partners are involved in the monitoring components of the initiative. This includes ODFW staff being involved in the monitoring plan development to maximize leveraging knowledge and resources.
- There are considerable monitoring efforts already underway in the basin, including the Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) project. Many of these efforts are projected to continue through the duration of the proposed initiative and beyond. These efforts are also supported by numerous different funding sources.

CONCERNS:

- It is unclear what type of near-term indicators the partnership would use to track the trajectory of progress of the initiative.
- It is unclear why Desolation Creek was identified as an important area to focus monitoring efforts or what the data collected in Desolation Creek will tell the partners about progress toward ecological outcomes.
- It is unclear how monitoring efforts across the initiative would be linked to tell a holistic story of recovery progress in the John Day basin.
- The monitoring approach and work described in Section IV of the application is ambitious. There was concern expressed regarding the added capacity and staff time required to undertake the proposed monitoring efforts.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The initiative proposes to use BPA's Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP) program for data storage, which is a suitable approach; however, there is uncertainty about the future of the CHaMP program and longevity of the database.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The application outlines a clearly laid out process for planning that is science-based and included the right partners.
- The use of the Atlas planning tool was clearly described, and is a strong, collaborative tool for planning, prioritization, tracking progress, and adaptive management.
- The planning process focused on the sub-population and sub-watershed level, which is an appropriate approach for planning restoration actions.
- The project scoring sheets that the partnership will use in vetting projects are excellent, and it was helpful to see the mechanics of how projects will be prioritized.

CONCERNS:

- The lack of a map associated with the work plan made it challenging to decipher the extent of the strategic approach to pursuing projects in different locations in the basin.
- Increasing quantifiable aspects of the approach, including acres and stream miles treated, would be helpful in understanding the restoration outputs.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- Overall, the budget seems reasonable given the proposed approaches, actions, and timing. The allocations to different grant types are what would be expected given the proposed actions in the initiative.
- The proposed initiative features substantial match funding, which represents strong funding partnerships contributing to restoration work in the basin.
- The allocation of funding for water and land acquisitions is a strength of the initiative.
- The application, including the partnership's clearly articulated decision making process and Operations Manual, inspires confidence in their ability to get the work done and expend the funds proposed in the budget.

CONCERNS:
It is unclear what the partners will acquire with the proposed water acquisition funds.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
There is a significant investment in Partnership Capacity funding. This is reasonable and appropriate to the size of the partnership and the proposed restoration actions. It would be helpful to understand in more detail how these funds will be expended, particularly as it relates to the large capacity investment in biennium 1 and the much reduced capacity investments in biennia 2 and 3.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Central Coast Estuary Conservation & Restoration

2. **Name of Partnership:** Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative (OCCEC)

3. **Application Number:** 220-8209-16484

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coastal Estuaries

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application):*** The following will be core partners for this Implementation FIP Initiative: Nestucca Neskowin Sand Lake Watersheds Council, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, The Wetlands Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, MidCoast Watersheds Council and USFWS.

   Our ecological outcomes are to improve the function of these key ecological attributes of estuaries from the Alsea to Tillamook: hydrologic connectivity, long-term resiliency to future change, geomorphic connectivity (including sediment regimes), water quality, and native species composition. Our main ecological outcome is: by 2030, reduce the percent loss of historic tidal wetlands across the OCCEC Focus Area due to diking from 55% to 50% by increased hydrologic connections to tidal flows, and conserve key estuary lands. This Initiative will help advance that goal through multiple estuarine conservation and restoration projects.

   We will also use some of the implementation funding for capacity building, technical assistance, monitoring, data analysis, and stakeholder engagement to help pave the way for future on-the-ground projects (across our entire focus area).

   Our initiative will address all of the key ecological threats identified in the Coastal Estuaries FIP ecological priority. Our focus area includes most of the largest estuaries on the Oregon Coast outside of the Columbia.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$2,406,700	$1,777,800
Biennium 2	$3,205,950	$5,983,250
Biennium 3	$3,888,150	$11,421,050
Total	**$9,500,800**	**$19,182,100**

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Medium (-)
   (see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	Medium
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium (-)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Low
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
   - The unique scale of the initiative (11 central coast estuaries from the Siuslaw to Nehalem Bay) allows the partnership to draw on a larger set of lessons and build community at a regional scale.
   - There is concern over how ecological uplift will be measured at such a large scale; a narrower focus would better identify where to invest in order to achieve the largest ecological impact.
   - There is concern over project prioritization within the large initiative geography and among implementation partners; it is difficult to understand how habitat and ecological factors are being considered.
   - The goal to reduce diked areas by 5% (equivalent to just over 950 acres across all 11 estuaries) is realistic, but not within the 6-year initiative timeline.
   - Diverse partner opinions resulted in the exclusion of tide gate replacement and led to a focus on tide gate removal projects in order to achieve the largest potential ecological benefit.
   - The work proposed under the initiative is critical, but the partnership is not yet ready. More work is needed to clearly develop and describe the approach to estuary restoration within this large geography, including project prioritization and measures of effectiveness for ecological outcomes.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 8 out of 10

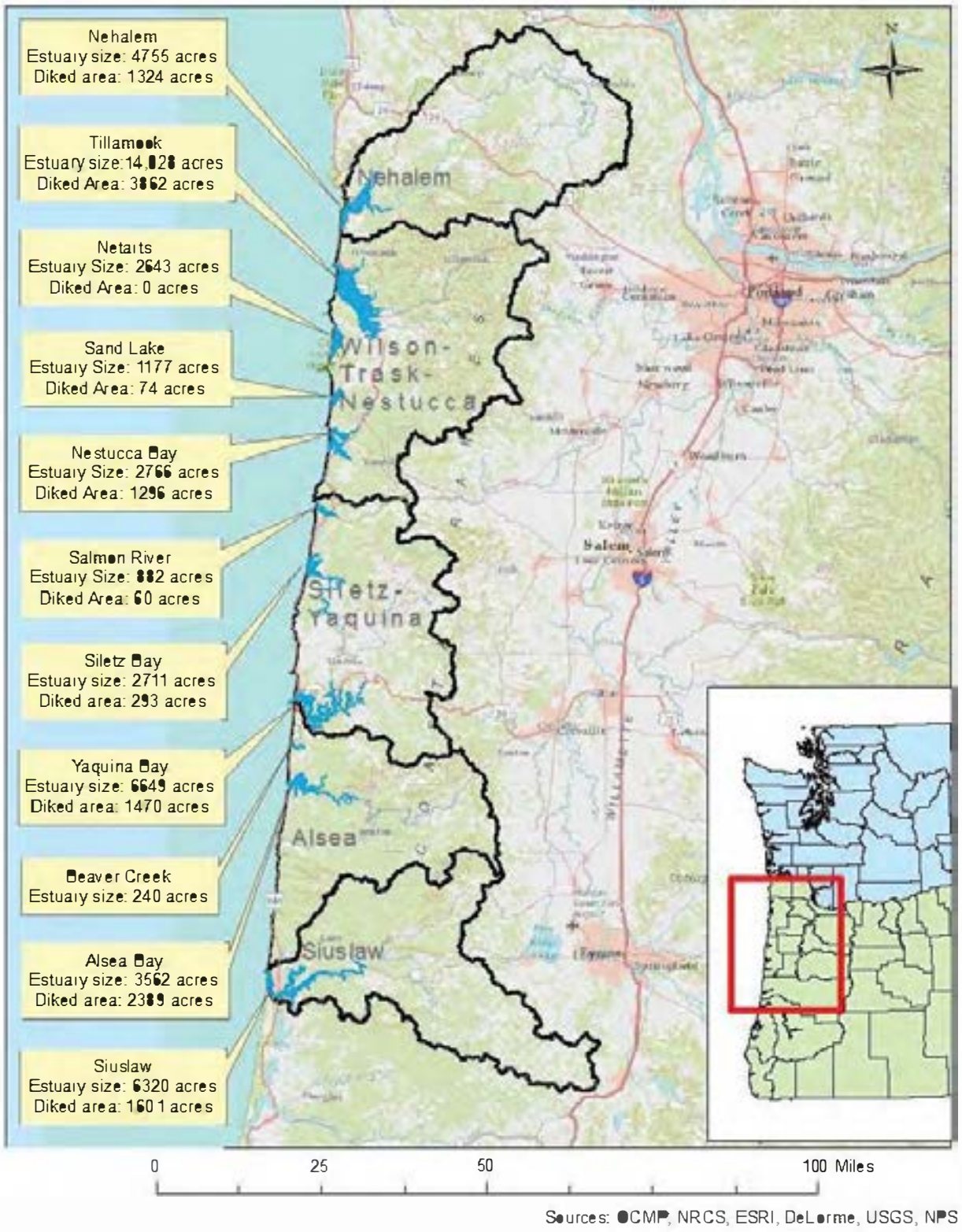
Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Eligible FIP Initiative Activities by Estuary for Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative Focal Area

Nehalem to Siuslaw: Stakeholder Engagement, Technical Assistance, Monitoring/ Data Analysis, and Capacity Building

Tillamook to Alsea: Acquisitions/Conservation & Restoration



FIP Priority Review: Coastal Estuaries

Name of Initiative: Central Coast Estuary Conservation & Restoration

Name of Partnership: Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative (OCCEC)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership fully understands the FIP Coastal Estuaries ecological priority.
- The proposal demonstrates a strong understanding of the current status and extent of habitat loss and land use change over time.

CONCERNS:

- The initiative encompasses a large geography, but the individual projects appear small in scale, representing only a small portion of the overall geography. Because of this, it is uncertain whether the proposed restoration work will result in significant and measurable progress.
- Despite demonstrating a strong understanding of the importance of hydrologic connectivity, the application does not articulate the ecological rationale for increased connectivity.
- The core partners are known to be a strong team with a track record of good work, but the application and work plan lack sufficient detail to describe what the partnership will do, how they will do it, how landowners will be engaged, and how decisions will be made. This makes it difficult to determine how the partnership will make measurable progress toward addressing the board-identified priority.
- The proposal does not address nutrient cycling, toxins, and water quality limiting factors.
- While hydrologic connectivity was addressed, habitat quality was not. It was noted that improved access to habitat without improved quality may not result in ecological benefits to fish.
- The application does not discuss the issue of sea-level rise; however, projects related to sea level rise and climate change are proposed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
This is an omnibus proposal that could have been divided into smaller subsystems.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is the partnership lead and facilitator. TNC involvement will likely result in greater sustainability, capacity, and longer term partnership continuity. They have allocated resources in their budget for TNC to continue in this role.
- The partnership has done well in compiling a list of projects and prioritizing those based on established criteria.
- The partnership, specifically TNC, has deep knowledge and experience in obtaining funds and will likely be successful in catalyzing additional investments.

CONCERNS:

- The prioritization process appears to allow each partner to pursue one project, as opposed to prioritizing based on ecological need. This could impact the partnership's capacity to make collective decisions over time.
- The communications plan could be further developed to focus on areas of greatest need. It is unclear if the partnership has the capacity and resources to complete the necessary communication.
- The communications plan focuses on communication among partners rather than community engagement. It is unclear if landowner outreach is included in the plan.
- It appears that partnership outreach to date has focused on engaging implementation practitioners as opposed to landowners and community members.
- The large geographic scale of the initiative might limit the ability to have effective outreach outside of the individual estuaries.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The partnership is set up to provide support for one another - a coordinated network – as opposed to coordinating actions on the ground.
- It is unclear how the partners are leveraging their resources and expertise beyond pursuing and sharing project funds. The partnership is comprised of capable organizations, but the proposal did not demonstrate how they will support one another beyond recognizing that they are working toward similar ecological goals.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The individual partners have a long history of working individually and collectively on projects across the Oregon Coast.
- The partnership possesses significant watershed expertise among the partners.

CONCERNS:

- The application does not describe performance history or indicate that the partners have accomplished work together in the past.
- The core partners described in the proposal differ from those in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The decision-making partners exclude agencies, but agencies are involved in project implementation. It is uncertain how decisions will be made if agencies implementing projects are not included as core partners.
- The process for project prioritization and adaptive management to update the SAP over time is unclear.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The application does not describe how partners will stay engaged without continued project funding.
- The proposal would have benefited from a graphic of the partnership structure to depict how the core partners are organized over such a large geography.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes

Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

The proposal includes the development of an early warning system for the arrival of non-native species, including a committee to oversee and assist in decision-making.

CONCERNS:

- The approach for project prioritization appears opportunistic as opposed to strategic.
- It is uncertain if the partnership has the capacity for project implementation. While many partners have implementation experience, the SAP identifies only two responsible for project implementation. The remaining partners appear to serve in supporting roles related to collecting or providing data.
- It is not clear how the partnership will achieve landowner participation. The application indicates that landowners will be contacted via email and letters, but this may not be sufficient to achieve recruitment of new projects.
- Specific actions in the work plan are not clear. Specifically, the proposal does not identify the parcels that will be acquired via purchase or easement, or how the early warning system on invasive species will be implemented.
- Because the prioritization process appears to allow each partner to pursue one project, it is unclear how proposed actions relate to desired outcomes, and how the partnership will pursue ecological-based decision making in the future.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes
Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal includes a good description of baseline conditions and limiting factors at the outset of the initiative.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal identifies a clear goal and associated metrics (5% reduction in tidal wetland loss), but lacks a description of how data will be shared among various agencies, tribes, and other groups.
- The proposal focuses on *output* metrics (number of projects implemented) as opposed to *outcome* metrics, which would track ecological recovery or progress trajectory to measure project effectiveness.
- There does not appear to be a mechanism to evaluate and track progress toward ecological outcomes across the estuaries. It is unclear if partners in each estuary are responsible for assessing and tracking progress.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The application would have benefited from including an example of restoration monitoring to demonstrate how the partnership would track progress.
- A key limiting factor in large landscape-scale projects is access to data collected by partners. The proposal would have benefited from the inclusion of a data portal or other shared data management plan.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal clearly presents limiting factors, using historic habitat as a baseline.
- The proposal clearly explains the issues and lays out science-based hydrologic goals.
- The situational planning to achieve goals is sound.
- The partnership's results chain work appears logical and is impressive for a partnership of this size.
- The plan for tidal marshes and wetlands is commendable.

CONCERNS:

- The application does not contain an explanation for how the partnership identified the goal of 5% reduction in tidal wetland loss.
- The principles of sound science are not well described. There is no discussion of tipping points or thresholds for change. There is no hypothesis for climate change or discussion of edge effects and effect on hydrologic regimes. The partner entities are recognized as being well-versed in sound science, but the application fell short in describing the scientific basis for initiative planning.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal reflects a strong effort to effectively estimate costs to support the partnership's budgeting.
- Funding is already secured for some budget categories.

CONCERNS:

- Funding for stakeholder engagement activities seems low given what is required to change public perception about estuary restoration.
- Monitoring appears underfunded, but may not have a high cost given that the partnership is proposing to collect information on the number of projects implemented rather than outcome metrics.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The proposal includes only tide gate projects involving full tide gate removal. Tide gate retrofits are not part of the initiative.
- Despite a long list of potential funders in the financial plan, there is no assurance of success in obtaining funding from several of those sources, and the partnership has a heavy reliance on ODOT funding.

1. **Name of Initiative:** North Santiam Aquatic Habitat Restoration

2. **Name of Partnership:** Partners of the North Santiam Watershed

3. **Application Number:** 220-8210-16485

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***

   The Partners of the North Santiam (PNS) is made up of 28 organizations. Core partners include the BLM, Cities of Salem and Stayton, Tribes of Grand Ronde, Siletz and Warm Springs, Greenbelt Land Trust, Linn & Marion Counties, Linn & Marion SWCDs, NRCS, North Santiam WC, ODEQ, ODF, ODFW, OPRD, Santiam Water Control District, University of Oregon, USACE and the USFS. Supporting partners consist of USGS, USFWS, ODA, ODOT, North Santiam Forest Collaborative, North Santiam Drought Task Force and the FLRCDL.

   The PNS FIP initiative will implement those components of the North Santiam Resiliency Action Plan (Action Plan) that will restore the physical and biological processes identified as critical to the recovery of Upper Willamette Spring Chinook, winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and Oregon Chub, which in turn will improve conditions for all other native aquatic organisms utilizing the system.

   Implementation funding will support outcomes focused on improving habitat connectivity, habitat complexity, riparian and floodplain habitats and water quality, while engaging the North Santiam Watershed community through educational campaigns, community events, workshops and individual interactions.

   The proposed initiative addresses the limiting factors as described in the Upper Willamette River

   Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon & Steelhead directly supporting OWEB's FIP priority for Inland "Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species."

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$2,526,068	$945,192
Biennium 2	$3,937,009	$1,234,252
Biennium 3	$2,244,465	$561,116
Total	$8,707,542	$2,740,456

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Medium
(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	Medium (+)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium (+)
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium (-)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Low
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
    - The North Santiam river basin is an important Willamette River tributary, providing roughly 1/3 of ESA-listed spring Chinook spawning habitat in the Willamette basin.
    - The partnership uses a six-step process to prioritize projects that is consensus-based and relies on the partnership chair's leadership. The partners have been working together for many years; however, the extent to which their project prioritization has been tested in practice was unclear.
    - The initiative relies on stakeholder engagement (SE) and technical assistance (TA) to develop restoration projects. There was some uncertainty as to how the SE and TA work would fit together in terms of planning and timing to implement priority restoration projects.
    - Lower Bennett dam is a priority for fish passage. The partnership has allocated TA funding to develop this project in the first biennium.
    - Project-level monitoring and partner roles are clear. Initiative-level effectiveness monitoring will rely on the monitoring framework in development by the Willamette FIP. Additionally, the University of Oregon is in the process of expanding the SLICES status and trends monitoring program to include the North Santiam basin.
    - The initiative includes restoration actions in the Breitenbush River basin and the Detroit Lake fringes, both above the Detroit and Big Cliff dams. The Breitenbush basin offers high quality fish habitat and fertile spawning grounds. However, the US Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for downstream juvenile fish passage at the dams, and the timing and approach to constructing juvenile fish passage is uncertain.

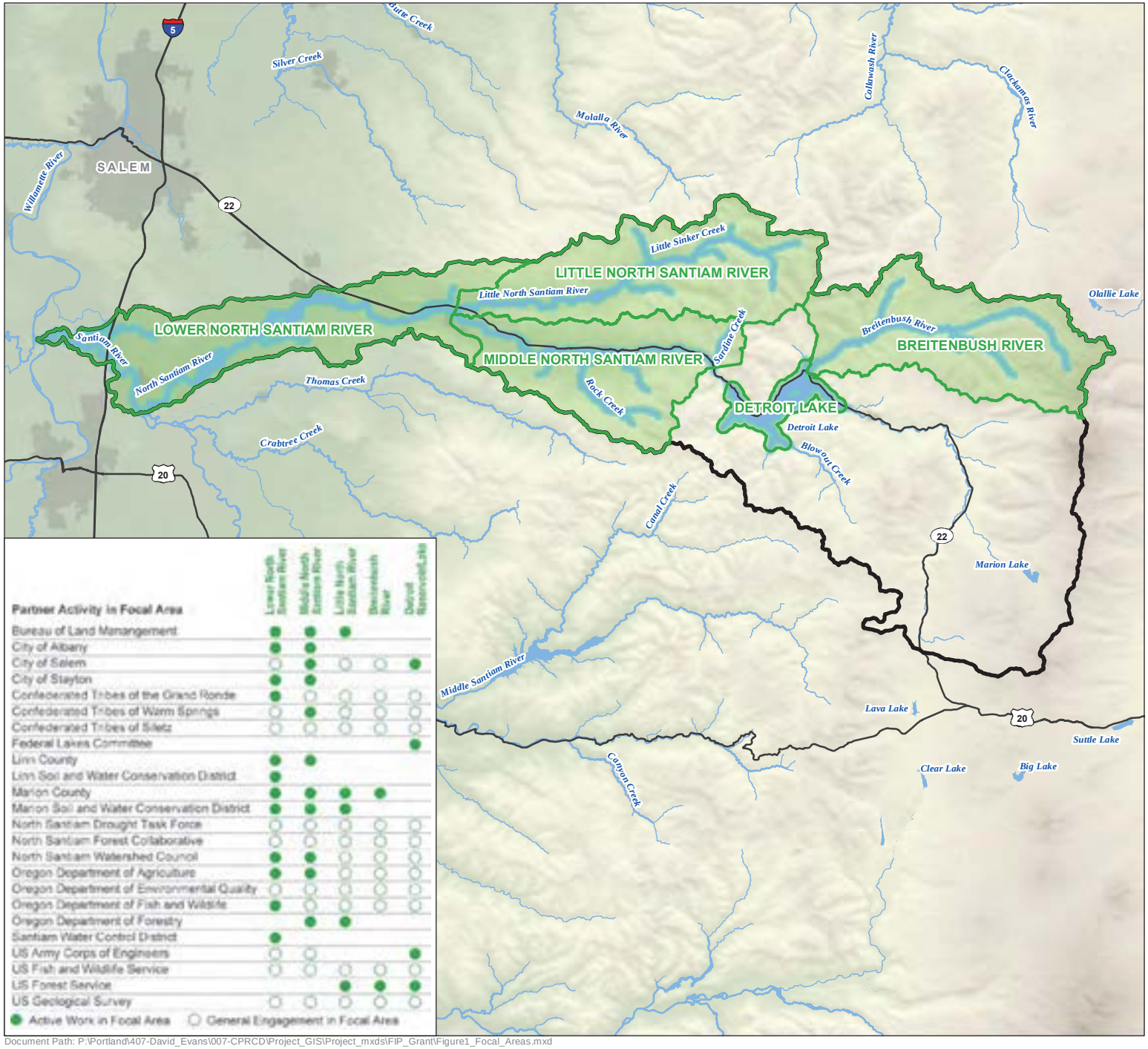
9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 7 of 10.

Attachment A: Initiative Map

FIGURE 1

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Initiative

North Santiam Watershed Resiliency Action Plan



Partner Activity in Focal Area	Lower North Santiam River	Middle North Santiam River	Little North Santiam River	Breitenbush River	Detroit Reservoir/Lake
Bureau of Land Management	●	●	●		
City of Albany	●	●			
City of Salem	○	●	○	○	●
City of Stayton	●	●			
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde	●	○	○	○	○
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	○	●	○	○	○
Confederated Tribes of Siletz	○	○	○	○	○
Federal Lakes Committee					●
Linn County	●	●			
Linn Soil and Water Conservation District	●				
Marion County	●	●	●	●	
Marion Soil and Water Conservation District	●	●	●		
North Santiam Drought Task Force	○	○	○	○	○
North Santiam Forest Collaborative	○	○	○	○	○
North Santiam Watershed Council	●	●	○	○	○
Oregon Department of Agriculture	●	●	○	○	○
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	○	○	○	○	○
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	●	○	○	○	○
Oregon Department of Forestry		●	●		
Santiam Water Control District	●				
US Army Corps of Engineers	○	○			●
US Fish and Wildlife Service	○	○	○	○	○
US Forest Service			●	●	●
US Geological Survey	○	○	○	○	○

● Active Work in Focal Area ○ General Engagement in Focal Area

LEGEND

- FIP Initiative Area[1]
- Resiliency Action Plan Focal Area
- North Santiam Watershed

All Other Features

- City Boundary
- Interstate
- Watercourse
- Waterbody

NOTE:
1. Includes tributary streams not shown.





0 3 6 9
Miles

Date: June 21, 2018
Data Sources: Partners NSWC, ESRI, USGS

Document Path: P:\Portland\407-David_Evans\007-CPRCD\Project_GIS\Project_mxds\FIP_Grant\Figure1_Focal_Areas.mxd

FIP Priority Review: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Name of Initiative: North Santiam Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Name of Partnership: Partners of the North Santiam Watershed

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The initiative geography represents a priority river basin for spring Chinook and winter steelhead identified in the Upper Willamette River (UWR) recovery plan. Restoration is essential in this geography for progress toward recovery of those listed species.
- The initiative geography offers an important opportunity to capitalize on previous property acquisition investments through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program.
- In addition to UWR spring Chinook and winter steelhead, the initiative will benefit lamprey.

CONCERNS:

- The application, including the actions proposed in the work plan, did not demonstrate a strong tie to the relevant recovery plans.
- The inclusion of Detroit Lake raised questions regarding what other entities may already be conducting restoration and/or water quality work there and whether including the lake fringes in the initiative geography was appropriate.
- It is unclear why the Breitenbush area is included in the initiative. While it is important for addressing climate change and drought resiliency, it was not clear how it fit into the overall restoration strategy and seemed opportunistic as opposed to strategic.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Downstream juvenile anadromous fish passage at the dams is not yet possible. Planning for fish passage is underway, but there is uncertainty about when this will occur. Fish passage at the dams is the responsibility of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The partnership is doing what they can control and providing habitat benefits in the basin.
- Sea lions below Willamette Falls are a concern for UWR fish species, particularly winter steelhead. However, the sea lion threat should not deter restoration practitioners from providing quality habitat in the Willamette tributaries.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The collective capacity of the partnership is a strength in a watershed with diverse stakeholders.
- The partnership is well-poised to catalyze additional investments with diverse partners and pursue additional funding opportunities.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership has an outreach plan, but it is relatively vague.
- North Santiam Watershed Council is the coordinator/convener of the initiative; however, the leadership role is not clear as it was discussed differently in a few locations in the application and SAP.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Given the workload associated with managing a partnership, the partnership should ensure that sufficient resources are allocated to North Santiam Watershed Council to fulfill the partnership coordination role.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has a strong performance history in the basin and is accomplished in their past work.
- The partnership's resiliency action plan and other efforts are building partnership capacity, cohesion, and momentum in the watershed. These efforts also help define roles and responsibilities among the partners.
- The right partners are in place to conduct restoration work in the upper North Santiam basin.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership is lacking formal governance documents, and the governance process is not clearly articulated with sufficient details in the application. It is not clear how the partnership will make complex and/or challenging decisions. This includes lacking a deeper foundation for project prioritization.
- The existing process appears to be more of a filter for the partners to bring projects forward as opposed to determining which projects are of highest priority to achieve the partnership's desired ecological outcomes in the watershed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes

Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- Conservation actions, number of projects, locations, and metrics are clearly described and the information is presented well. Implementation outputs are clearly identified.
- The proposed restoration work in the lower Santiam basin builds on previous investments with other programs in the basin.
- The proposed projects will benefit over-summer holding for listed fish species.
- The North Santiam has some of the pieces necessary to support restoration, such as limited revetments.

CONCERNS:

- The project prioritization process was unclear and suggested that ongoing restoration work and an opportunistic approach prevailed over a strategic approach. The prioritization criteria discussed in the application were generic and did not necessarily address limiting factors, thus it is unclear whether the right actions will occur in the right locations.
- The placement of large wood in the Breitenbush system is a restoration action in the initiative but is not part of the relevant recovery plans.
- It is unclear whether the proposed projects benefitting steelhead are the highest priority locations and whether there is enough focus on habitat benefitting steelhead. The Little North Santiam and Middle North Santiam are important areas for steelhead, but there are few projects proposed in those areas.
- The application states that before implementing proposed restoration actions associated with fish passage, the partnership must first conduct a fish passage assessment at the start of the initiative. There was concern about the timing of implementing the fish passage projects within the scope of the FIP if there are delays with the fish passage assessment.
- The application states that outreach work in the Little North Santiam basin is just beginning. There was concern about the feasibility of implementing projects in that basin during the period of the initiative given the challenges that area has had in the past with landowner relations and the lack of participation in developing projects.
- The application did not include discussion of private timber owners in the basin and what, if any, their involvement in the initiative would be.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The proposal discusses increasing irrigation efficiency, but improvements at diversion dams are currently not included.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes

Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:

- There are existing PIT tag data and fish counts that can benefit monitoring efforts for the initiative.
- The initiative proposes utilizing the SLICES status and trends monitoring program.
- The application discusses using the design of the Willamette FIP effectiveness monitoring framework to inform development of a monitoring program in the North Santiam; however, it was not well described how this process might work.

CONCERNS:

- Monitoring efforts proposed in the initiative are focused on project implementation and do not offer a clear connection to broader effectiveness monitoring for the initiative.
- The proposal does not include details regarding fish monitoring, nor how existing fish monitoring data might be incorporated, such as spawning and dam counts. Additionally, spawning counts have occurred in the basin in the past, but these will no longer be funded. Thus, there may be baseline data available but currently no means to detect change related to spawning counts.
- The application discusses using SLICES as a monitoring tool for the initiative. While SLICES is an excellent tool for status and trends monitoring, it is unclear in the application how the newly initiated SLICES research in the North Santiam basin will be used in the initiative.
- Although the Willamette FIP effectiveness monitoring approach will be well developed and may provide a model for this type of monitoring in other places, it serves the mainstem Willamette and it is not clear how it will translate to tributaries such as the North Santiam.
- The roles of partners and details of monitoring activities are lacking from the application, potentially indicating lack of a collaborative approach.
- The connection of monitoring to adaptive management for the initiative is unclear.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The application demonstrates a good understanding of restoration gaps and past/current work in the basin.
- The proposal features good consideration of climate change resiliency in restoration planning. The connection to restoration actions is not always clear, but the WATR model (Water, Aquatic habitats, Terrestrial habitats, and Riparian habitats) is an excellent tool for developing restoration concepts and strategies.

CONCERNS:

- The planning approach described in the application reflects one that is more opportunistic than strategic.
- The initiative features few projects in the Little North Santiam and Middle North Santiam where there may be high value in restoration benefit for listed fish species.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The application presents a well balanced approach to budgeting, including recognizing and addressing the needs for partnership capacity, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement grant types.
- The budget includes good description of the partners involved in each grant type category.

CONCERNS:
The monitoring budget appears to be low. This is difficult to evaluate because the monitoring plan is vague in the application.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Little Butte Creek Watershed "Together Restoration Instream & Barriers" (TRIB) Initiative

2. **Name of Partnership:** Rogue Basin Partnership

3. **Application Number:** 220-8212-16487

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application):*** The Little Butte Creek Watershed "Together Restoring Instream & Barriers" (TRIB) Initiative partners include Rogue Basin Partnership, The Freshwater Trust, Rogue River Watershed Council and Trout Unlimited. The Initiative's ecological outcomes include: restore fish passage to 49 miles of habitat, restore instream habitat for 10.6 miles of stream and 44 acres of riparian forest. OWEB funding will be used toward stakeholder outreach, technical assistance for project design and permitting and contracted services for construction implementation. The proposed Initiative aligns with OWEB FIP priority "Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast" with goals to 1. Increase stewardship on ``privately owned lands; 2. Improve access to high quality spawning and rearing habitat for Coho salmon, Chinook salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey and Klamath small-scale sucker; 3. Restore channel processes to streams fragmented by small dams including distribution of bed material, large wood and nutrients; 4. Improve instream habitat quality and quantity and complement barrier removal projects; 5. Reconnect floodplain, restore large wood and riparian function. These goals align directly with key Coho limiting factors and ecological threats as outlined by OWEB including impaired ecosystem functions and loss of quantity and quality of instream complexity and degraded riparian areas.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$1,428,403	$655,277
Biennium 2	$2,551,430	$621,341
Biennium 3	$2,017,102	$765,399
Total	**$5,996,935**	**$2,042,017**

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Low (+)
   (see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	Medium (-)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Low (+)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Low
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Low
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Low
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Low

[The following sections to be completed following the OWEB Board Subcommittee applicant interviews November 7/8, 2018.]

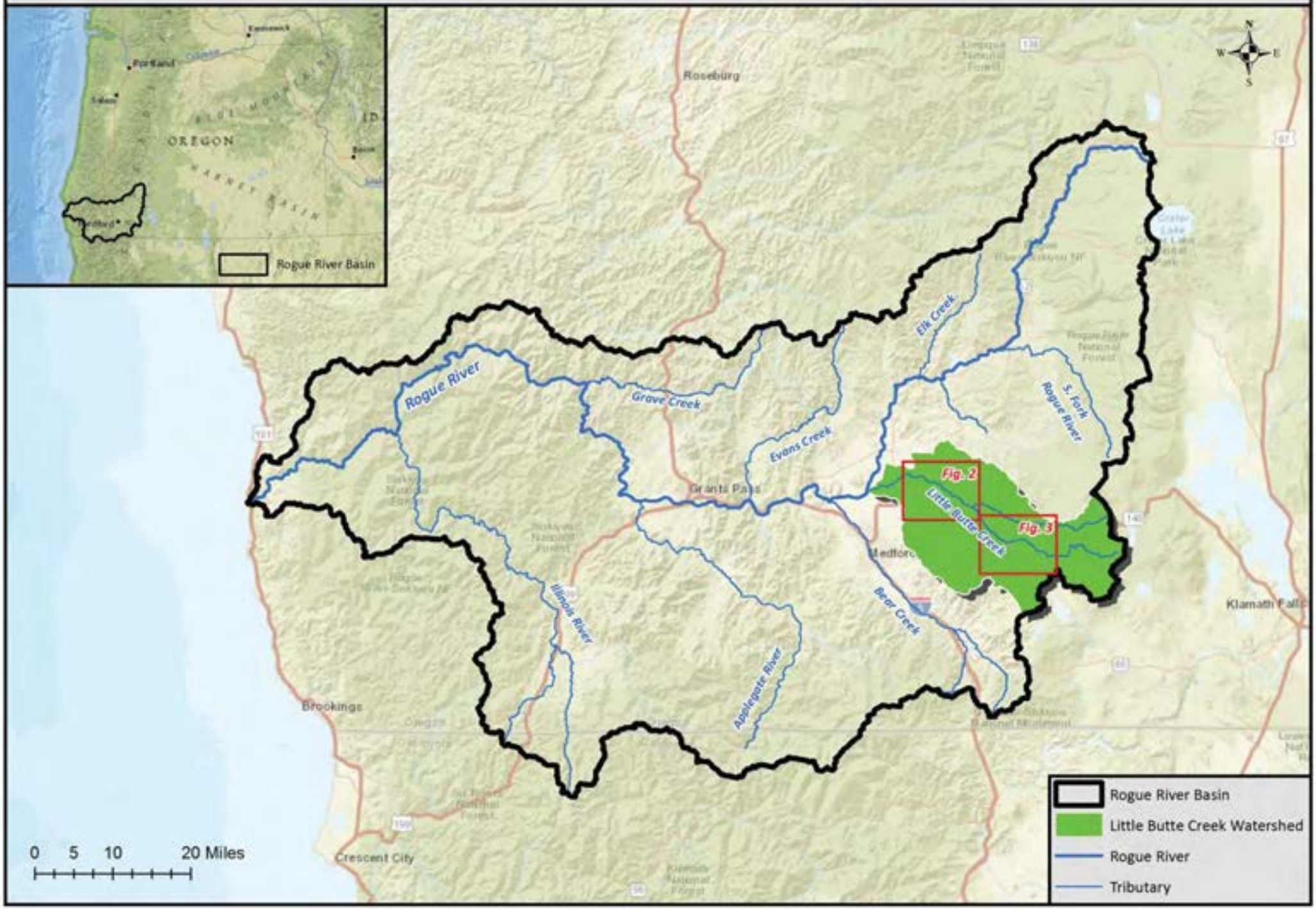
8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
   - The Little Butte Creek geography is appropriate for the actions proposed in the initiative.
   - The partnership would benefit from stronger relationships with the soil and water conservation district and irrigation districts.
   - The partnership is underdeveloped with no formal decision-making, governance, or organizational structure, and its approach is more opportunistic than strategic.
   - Leadership transitions have occurred within the Rogue Basin Partnership.
   - The initiative proposes actions to address the temperature limiting factor (e.g. increasing stream shade, reducing passage barriers to cooler water, and increasing instream wood to create deep pools).
   - There is concern over the omission of stream flow in the initiative; however, Trout Unlimited is an external partner for water acquisitions, and may pursue these projects outside of the initiative.
   - All projects identified in the work plan are on private land; stakeholder engagement is critical and many partners are currently working with landowners in the area.
   - There is concern over the lack of detail on effectiveness monitoring for fish passage and riparian health; the partnership is in the process of developing protocols.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 9 (tie) out of 10

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Figure 1. Little Butte Creek Watershed Restoration Initiative - Location Map



FIP Priority Review: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast

Name of Initiative: Little Butte Creek Watershed "Together Restoration Instream & Barriers" (TRIB) Initiative

Name of Partnership: Rogue Basin Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- Generally, the approach described in the proposal is well-organized and achievable.
- The focus of the initiative is on the Little Butte Creek 5th field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC), an important tributary for Coho and other species.

CONCERNS:

- The focus on a single 5th field HUC and the ecological outcomes described in the proposal do not achieve a broader regional impact envisioned for the Focused Investment Partnership program.
- While the Little Butte is important for Coho in the Rogue Basin, the proposal does not articulate the rationale for the selection of this geography. There was little data provided that indicated that this HUC is the place to work or how it fits into a basin-wide prioritization, which gave the impression that selection of the geography was opportunistic rather than strategic.
- The proposal does not describe how this initiative connects to the Coho Business Plan's Strategic Action Plan, which will be developed over the next year and will have an overlapping geography.
- The proposed approach is general in nature; the proposed actions do not appear to link to the primary limiting factors in the watershed, including limited stream flow.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) partners have a good history of working together, and supporting partners in the basin feel that the RBP is doing good work in their region.
- The RBP will be able to catalyze funding.

CONCERNS:

- Despite the high capacity of individual partners and the strength of the RBP, which has a strong structure for decision making, this initiative is proposed by a subgroup of the RBP, and the subgroup does not have a formal relationship or governance outside of the RBP.
- The proposal does not provide detail about stakeholder engagement. It includes broad ideas about outreach and messaging for the entire Rogue basin, but not specifically for the initiative geography. It was noted that stakeholder engagement beyond the large acreage or prominent landowners will be important in this area.
- Some of the contributing organizations have not yet committed match funding.
- The proposal is not clear on how the partnership capacity funds would be used given that there is a smaller group of core partners among the larger partnership that would be implementing the restoration work.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

There are three core partners – Rogue Basin Partnership, Rogue River WC (RRWC), and The Freshwater Trust (TFT). RRWC and TFT have great history of working together.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership

Rating: Low (+)

STRENGTHS:

The group is capable of getting the work done, but do not have all of the partners engaged, or a formal decision-making process specifically for the FIP initiative.

CONCERNS:

- RBP is an umbrella organization with many different partners, consistent meetings, and successful working groups. This proposal was written by a subgroup of one of the working groups that seems to lack engagement with the larger partnership. While the RBP has an effective structure and communication network, it does not necessarily carry over to the core partners of this initiative.
- The three core partners of this initiative do not have a formal decision-making process. The decision-making process and structure appears to be based on trust and a history of working together.
- The proposal does not describe governance at the various scales of the partnership or how it will be managed. The link between the RBP and this subgroup is unclear. In particular, it is unclear how the goals of the larger RBP led the subgroup to propose these actions in this area.
- It appears that communication between partners is unclear or may be under-developed. Specifically, reviewers noted that the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is not a core partner; however, the proposal states that landowner engagement is to be

completed by the SWCD. The SWCD's role is critical, but they do not yet seem committed to the partnership.

- In addition to the SWCD, local irrigation districts do not seem engaged with the partnership. Reviewers questioned why entities responsible for implementing portions of the work plan appear to not be engaged in the partnership, and noted that this oversite is a missed opportunity.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes
Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:

- Fish passage is an issue in the target watershed and is an appropriate focus.
- This is a clear and simple approach towards addressing a known issue in the watershed.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal lacks an examination of limiting factors at finer scale. The initiative proposes a broad approach, and appears to have no cohesive strategy that will lead to a larger ecological outcome.
- The proposal lacks sufficient detail to determine whether project prioritization and landowner outreach have been completed. It does not specify which barriers are being addressed, or their associated habitats and location in the system. Without these details, it is difficult to determine the potential outcomes to be achieved through this initiative and whether the approach will be successful.
- The proposal lacks detail on community outreach and landowner engagement. Many projects will require building trust with the community and landowners, which may be difficult in this watershed. Therefore, a more thorough outreach plan is needed.
- Fish passage is an issue in Little Butte Creek, yet the proposal did not discuss fish screening at water diversions.
- The proposal mentions restoring flow, but there are no restoration actions specifically related to flow in the work plan. In addition, there are no funds for water acquisition or leasing. It is unclear if the partnership is planning to include flow restoration actions.
- Additional work in this watershed may be difficult because the 'low hanging fruit' projects have been done. The proposal could have provided more assurances that projects are going to happen.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes
Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:
The proposal includes a good description of data collection, management, and reporting using field-based tablets.

CONCERNS:
- The description of baseline conditions is inadequate.
- The approach to effectiveness monitoring is lacking; it is unclear what data will be collected for fish passage and riparian health projects.
- The monitoring proposed does not easily inform adaptive management that may be necessary as the initiative is implemented.
- The proposed monitoring is unlikely to answer the overly broad hypotheses.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:
The proposal brings valuable planning tools to the process, including tools for small dam removal projects, prioritizing erosion mitigation projects, and instream flow prioritization.

CONCERNS:
- This area was identified as very important in the Upper Rogue Coho Business Planning process, but the proposal seems premature given the planning and analysis underway through that effort. It appears that project prioritization planning has not yet been completed.
- The proposal lacks a detailed analysis of limiting factors.
- There is sufficient data and information available for Little Butte Creek, but the proposal is too general and does not make reference to the data.
- While the proposal mentions valuable technical tools, it does not describe the result of the execution of these tools for the initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:
None

CONCERNS:

- The initial investment in stakeholder engagement seems appropriate, but there is no outreach plan to describe stakeholder engagement actions and approach.
- The stakeholder engagement funding may not be sufficient unless the match is secured. It is unclear if the match proposed is earmarked for the Little Butte watershed or if it is part of a larger initiative.
- The types of projects the partnership is proposing (e.g., dam removal) can be expensive. It is unclear whether enough funds are budgeted for restoration actions.
- There are no funds requested for water acquisition. Given that water quantity is a critical issue in this area, budget allocation for water acquisition projects would support the initiative goals.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
2. **Name of Partnership:** Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 220-8213-16488
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Dry-Type Forest Habitat, Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***

Core partners:

- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC)
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP)
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest (RRSNF)
- USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford (MBM)
- OSU Extension, Jackson/Josephine County (FNR)
- Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO)

By 2025: Ecological Outcomes:

1) By 2025, landscape resilience is improved by a shift toward the natural range of variability in seral structural states (Haugo et al. 2015) in fully-treated project areas (~50,000 acres) by protecting complex forest habitat and increasing the proportion of open dry-type forest habitat.

2) Wildfire risk to dry-type forest habitat, NSO habitat and local communities in planning units (~50,000 ac) where the Rogue Basin Strategy approach and tools are fully implemented, i.e. in the Upper Applegate, will be reduced from current levels by 50 percent.

By 2025: Social Outcomes:

3) Community support for forest restoration and reintroduction of beneficial fire is increased by 10% as evidenced in poll respondents' attitudes at a time-series of project-related community workshops.

4) Improve capacity for collaborative partners to plan and implement forest restoration projects consistent with the Rogue Basin Strategy.

5) Improve socioeconomic conditions and workforce capacity in the Rogue Basin by generating jobs and economic activity. Funding will be used for thinning and prescribed Fire conservation actions and to catalyze collaboration, support and capacity within the Rogue Basin.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$1,500,000	$944,250
Biennium 2	$2,700,000	$1,699,650
Biennium 3	$1,800,000	$1,133,100
Total	$6,000,000	$3,777,000

7. Overall Initiative Rating: High (-)
(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	High
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium (+)
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium (+)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium (+)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	High
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

8. Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:

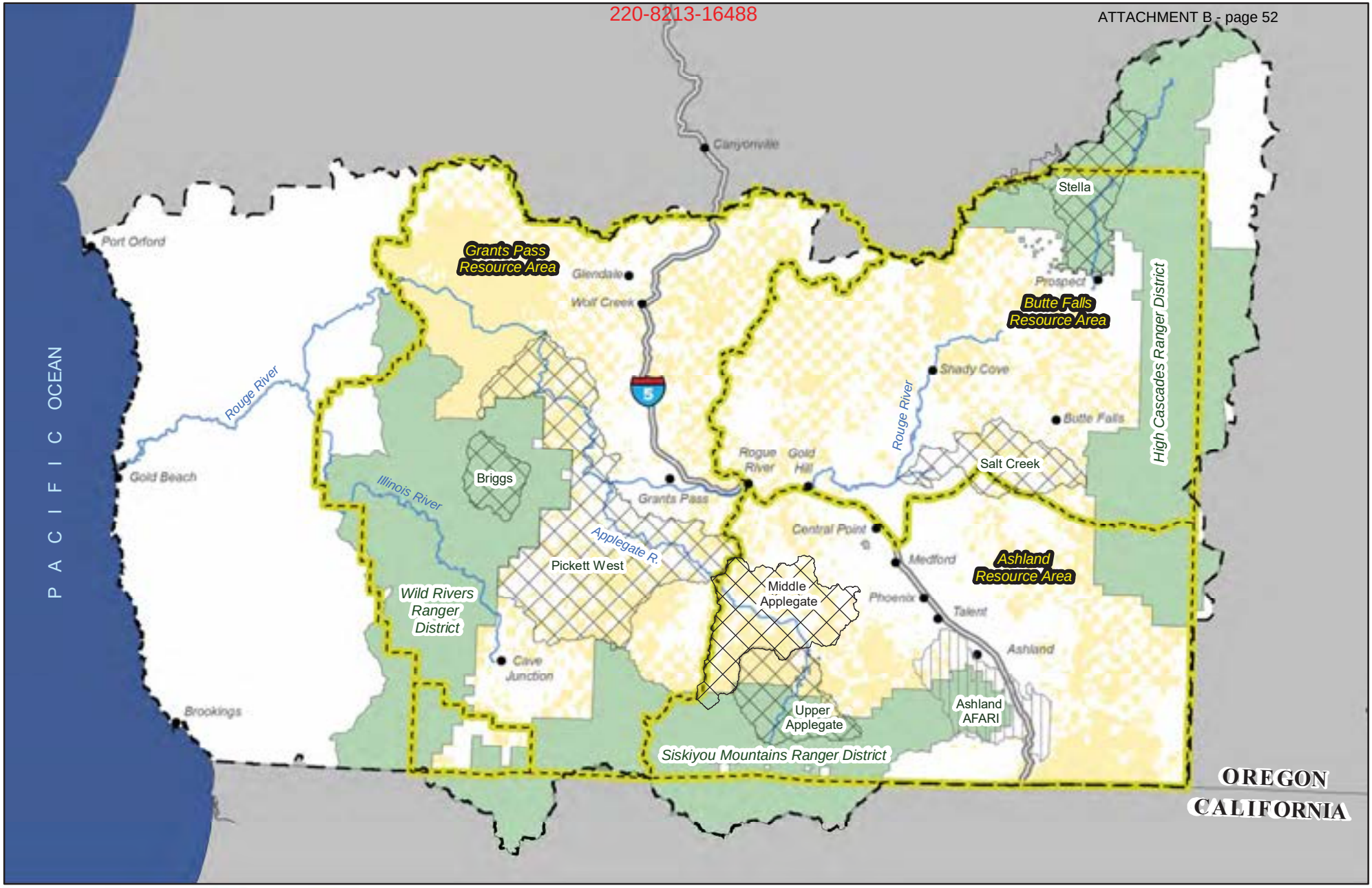
- Core members of the partnership are building off of the momentum generated through dry-forest restoration actions in the Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative.
- Dry-forest restoration is a critical issue in Southwest Oregon, and the partnership contains the right members to be successful in that region.
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for proposed actions on federal land is in various stages of completion; there are treatment projects that are currently 'NEPA-ready' for implementation.
- The initiative proposes to treat both federal and private land in the geography, with the majority of treatments occurring on federal land. This ratio of federal/private land treatments is an issue of concern.
- A Master Stewardship Agreement between the U.S. Forest Service and other initiative partners was signed the week of the subcommittee meeting. The details of this agreement are important for board members to understand, as the agreement helps set the context for how revenue generated through the sale of commercial materials to be reinvested in the initiative. Subcommittee members requested staff to follow up with partners in order to provide details in advance of the January board meeting. *Staff discussed the Master Stewardship Agreement with the partnership following the subcommittee meeting. The Master Stewardship Agreement is an enabling document for the partnership; Supplemental Project Agreements will be generated that describe*

the financial arrangements and will be tiered to the Master Stewardship Agreement. The U.S. Forest Service match included in the proposal includes both committed federal appropriations and a conservative estimate of anticipated stewardship revenue that is generated through these agreements.

9. Board Subcommittee Ranking: 4 out of 10

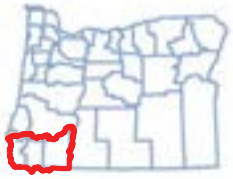
Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet



SOFRC

SOFRC GIS Unit
June 26, 2018, 0921 hrs



RBS Footprint and Oregon Counties

ADMINISTRATIVE FOREST MGMT BOUNDARIES
Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI)

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles
1:850,000 1 in = 13 miles
N

NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl

- RFRI Focus Area
- Ashland AFARI
- Rogue Basin Strategy Planning Footprint
- BLM Administrative Boundaries
- USFS Administrative Boundaries

Landowner
- BLM

FIP Priority Review: Dry-type Forest Habitat

Name of Initiative: Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

Name of Partnership: Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The initiative is well-founded in the peer-reviewed science, and the partnership did a good job in relating the proposed work to the 'Dry-type Forest Habitat' board-identified priority.
- The initiative is technically robust and grounded in local data and analysis.

CONCERNS:
While the proposed geography is located in high priority areas for forest restoration, there are several sub-watersheds listed in the proposed geography, which led to some confusion. A more refined focus may result in a greater ability to make meaningful impacts.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partners have forest restoration experience in this geography, and have had success in engaging the community around this complex issue.
- The partnership has demonstrated a remarkable ability to catalyze investments through federal programs.
- The partners have a long history of collaboration in various forms, with strong planning efforts in southern Oregon.

CONCERNS:

- The governance charter in the application appears to be developed specifically for the FIP proposal. Many aspects of the partnership governance seemed speculative; it is unclear what is actually in place and what will be implemented if the partnership receives FIP funding.
- The partners are not requesting capacity funding in the third biennium of the initiative. This may be a critical stage where important questions are being asked in the community, and it would be important to have funding for partnership coordination. The lack of capacity funding either requested from OWEB or provided as match in the third biennium brings into question the long-term sustainability of the partnership.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The implementation of forest restoration work in this area has been challenging, but mostly due to the complicated process involved. There is nothing that the partners have been doing incorrectly.
- It is unclear whether local businesses engaged in forest thinning operations may be involved in the proposed work, or if all the thinning contracts will go to a single entity.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has the correct entities involved, and the core partners have demonstrated their ability to work collaboratively on a challenging and complex topic.
- The partnership has developed excellent planning documents, which will be critical for implementing complex forest restoration work.
- The partnership has local credibility, which is an important consideration for potentially implementing work on federal land.

CONCERNS:

The partners have dramatically increased capacity in recent years to implement forest restoration work (e.g., in the Ashland forest); however, if this initiative is funded, similar capacity increases may be required.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- Dry-type forest restoration, through the implementation of forest thinning and prescribed fire, is a high ecological priority in this region.
- The partners have identified the number of target acres that are sufficient to make quantifiable progress towards forest restoration.
- Oak prairie and woodland restoration is an important aspect of the proposal and may provide additional interest in implementation, as there is community support for this type of work.

CONCERNS:

- The majority of this initiative is on federal land, and stewardship authority does not appear to have been granted. Stewardship authority would allow partners to re-invest in the project with the sale of commercial material generated through thinning. In other areas of the state, stewardship contracts have provided significant funding for forest restoration projects, which dramatically reduces the cost to grantors.
- There is confusion on how private parcels will be prioritized for restoration.
- It is not clear if the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process has been initiated or completed on the federal land included in the proposal. The NEPA process can be time-consuming, and may delay project implementation for a significant amount of time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Communication with landowners is reaching a tipping point where landowners are realizing that fire is a threat to their property and they need to do something about it. It would be helpful to demonstrate private landowner buy-in to the project to show that they are committed to the cause.
- Forest restoration in this part of the state is often on steep slopes, which are more expensive to work on. However, this may be balanced by access to the commercial market, which is comparatively high in this region.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership is utilizing the sound and proven monitoring approach that has been successful in the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration FIP initiative.
- The work plan clearly describes pre/post-project monitoring that will occur throughout the life of the initiative.
- The partnership includes the right entities to successfully track the progress of the initiative, with meaningful metrics that will guide the partnership in adaptive management measures.

CONCERNS:
The proposal describes multiple areas that are the focus of the initiative, one of which it does not appear restoration will occur (Stella). With such a wide geography, it may be difficult to track measurable progress towards reaching the proposed ecological outcomes, as opposed to a single distinct geography.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership intends to implement a technically robust initiative that is built on established science and planning tools.
- The focus on oak prairie and woodland restoration is important and fits well with regional planning efforts.

CONCERNS:

- It is unclear if the proposed treatment acres are identified specifically in the planning documents. A planning document cross-walk would have been helpful.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The match funding for stakeholder engagement in the first two biennia is impressive.
- Overall, the budget was thoughtful, with a good mix of proposed grant types found throughout the life of the initiative.

CONCERNS:

- As commercially viable material will likely be removed on federal land, the proposed restoration match appeared quite low for the proposed OWEB investment.
- Given the social complexity of forest restoration in the proposed area, it would be important to maintain a high level of stakeholder engagement throughout the initiative, including the third biennium.
- The requested monitoring funds may be low, particularly in the first biennium where baseline data would presumably be collected.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
While the match for stakeholder engagement in the first two biennia is high, it would be beneficial to understand how this fits into the project (i.e., is it secured funding for stakeholder engagement in the project area or does it entail work that has already been complete?).

1. **Name of Initiative:** Habitat Restoration for Oregon Coast Coho Recovery in the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Basins

2. **Name of Partnership:** Siuslaw Coho Partnership

3. **Application Number:** 220-8211-16486

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Coast

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application):*** This initiative builds off of more than two decades of collaboration among our partner members including: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Bureau of Land Management, Siuslaw National Forest, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the McKenzie River Trust.

   With implementation funding, the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) will (1) implement projects outlined in our initiative which will promote the conservation and recovery of Oregon Coast coho through voluntary habitat protection and restoration efforts; (2) build the capacity of the partnership; (3) provide technical assistance for project development; (4) allow us to engage with stakeholders for watershed restoration initiatives and (5) allow the SCP to monitor the effectiveness of our efforts.

   Our ecological outcomes include (1) an increase in the quantity and quality of summer and winter rearing habitats in the initiative geography sufficient to anchor population resilience and (2) a connected assemblage of diverse habitats sufficient to foster a broad expression of life-history strategies in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes Oregon Coast coho populations, an OWEB board-approved priority.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$4,000,000	$3,555,000
Biennium 2	$4,000,000	$5,045,000
Biennium 3	$4,000,000	$6,010,000
Total	**$12,000,000**	**$14,610,000**

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Medium (+)
   (see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	High (-)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High (-)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium (-)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium (+)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
   - The partnership is ripe and coho are a priority.
   - The partnership includes two Tribes who bring staff and expertise to the initiative.
   - The partnership provided strong responses to questions raised by the expert review panel relative to increasing instream complexity and long-term resilience of the system.
   - The monitoring plan includes Aquatic Inventory (AQI) metrics and rapid bio-assessment pre- and post-implementation to understand complexity; and the partnership is developing additional techniques to monitor instream complexity over time.
   - The number of proposed acquisitions in the initiative appears is large (17); however, landowner engagement efforts have begun, and it was noted that individual landowners own multiple parcels, which reduces the number of transactions.
   - Coastal lakes are culturally significant to the Tribes; coho populations in the lakes are some of the most viable in the ESU.
   - There is concern over non-native, warm water species in the coastal lakes; however, the removal of warm water species involves a regulatory approach that is not within the scope of the voluntary initiative. Instead, the focus is to offset the impact of non-native fish.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 6 out of 10

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

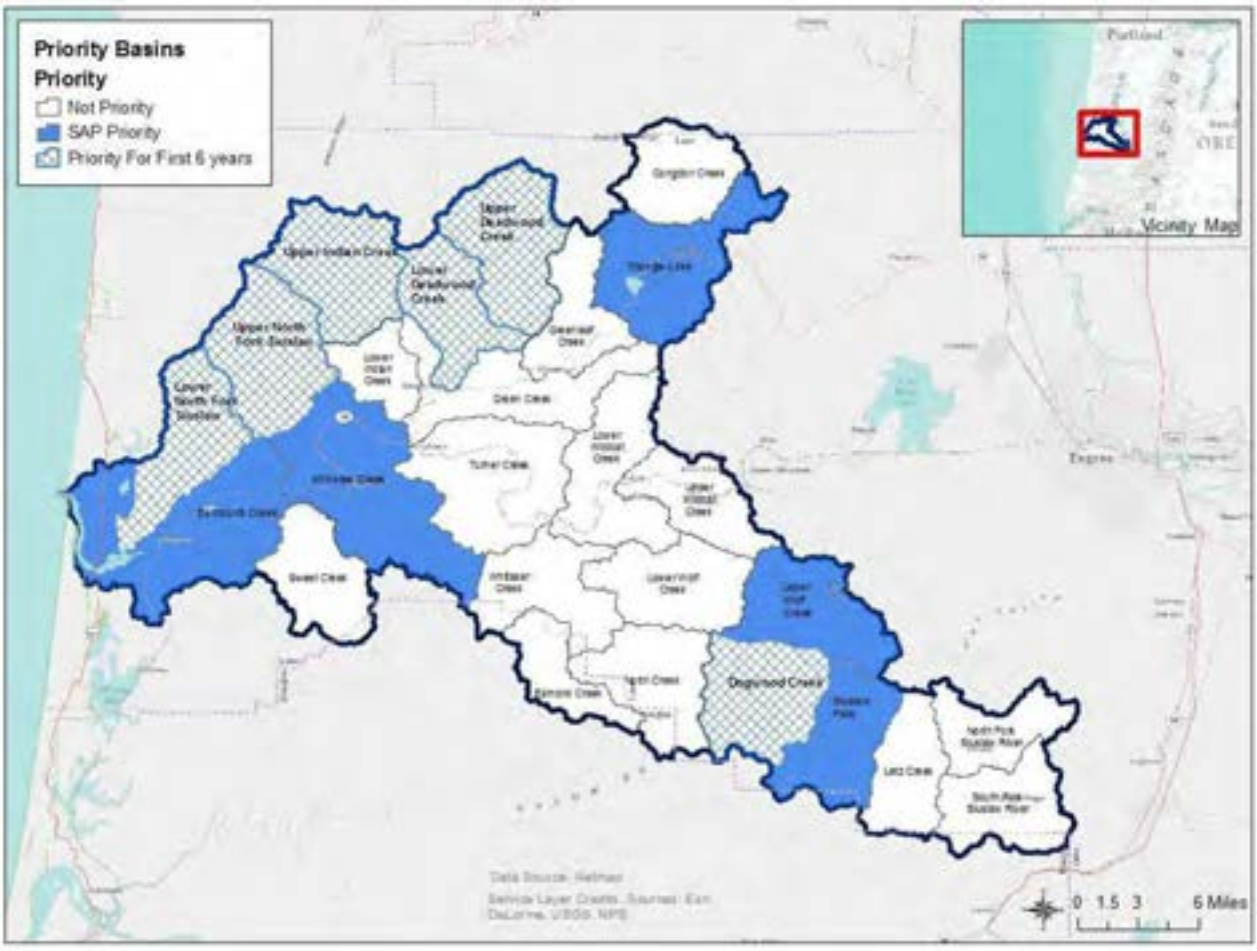


Figure 8-1. Priority sub-watersheds for restoration projects in the Siuslaw Basin.

Table 8-1 provides a summary of the area proposed for – or affected by – restoration projects in the priority sub-watersheds that the SCP selected as focus areas for restoration between 2018 and 2023. The numbers in the table represent the total of all of the objectives contained in this chapter. (Note the number in the goal statements represents the total length of channel, tributaries and mainstem that will be treated through one of the restoration strategies described in Chapter 7.) The goals do not equal the total of the objectives because some reaches receive multiple types of restoration.

FIP Priority Review: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast

Name of Initiative: Habitat Restoration for Oregon Coast Coho Recovery in the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Basins

Name of Partnership: Siuslaw Coho Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The geography is manageable in size and can accomplish a significant amount of restoration needed for initiative and Oregon Coast (OC) Coho recovery.
- Delisting OC Coho is a high priority for the state. The OC Coho Evolutionary Significant Unit (ESU) is entirely within Oregon. Implementing this initiative would be an important step in on-the-ground restoration in a high priority location, with an established partnership.
- The proposal refers to state and federal recovery plans and addresses limiting factors.
- The proposal shows an understanding of limiting factors, including water quality. The proposal includes a strong strategy of applying limiting factors at the subwatershed scale, as opposed to only looking at the larger population limiting factors.
- The project prioritization and decision-making processes are carefully designed and data driven.
- The proposal provides a strong statement of strategies and how those strategies relate to outcomes.
- Measures of success are based on baseline data that is already available.

CONCERNS:

- The Strategic Action Plan drills down into specific subwatersheds in order to better demonstrate success; this might mute the impact at the population scale.
- The coastal lakes component of the initiative does not accurately align with limiting factors based on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) recovery plan, which includes non-native fish. The proposal mentions non-native fish, but does not identify actions to address the issue. It is unclear why the Coastal Lakes geography was included in the proposal and what percentage of the overall request would be allocated to this geography.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates that the partnership has worked well together over a long period. There is a high level of confidence that the partnership will get the work done and find ways, through their governance structure, to allocate resources.
- The proposal demonstrates deep thinking into subwatershed prioritization, and a good decision-making process and rationale for prioritization.
- The partnership has a capable, designated leader in the watershed council.
- The MOU provides great detail and description of how partnership decisions are made, including the process for bringing in new partners.
- Partners have deep knowledge of public and private funding sources and have a great ability to catalyze funding.
- The partnership has already completed its communication plan.

CONCERNS:

- Communication and stakeholder engagement outside of those associated with implementation activities are not included in the work plan or budget. It is unclear if the partnership has sufficient capacity and funding to implement the communication plan.
- Proposed funding is focused on implementation and may not provide sufficient resources to manage and coordinate the partnership.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates that the partnership has worked together for decades and there are long-standing relationships between partners.
- The watershed council has a history of bringing divergent groups together in the watershed to address controversial topics.
- The partnership developed a formal governance structure through the Development FIP program.

CONCERNS:
The partnership could benefit from hiring staff or an outside consultant to provide coordination and leadership for the partnership. Capacity funding should be used to provide staff assistance to the watershed council.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- While the proposal may not fully articulate the connection between actions and outcomes, the restoration actions detailed in the work plan provide an excellent strategy to address watershed processes and promote life history diversity. The strategy includes robust outputs that are likely to result in measurable ecological outcomes.
- The proposed wetland acquisition and floodplain reconnection projects promote life history diversity and may provide resiliency.
- Large wood placement is often a functional, temporal activity that does not necessarily equate to channel complexity. Large wood recruitment has historically been a challenge in coastal systems; however, the proposal describes an anchor habitat approach for wood placement, which prioritizes where large wood is most likely to promote flood plain interaction and increase instream complexity. Wood placement is also targeted at late-successional reserves for future large wood recruitment.
- The action plan emphasizes floodplain reconnection, much of which is tidal, and provides a balance of protection activities through upland acquisitions.
- The targeted 6th field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) scale approach taken by the partnership is likely to result in measureable impact.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal and action plan does not define resilience or instream complexity.
- The North Fork, part of the initiative focus area, includes new acquisitions and tidal restoration identified in the recent landward migration work completed as a priority for mitigating sea level rise; however, the proposal did not elaborate on climate change as the reason for including the North Fork in the focus area. In particular, there could have been emphasis on how the proposed projects in this area could play a role with the various sea level rise scenarios.
- The action plan does not address the primary limiting factor in the coastal lakes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
There was a lack of consensus among reviewers on the topic of large wood placement as a restoration strategy and whether it would increase instream complexity. It was noted that the anchor habitat approach prioritizes where large wood is most likely to promote floodplain interaction and support multiple life stages; however, the addition of large wood alone may not result in increased channel complexity.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The monitoring framework is strong, and restoration implemented at the subwatershed scale is well-described. The partners recognize that ODFW data is available to utilize in their initiative.
- The proposal clearly describes how strategies will lead to measureable progress.
- Based on the budget and description, the monitoring proposed is robust. It includes thermal barriers and thermistor deployment and is habitat focused.

CONCERNS:

- Monitoring is at the project implementation level and does not monitor program-level objectives. While it is difficult to directly link restoration actions to increased fish life history diversity and population viability, the monitoring of objectives and the link to fish benefits were not well-described. The biological monitoring for fish is missing from the framework.
- The proposal does not define stream channel complexity, which will make progress toward increasing complexity difficult to measure.
- Sediment monitoring could have been better tied to the proposed restoration approach.
- It is unclear if the partnership has the capacity to complete the proposed monitoring.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The review team discussed the challenge of trying to link restoration actions to ecological outcomes in a measurable, meaningful way. Reviewers noted that there is a consistent reluctance of local planning groups to tie their restoration results to fish because there are so many variables beyond their control, such as commercial harvest and ocean conditions.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The prioritization exercise was a rigorous, data-driven process that aligns with limiting factors.
- The 6th field HUC scale is strategic, manageable, and identifies specific needs within each watershed.
- The stronghold and anchor habitat approach makes protection a priority rather than only working in degraded areas.
- The work plan was well-developed and logical with useful maps that illustrated where projects have been completed and where future work is planned.
- The landowner engagement and economic development components of the work plan are sound.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal describes fairly strong targets for temperature and wood, but lacks ~~of~~ discussion and definitions for resilience, fish life history diversity, complexity, and how they would be measured.
- Inclusion of the coastal lakes is not well-aligned with the limiting factors and may not be a good approach for achieving goals.
- The climate change analysis could be stronger with a more explicit acknowledgement of how the partnership will deal with future climate change impacts to the system.
- The distribution of priority watersheds may limit benefits to fish life history diversity. The proposal seems more focused on species abundance.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:
The proposal budget is distributed well over the various budget categories.

CONCERNS:
This proposal is requesting the maximum budget amount, which may not be necessary if the coastal lakes portion of the proposal is omitted.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The budget for stakeholder engagement appears low given the extensive landowner engagement in the proposal; however, the budget may be adequate given the large amount of proposed match.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Wallowa North Forest Health Initiative

2. **Name of Partnership:** Wallowa Forest Health Partnership

3. **Application Number:** 220-8214-16489

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Dry-Type Forest Habitat

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***
   The core partners in the Wallowa Forest Health Partnership (Partnership) include the Wallowa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Natural Resources Conservation Service Enterprise Field Office (NRCS), and the Oregon Department of Forestry-Wallowa Unit (ODF). The Partnership is applying for OWEB FIP funding to take a cohesive approach to improve the ecological state of the dry-type forests in the Wallowa North Project Area, while improving fish and wildlife habitat. The Partnership will also increase the public's knowledge on various forest health issues threatening Wallowa North, restoration actions that can be taken to mitigate those foreseeable and already existing issues, post treatment management options to then maintain healthy forests, and utilizing fire as a management tool. Funding will be used to inventory the current conditions on individual landowners' properties, to implement on-the-ground restoration work, and to educate the landowners and community members. All restoration actions will address the existing detrimental state that our forests are currently in, reduce the threat of future large scale catastrophic fires and disease and insect infestations, and increase the knowledge of our local communities so we all can continue the work together to return our forests to an ecologically stable and healthy environment.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	**OWEB Funding Request**	**Estimated Match**
Biennium 1	$515,750	$193,350
Biennium 2	$897,650	$297,600
Biennium 3	$924,750	$1,323,300
Total	$2,338,150	$1,814,250

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Low (+)
   (see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	Medium (-)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Low (+)
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Low
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Low (+)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Low (+)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Low
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

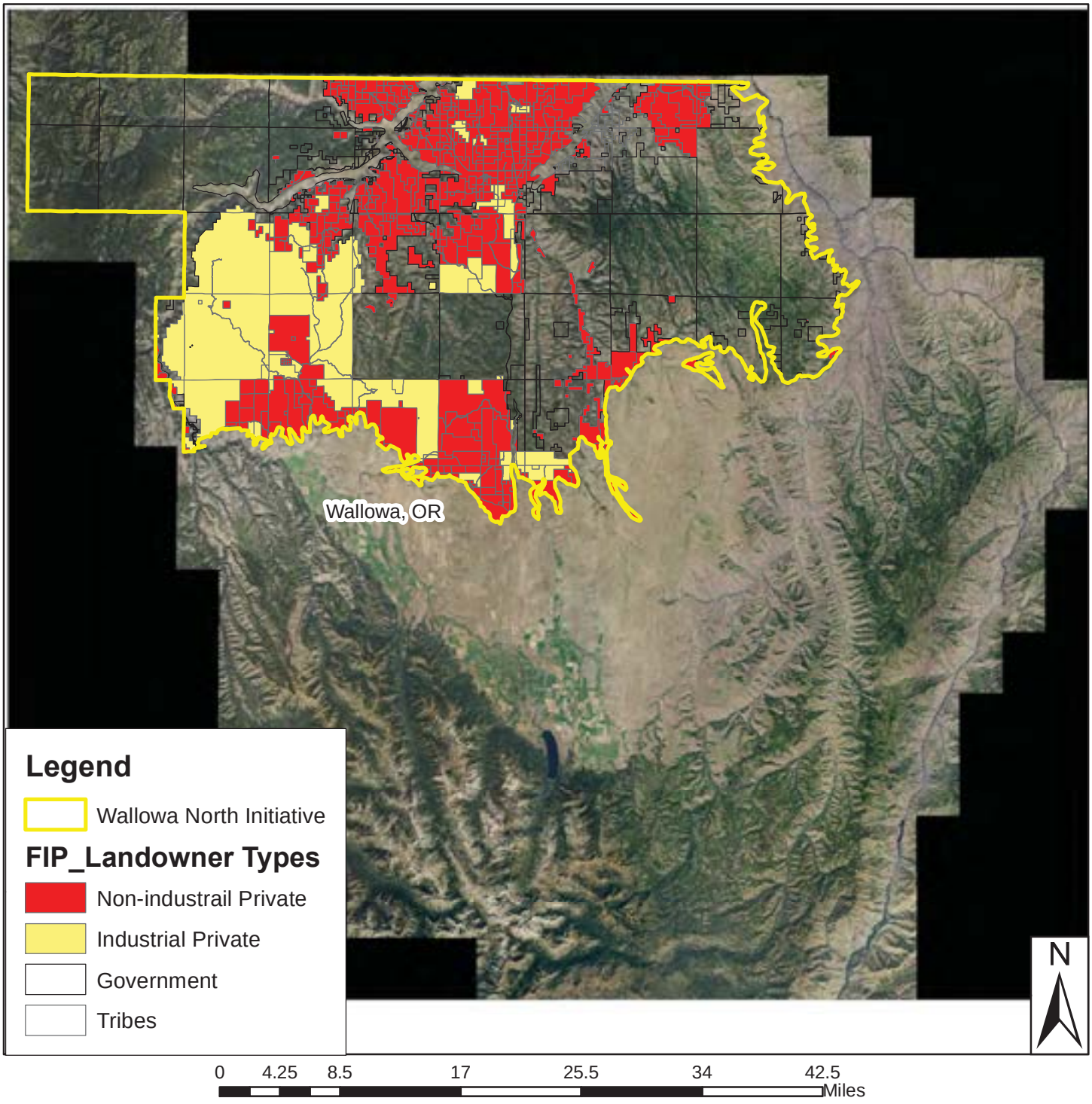
8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
   - There is concern over the extent to which the initiative effectively addresses the 'Dry-Type Forest Habitat' priority and resulting ecological outcomes. The initiative does not include a strong wildlife habitat conservation component.
   - The partnership is strong, but is lacking key entities that could enhance their skillset, including the U.S. Forest Service, which is engaged in forest restoration efforts within the proposed geography and tribes that have a keen interest in this part of the state.
   - Prescription fire may provide the most ecological benefit in this landscape, yet considerable forest thinning of trees with low commercial value needs to occur before prescribed burning is realistic at a large scale.
   - The requested funding is low for a FIP initiative, but the partnership appears effective at implementing projects efficiently.
   - 'Good Neighbor Authority' projects on federal land may be an option to consider for the partnership.
   - The partnership appears ripe for submitting a landscape-scale restoration project through OWEB's Open Solicitation grant program.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 9 (tie) of 10.

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Wallowa North Forest Health Initiative



FIP Priority Review: Dry-type Forest Habitat

Name of Initiative: Wallowa North Forest Health Initiative

Name of Partnership: Wallowa Forest Health Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership is implementing forest restoration work in the area, and is knowledgeable about what actions are necessary for the forest.
- The partners are skilled at engaging landowners and the broader community.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal lacks details in background information and how the initiative is tied to the foundational scientific literature.
- The rationale for forest restoration in this area, and not in other locations, is not well described in the proposal.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: Low (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partners have experience working in the community, and have clearly engaged landowners in forest restoration and other conservation efforts.
- The partnership has the ability to continue progress in landowner outreach through a variety of approaches.

CONCERNS:

- There are other entities engaged in forest restoration on adjacent projects (e.g., U.S. Forest Service) that are not included in the initiative. This is an important omission, as federal land is found throughout the project area.
- It is not clear where additional investments would come from, and it appeared that the leveraged funding would only be sought if a FIP were secured.
- The partnership did not attach any formal governance documents.
- The partnership budget for capacity building across the biennia appears to be low. It is important for partnerships to maintain capacity when implementing complex, landscape restoration work.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

The partnership should consider applying for funding through OWEB's Open Solicitation program to support individual projects, particularly if it can be tied to a strategic approach to restoration in their area.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership

Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:

Partners have been working together, at least informally, for many years. The partnership's approach appears to work well in the community.

CONCERNS:

- The decision-making process for the partnership appears informal and lacks detail.
- The partnership appears to be loosely organized, and not ready for a multiple-year investment.
- The partnership may be missing key entities, for example the U.S. Forest Service. Concerns noted in (b) above apply here as well (e.g., missing partners and loosely organized partnership).

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes

Rating: Low (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has a good track record of successfully engaging landowners and implementing projects.
- The proposal offers promise that the partners are headed in the right direction, as the actions that are proposed are what are needed in the initiative's geography.

CONCERNS:

- Improving fish and wildlife habitat is mentioned as a goal in the initiative, but it is not clear how the goal links to the actions listed.
- It is not clear if project prioritization has occurred, or if the partnership is looking for willing landowners.
- The proposal does not describe agreements with existing landowners, and it may be difficult to recruit adjacent landowners willing to allow prescribed fire at a landscape scale.
- The partnership referenced a previous project (Wallowa Front), but did not describe the outcomes of the project, lessons learned, nor how the partners have utilized adaptive management in response to those lessons.
- While working with private landowners is important, the initiative should include federal land in order to achieve landscape scale restoration.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes

Rating: Low (+)

STRENGTHS:

The partnership is making efforts to track the necessary metrics.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal is lacking quantifiable figures that would demonstrate the ecological trajectory of the initiative. The monitoring proposed is a minimal approach towards tracking outcomes.
- The hypotheses included in the proposal are vague; there appears to be ample room for further thought and development.
- The proposal lacks details related to tracking increased wildlife habitat and prescribed burn results.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: Low

STRENGTHS:
The proposal indicates that the partners are heading in the right direction in utilizing scientific and planning tools. The Oregon Conservation Strategy is a relevant document to reference.

CONCERNS:

- The literature cited in the proposal is lacking in the latest science related to thinning and use of prescribed fire in Eastern Oregon.
- Relevant planning tools are not expressed well in the proposal.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:
The ratio of restoration grants to other grant types appears to be correct.

CONCERNS:
The monitoring request is low, particularly if baseline conditions need to be established.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

2. **Name of Partnership:** Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

3. **Application Number:** 220-8215-16490

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

5. **Initiative Abstract *(from the application)***

The Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership (WBAHP) is comprised of six organizations including the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lakeview SWCD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The WBAHP is focused on improving fish passage and habitat for Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout, the two focal fish species inhabiting the Warner Basin tributaries included in the Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative (Initiative). The WBAHP has identified fish passage and habitat concerns, and has developed productive relationships with landowners and irrigation districts in the basin. Implementation funding will be used for project engineering, permitting, and construction of fish passage, screening, and habitat improvement projects.

The Initiative will invest in restoration projects in the Warner Lakes, identified by OWEB as a highest priority basin of the Focused Invest Priority for Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. The Initiative will achieve USFWS (1998) recovery criteria for Warner sucker by restoring fish passage and habitat among the three focal tributaries in the basin. Reconnecting individual populations will restore a self-sustaining metapopulation among the three tributaries and the Warner Lakes.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	$2,000,000	$597,500
Biennium 2	$2,006,000	$520,750
Biennium 3	$1,857,000	$497,000
Total	$5,863,000	$1,615,250

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:** Medium
(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	High (-)
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High (-)
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium (-)
D) Potential for progress toward measureable ecological outcomes	Medium
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium (-)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)

8. **Board Subcommittee Discussion Summary:**
    - The partners have been working together closely and effectively for many years. The partnership created an MOU to formalize its structure and decision-making process since their proposal was submitted in June 2018.
    - Habitat connectivity is identified as the primary limiting factor to delisting in the Warner sucker recovery plan. The initiative focuses on fish passage and screening and would address all remaining diversion barriers in the Warner sucker habitat range.
    - The partnership's strategic action plan includes an approach to addressing water efficiency in the future, targeting 2025 for ramping up related restoration actions. Habitat connectivity is a necessary first step before the partnership can address water savings. Restoration treatments at diversion structures are designed to equip that infrastructure for water efficiency improvements in the future.
    - The partners have landowner commitments in place at each diversion structure and projects are ready for implementation given the required funding.
    - Fish passage will provide connectivity to some stream reaches with high quality habitat; other stream reaches will benefit from future habitat restoration. Fish passage will provide connectivity to Warner Lakes, which are important habitat for the Warner sucker.
    - The partnership has done outreach to the tribal interests in the basin and there is a standing invitation for tribal engagement.
    - The partnership's leveraged funding has tripled since their proposal was developed.
    - Delisting of the Warner sucker is attainable and within reach. Delisting would be a significant accomplishment for the state of Oregon.

9. **Board Subcommittee Ranking:** 3 of 10.

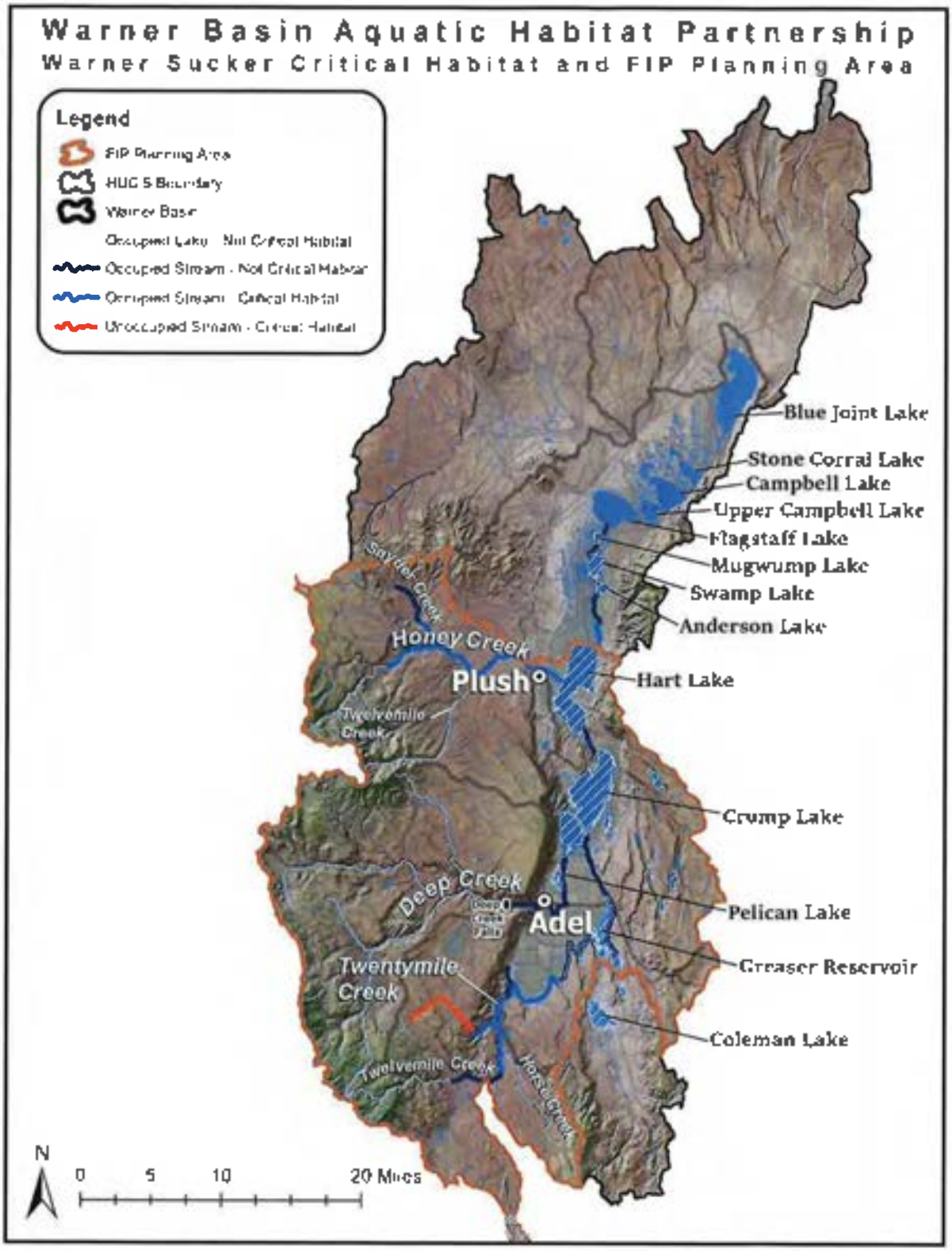


Figure 1. The Warner Basin and the FIP Initiative planning area. Warner sucker designated critical habitat, the local tributaries, and the Warner Lakes are also highlighted.

FIP Priority Review: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Name of Initiative: Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

Name of Partnership: Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The Warner Basin sucker is within reach of delisting. It would be a major accomplishment for the state if this species is able to be delisted.
- The application does a nice job of tying the initiative to the limiting factors and restoration actions in the recovery plan, such as fish passage and invasive species.
- Fish passage is also critical for Warner Basin redband trout.

CONCERNS:
None.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
The current USFWS recovery plan criteria do not include water quantity/availability. If in the future those criteria are updated to include consideration of water quantity/availability then the partnership should consider incorporating that information into its strategic planning.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership is firmly engaged in the community and has done extensive outreach and built working relationships with landowners in the area.
- Despite having strong landowner and community engagement, the partnership is using a consultant to help further develop their outreach efforts and strengthen relationships.
- The partnership has strong experience and understanding working with the irrigation districts in the area.
- The partnership is taking an approach to adaptive management that incorporates input from landowners to assess how projects are performing and impacting landowners.
- The application does not over-inflate match needs and the partnership is being realistic about funding needs.
- The application presents a pragmatic approach to conducting this work in a rural area.

CONCERNS:
There is minimal leverage funding, with a relatively high proportion of what is available as in-kind contributions from the partners.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:
- The partnership includes a closely knit group of the right partners for successful implementation.
- The partners have a strong working history of successfully engaging the community, planning for and implementing projects throughout the geography.

CONCERNS:
- The partnership has a heavy reliance on specific individuals as partners. Turnover could be an issue for the partnership in losing institutional knowledge and working relationships.
- The application does not mention the involvement or role of any tribes in the work being proposed.
- The partnership does not have a formal decision making process, but has demonstrated a successful and effective process for many years. There is some concern that resolving any future issues could be challenging in the absence of formal governance documents, and the development of formal governance documents (e.g. MOU) could greatly benefit the partnership. However, a small partnership with a strong and extensive working history in this region may be able to overcome future issues without such formal documents.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Though formality is missing from this partnership, the structure and operating norms are appropriate for this rural community.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measureable ecological outcomes
Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:
- The initiative is focused in both restoration strategies and geography.
- Habitat connectivity is a key limiting factor to recovery, and fish passage is the primary restoration strategy in the initiative. Without fish passage, other restoration actions in the basin provide far less value.

- The partners will modify the operation of fish screens to meet the needs of landowners/irrigators who are also partners in the projects. The suite of proposed makes sense for treating diversions.
- The partners have developed strong relationships with landowners through longstanding and extensive outreach efforts. This makes collaborating with landowners on restoration actions and monitoring projects feasible to implement.

CONCERNS:

- The focus on fish passage is important as connectivity is the primary limiting factor, but fish passage may not be enough to accomplish the partnership's restoration goals.
- The invasive species management plan is an important component for recovery; however, the description of plan development and content is lacking in details in the application.
- Although the recovery plan does not address water quantity, this is a known limiting factor to recovery. Water quantity is lightly mentioned in the application, but the application does not provide any indication of how it might be addressed either in this initiative or in the future. The application does not address potential threats to expanding habitat for invasive species by enhancing connectivity through fish passage improvements.
- The application briefly mentions enhancements to riparian and land use practices, but does not discuss any restoration efforts for these purposes in detail. It's unclear what actions relating to riparian and land use practices might be included and how they have been strategized by the partnership.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

There are popular sport fishing species present in the system, including crappie.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes

Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposed project level monitoring is sound.
- Partnerships have been key to monitoring work in the basin, and ODFW has been a key partner in monitoring in the basin to date and moving forward.

CONCERNS:

- While project level monitoring is clear, the initiative's programmatic monitoring is unclear. The application does not describe how project level monitoring will be translated into progress and adaptive management at the initiative level. It is unclear how the partnership will track the collective efforts of individual projects toward delisting criteria of the Warner sucker.

- Discussions of adaptive management in the application are focused on project design and not the restoration strategy at the programmatic level.
- Monitoring in the basin could incorporate other parameters, such as streamflow and fish habitat.
- The application does not describe how many miles of habitat would be opened as a result of the fish passage projects.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Water use should be gaged in conjunction with screening efforts. The local watermaster may be interested in working with the partnership in this regard.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative
Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:
- The application features focused restoration goals.
- The partnership is considering conservation actions over a 25 year timeframe.
- The partnership is treating all diversions in the initiative geography. This will increase resiliency throughout the basin.

CONCERNS:
The Work Plan is basic and lacking detail, including what type of fish passage approaches will be selected for various project sites. The application does articulate engineering, permitting, and restoration needs.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
None.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.
Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:
- The budget is appropriate for what the partnership is planning to do in the initiative.
- The budget does not require much funding allocated to Stakeholder Engagement because the partners already have strong landowner relationships in place.

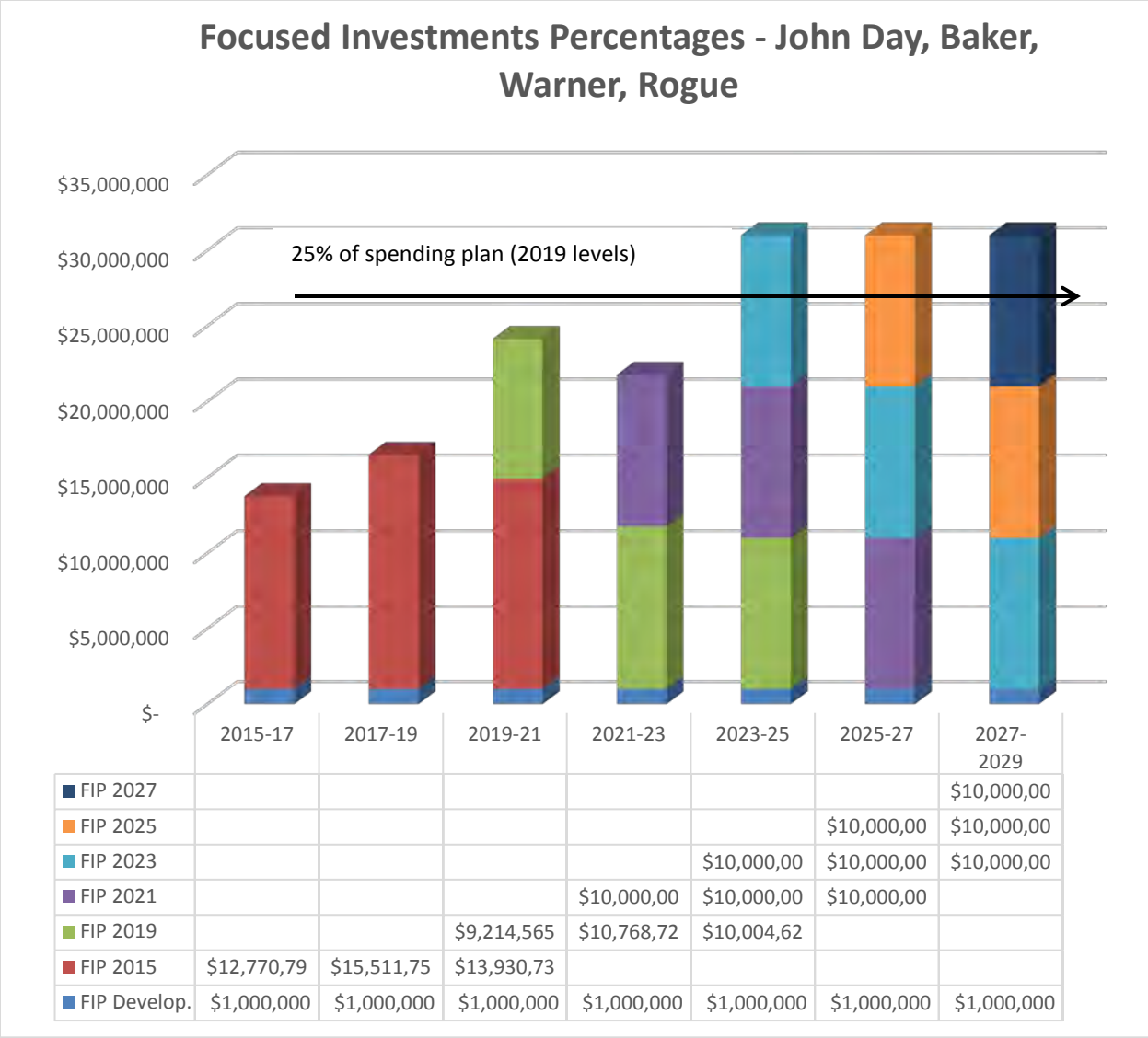
CONCERNS:
The monitoring budget allocations appear high compared to limited details in the application.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:
Water acquisition funding would benefit the goals of the initiative.

2018 FIP Subcommittee Ranking & Funding Recommendations

Preliminary Subcommittee Score	Final Ranking	Proposed Initiative	OWEB Board-identified FIP Priority	Expert Review Rating	Requested 2019-2021 FIP Funding	Cumulative Funding Recommendation
5	1	**John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative**	Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	High (-)	$4,000,000	$4,000,000
8	2	**Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction**	Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat	High (-)	$1,714,565	$5,714,565
21	3	**Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative**	Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	Medium	$2,000,000	$7,714,565
16	4	**Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative**	Dry-type Forest Habitat, Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat	High (-)	$1,500,000	$9,214,565
19	5	**Clackamas Partnership Restoration for Native Fish Recovery**	Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	Medium (+)	$3,454,580	$12,669,145
20	6	**Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Basin Habitat Restoration for Oregon Coast Coho Recovery**	Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Coast	Medium (+)	$4,000,000	$16,669,145
23	7	**North Santiam Aquatic Habitat Restoration**	Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	Medium	$2,526,068	$19,195,213
32	8	**Central Coast Estuary Conservation & Restoration**	Coastal Estuaries	Medium (-)	$2,406,700	$21,601,913
38	9	**Rogue Basin Partnership Little Butte Creek Watershed Initiative**	Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Coast	Low (+)	$1,428,403	$23,030,316
38	9	**Wallowa North Forest Health Initiative**	Dry-type Forest Habitat	Low (+)	$515,750	$23,546,066

**Initiatives in gray are recommended for funding by the OWEB Board FIP Subcommittee*



	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-2029
FIP 2027							$10,000,00
FIP 2025						$10,000,00	$10,000,00
FIP 2023					$10,000,00	$10,000,00	$10,000,00
FIP 2021				$10,000,00	$10,000,00	$10,000,00	
FIP 2019			$9,214,565	$10,768,72	$10,004,62		
FIP 2015	$12,770,79	$15,511,75	$13,930,73				
FIP Develop.	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item O-2 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O-2 – Implementation FIPs Kick-Off Funding
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the Implementation Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) pre-board award activities that will occur between January and July 2019, and requests funds to be delegated to the Executive Director for future awards.

II. Background

At the January 2019 board meeting the board will select the 2019-2021 Implementation FIPs; however, the board will not award funding to those FIPs until July 2019. This six month period between selection and funding was built into the award cycle based on lessons learned from the initial round of Implementation FIP awards in 2015-2017. This period will allow the partners to work with OWEB staff to prepare for the launch of the initiative in July 2019, after the board award.

III. Partnership Capacity

Staff experience working with the current Implementation and Development FIPs, and lessons learned from the Partnership Learning Project, have demonstrated the importance of covering the costs of partnership coordination and facilitation. FIP grantees are using OWEB grant funds to support partnership participation in planning and coordination activities as well as facilitation, when needed. These costs are ongoing throughout the lifecycle of a partnership, and are critical to the long-term success of the initiative.

With these lessons learned in mind, OWEB staff propose to provide small grants (not to exceed $12,000) to each of the newly selected Implementation FIPs to cover specific activities which are necessary to occur prior to Implementation FIP funding being awarded in January 2019 and the launch of the initiatives in July 2019. The activities include:

1. Participation in a Kick-Off Meeting in the spring of 2019. The purpose of this meeting is to bring all partnerships together to discuss the FIP program, answer questions, and begin the development of the partnership agreement. Some pre-implementation funding will pay for partnership travel, per diem, and time to participate in this meeting.

2. Work with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to review the partnership's strategic action plan and initiative work plan and translate that information into a results chain model, and develop a theory of change concept for the initiative.
3. Work with OWEB staff to develop partnership agreements and work on the details of the project-level application review process. The importance of developing this process early and clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of all parties was one lesson learned from the initial Implementation FIPs. Funds will pay for partners to meet and work with OWEB staff to develop the details of the process.

IV. Recommendation

Staff requests that the board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to enter into agreements with an award date of January 16, 2019, with selected 2019-2021 Implementation FIPs to cover OWEB-required activities that commence prior to July 2019, in an amount not to exceed $48,000, to be taken from the Development FIP line item in the spending plan.

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Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 (see strategic plan for verbiage).

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Spending Plan
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on the timeline for approval of the 2019-2021 spending plan, and requests the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. Staff also request feedback to determine if there is interest in new spending plan line items, or questions about current line items, to be addressed at the April board meeting.

II. Second Item

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.

III. 2019-21 Spending 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 January 2019, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for the overall spending plan budget categories.
- Between the January and April meetings, staff, in consultation with subcommittees as needed, will discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In April 2019, staff will present each of the line items within each category and propose an investment amount for each line based on the overall percentages

indicated by the board in January. The board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.

- In July 2019, staff will present 2019-21 spending plan recommendations for board approval.
- In July 2020, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, similar to the approval at the 2018 July board meeting.

IV. Spending Plan Percentages

Attachment B to the staff report provides an initial recommendation of percentages for board consideration to allocate funds between the Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity and Other categories.

As referenced in the Executive Director's Update: Budget and Legislative (agenda Item E-3), the revenue forecast for General and Lottery funds was updated in November. Based on the forecast, it is estimated that the 2019-21 spending plan will be $106.8 million in the first year, with an additional $6.9 million available in year two based on successful receipt of PCSRF funding. Percentages are provided based on those numbers, which will be updated again in May, prior to the board's final funding decision in July.

At the board's October, 2018 meeting, members discussed funding amounts for the Focused Investment Partnership program implementation initiatives. This information will be discussed during the 2019-2021 Implementation Focused Investment Partnership Selections (agenda Item O-1), prior to the spending plan discussion. Based on this discussion staff will provide updated percentages for the board.

V. Spending Plan Categories

Attachment A contains the current spending plan for the board to review in considering whether new line items are warranted or to highlight questions for staff response at the April board meeting. Attachment C provides a brief description of each spending plate category.

VI. Recommendation

Because actual budget figures will change based on future Lottery revenue forecasts, staff will not be requesting official approval of spending plan category percentages at the January meeting. Staff is requesting feedback on any recommendations for new spending plan line items or line items the board would like to receive additional information about at the April board meeting.

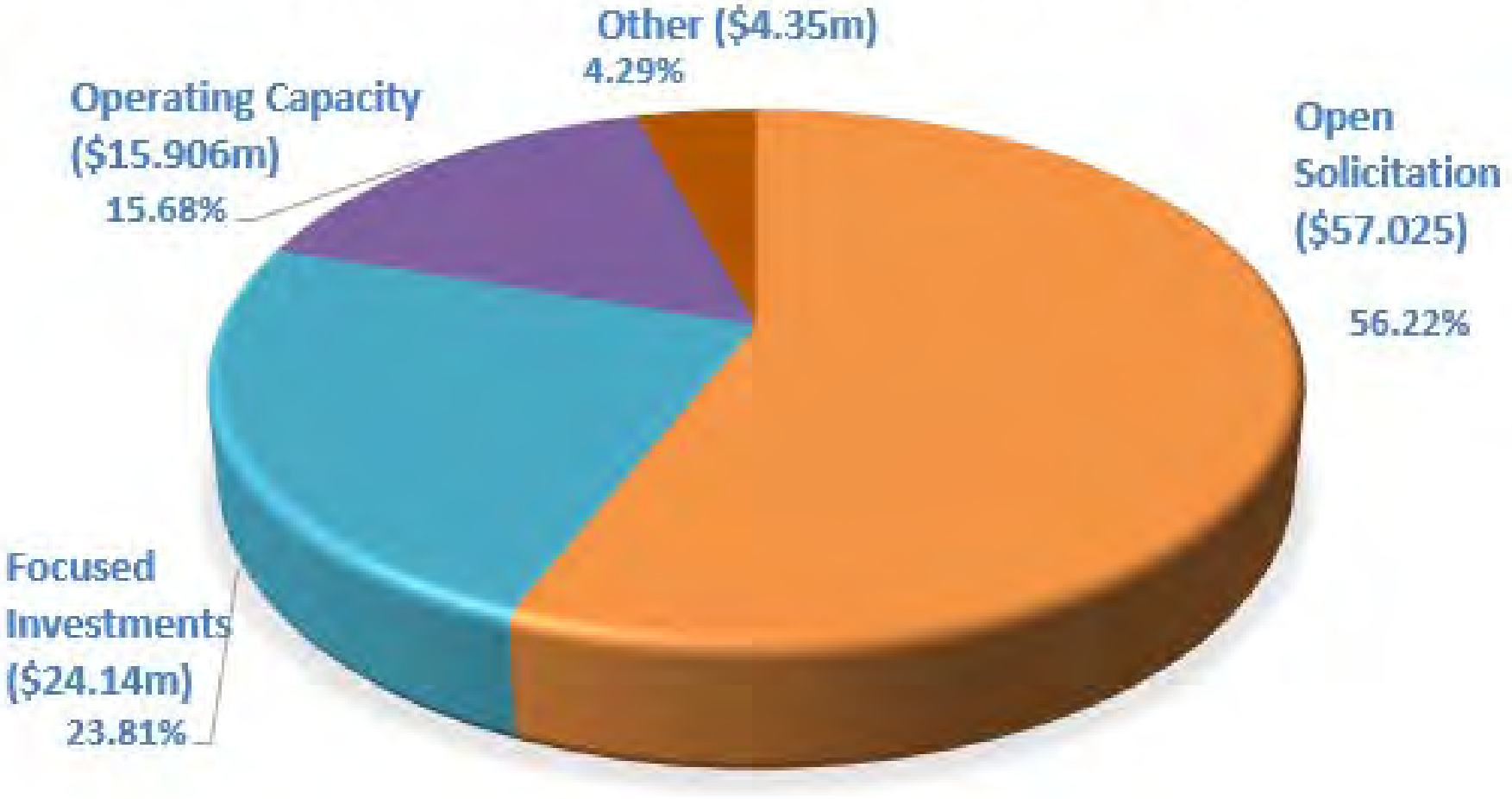
Attachments

A. Spending Plan
B. Proposed Percentages for 2019-21 Spending Plan
C. Spending Plan Category Summaries

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the January Board Meeting

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Jan 19 additions	Spending Plan as of Jan 2019	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards	Jan 2019 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Jan 2019 awards
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)		33.000	25.032	7.968		7.968
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA		4.000	2.636	1.364		1.364
5	CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds)		1.435	1.435	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement		0.700	0.632	0.068		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	0.200	0.831
14	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**60.472**	**45.005**	**15.467**	**0.200**	**15.267**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**62.43%**				
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	0.344	0.234
24	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
25	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**17.427**	**16.849**	**0.578**	**0.344**	**0.234**
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		0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
30	Organizational Collaborative Grants		0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
31	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**15.498**	**15.498**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**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		1.011	1.011	0.000		0.000
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**	**3.461**	**3.461**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**3.57%**				
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**0.000**	**96.858**	**80.813**	**16.045**	**0.544**	**15.501**
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	0.250	0.250	0.000	0.250	0.250	0.000
47	**TOTAL**	**0.250**	**12.404**	**12.154**	**0.250**	**0.250**	**0.000**
48	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**0.250**	**109.262**	**92.967**	**16.295**	**0.794**	**15.501**

SPENDING PLAN PERCENTAGES - 4 FIPS



Spending Plan Category Summaries

Open Solicitation - Restoration

Restoration grants are OWEB's primary method of delivering support for watershed projects that restore watershed functions. Restoration grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Restoration grants provide assistance to landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board.

Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at $75,000 per grant. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination and permitting.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost-Share Payments and Technical Assistance

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement funds are invested through local grantees to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefits of a specific eligible restoration or acquisition project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography. Eligible projects are focused on a specific project site or sites, or that support resource assessment and planning that results in identification of a specific project site or sites; and will lead to eligible restoration or acquisition projects within a specific timeframe. Projects whose primary purpose is education are not eligible.

Open Solicitation - Monitoring

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

OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to: 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on progress of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Land and Water Acquisitions

OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts. OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, and water leases.

Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish, and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. The OSWB works to fund as many high-priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for on-the-ground noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project. ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

Small Grant Program

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

Small grants cannot exceed $15,000, and are often the first grant a landowner may implement, leading to future restoration investments through the open solicitation grant program.

Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring

Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. These initiatives consist of evaluating the effectiveness of OWEB-funded watershed restoration and enhancement projects and programs. Staff work with the board Monitoring Subcommittee to explore options for creating a well-rounded effectiveness monitoring program.

Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation

Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Implementation investments address a board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-orientated approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships. The board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
7) Coastal Estuaries

Focused Investment Partnership-Development

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

Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) involves evaluating the dedication of funding to specific actions in a particular geographic area. The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Information emerging from these investments will be used by the board and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future. In January 2016, the board awarded its first Implementation FIP grants. These investments are intended to support restoration at a strategic scale and resilient, sustainable partnerships that strategically plan and implement effective restoration projects.

Council Capacity

Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds. OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 15 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), "designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed."

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

1) *Scope of Work* funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
2) *District Operations Fund* supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and provide assistance to landowners and partners.

SWCDs are political subdivisions of state government, but are not state agencies. SWCDs are considered municipal corporations. They are governed by specific enabling legislation under ORS 568. The members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials, to serve on either a five or seven member board.

Conservation Partnership

The Conservation Partnership (Partnership) includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders. Since 2007, the board has approved grants and supported the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-ground work. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables in past biennia, including conferences, trainings, one-on-one work with local organizations, and youth activities.

Organizational Collaboration

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

Governor's Priorities

The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically, these investments address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor's Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work.

Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) program

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

Funding is for SWCDs and WSCs to provide technical assistance to landowners for outreach and restoration project design activities within newly identified SIAs. Any restoration projects developed from SIAs as a result of OWEB's technical assistance funding may be submitted either through OWEB's other grant programs or in partnership with other agencies for implementation.

Strategic Plan Implementation

In the 2018 strategic plan, a number of areas are ripe for partnership, either to gather more information, to develop and complete monitoring, or to begin to implement key plan elements. Oregon has many highly equipped organizations that are poised to assist in this effort. Funding is to work in partnership with other organizations to implement key measures within the strategic plan.

Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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(503) 986-0178
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www.oregon.gov/OWEB

Agenda Item Q supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Watershed organizations have a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – ODOT Fish Passage
January 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

In October 2016 the board authorized the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (Agreement) with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to provide grant-making services to watershed councils for habitat restoration projects up to $250,000. All of the initial funding has been encumbered for eligible fish passage projects. This report requests that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Agreement by adding up to an additional $250,000 in ODOT funds.

II. Background

ODOT manages a $4.2 million per year Fish Passage Program to improve fish habitat in streams impacted by state transportation infrastructure. This program is in addition to, and falls beyond the scope of, required mitigation programs. Under the program, ODOT can allocate resources internally, hire contractors, or work with partner agencies to implement projects. Occasionally, the most suitable entity to carry out a habitat improvement project is the local watershed council. Since ODOT does not have granting authority to provide funds to councils, it entered into an Agreement with OWEB to provide grant-making services on a case-by-case basis.

III. Projects to Date

Under the agreement, ODOT and OWEB execute work order authorizations for specific projects. OWEB requests a grant application, completes technical review, and awards funds to the local watershed council. The following projects totaling $250,000 have been allocated funding under the Agreement:

a. **Highway 36 Cleveland Creek Culvert Fish Passage Design, Siuslaw Watershed Council, $11,633**: This technical assistance grant enabled the Siuslaw Watershed Council to contract with an engineering firm to complete a Right of Way Retracement analysis for a bridge to replace an undersized and misaligned culvert delivering Cleveland Creek, a salmon-bearing stream under Highway 36 near Tide, Oregon. This right of way analysis helped determine the exact

boundary of ODOT's property in the bridge construction area which will assist in building this bridge in the future.

b. **North Fork Johnson Creek Crossing Fish Passage Improvement Project, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, $88,709:** This restoration project will retrofit a culvert on the North Fork of Johnson Creek at Highway 26 to eliminate a barrier and slow velocity, allowing fish to pass through the culvert on this salmon-bearing stream.

c. **Cleveland Creek Bridge Replacement Advance Design, Siuslaw Watershed Council, $142,143:** This technical assistance project will result in a 95% design for a 70-foot span bridge to replace the current culvert at Cleveland Creek. When constructed, the project will result in access to 1.5 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat and provide cold water refugia from the mainstem Siuslaw River.

ODOT has indicated that it expects to have more projects eligible for funding under the Agreement in 2019.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (#217-901) with Oregon Department of Transportation by increasing ODOT's contribution from $250,000 to $500,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD April 16, 2019

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 15, 2019 Board Meeting

Surfsand Resort – Oceanview Ballroom
148 W Gower Ave
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/x8kFe2ea9rg)

OWEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT

Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Arnold, Jed
Ayres, Betsy
Beamer, Kelley
Bey, Marko
Bierly, Ken
Borgia, Darren
Brock, Jim
Burkhardt, Derek
Chambers, Chris
Charette, Amy
Coordes, Regan
Esquivel, Robert
Farrell, Justin
Gannon, Chris
Graham, Becki
Henderson, Bonnie
Krass, Marci
Larson, Taylor
Lev, Esther
Littell, Nancy
Loop, Lois
Luncy, Bob
Jackson, Nathan
Keith, John
McCandless, Collin
McGinnis, Cheryl
Mendoza, Lydia
Merscreau, John
Miller, Kolleen
Morford, Shawn
Morinaga, Kayla
Mundy, Sarah
Ortiz, Lorraine
Oveson, Jeff
Pearson, James
Polenz, Marla
Propst, Carolyn
Resland, Angie
Runyon, John
Schiffman, Ron
Schmeirer, Ann
Schuler, Marci
Sedell, Ted
Sibert-Wahimund, Jan
Smith, Brenda
Stanely, Brooke
Steele, Jesse
Stern, Mark
Suter-Goold, Marty
Swanson, Kaola
Voelke, Katie
Walz, Kristen
Webster, Jim
Winter, Herb
Zwissler, Sarah

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

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 June Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:35:00)
The minutes of the October 16-17, 2018 meeting in Gold Beach were presented to the board for approval.

> Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the October 16-17, 2018 meeting in Gold Beach. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:35:20)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:35:40)
Subcommittee reports were presented to the board in written form.

D. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 0:36:50)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided general updates on OWEB's 2018 strategic plan progress, and more detailed updates on specific priority areas and how OWEB staff are tracking the progress of each priority and supporting strategies.

E. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 0:47:25)

E-1: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring
This report was provided to the board in written form.

E-2: Salmon License Plates
This report was provided to the board in written form.

E-3: Budget and Legislative (Audio = 0:48:03)
Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of OWEB's budget-related activities in preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session, highlighting the differences in OWEB's Agency Request Budget and the Governor's Recommended Budget. Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a broad overview of the upcoming legislative session, including relevant Natural Resources committee assignments, and briefly reviewed legislation that would provide technical corrections to OAHP statutes, if approved.

F. Public Comment (Audio = 1:18:35)
The Oregon Conservation Partnership came before the board to provide an update on their organizations' individual and collective activities. The Partnership was represented by Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, and John Keith from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. They announced they received a grant from the Brainerd Foundation to support communication efforts. Beamer asked that the board watch a video on YouTube called "Wild Possibilities," which is one of a series of short films produced by COLT and the Land Trust Alliance with a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust.

G. Water 4 Initiative
Due to the Federal government furlough, this agenda item was cancelled.

H. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Requests (Audio = 1:29:20)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho presented three funding requests to the board for 1) a pilot to track performance for

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) projects, 2) effectiveness monitoring support for the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and 3) to continue a grant offering that assists OWEB and its partners with communicating outcomes from restoration work.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award up to $25,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants that develop and pilot a performance tracking approach for CREP, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:59:50)

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award up to $75,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support the effectiveness monitoring program associated with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio 2:00:35)

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award $100,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants for additional retrospective analyses to tell the restoration story, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019.The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:01:20)

I. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) (Audio = 2:02:50)

I-2: OAHP Commission Appointments (Audio = 2:04:00)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams briefly reviewed the structure of OAHP appointments and recommended to the board that Mary Wahl and Ken Bailey be re-appointed to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, each for a four-year term.

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board reappoint Ken Bailey, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, and Mary Wahl, as recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:06:30)

I-1: OAHP Rules (Audio = 2:07:45)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented the Oregon Administrative Rules being proposed for adoption, which have been revised according to public comment and recommended by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Commissioners Lois Loop and Nathan Jackson joined Williams before the board to provide information about the Commission and the development of the draft rules. Board members were given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions on each section of the rules.

OAHP Rule Public Comment (Audio = 2:20:30):
Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts came before the board to discuss the progress of a proposed legislative bill that would provide funding for the OAHP. She talked about different ways the bill will be promoted and supported, including legislative breakfasts, a Capitol Day, legislator visits, and more.

> Meg Reeves moved the board adopt the administrative rules as revised in response to public comment and recommended by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission as specified in Attachments A through E in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rules staff report with the additional revision that rules titled OAR 698-005-0100 and related waiver rules in each division be modified to say that "any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies and reported to the Commission by the next meeting," and the additional authority to correct any Scrivener's errors that come to light as the rules are finalized. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:10:30)

J. 2019-2021 Development FIP Grant Awards (Audio = 3:13:10)
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff presented three applications being recommended for Development FIP grant awards to support existing high-functioning partnerships that wish to write a strategic action plan, enhance an existing plan, and/or develop a financial plan.

Public Comment (Audio = 3:18:20):
Sarah Zwissler from Trout Unlimited came to support the Salmon Super Highway project (219-302-165740) and explained how the funds will be used by their partnership. Regional Program Representative Katie Duzik was called upon to discuss OWEB's past interaction with the Salmon Super Highway Partnership.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award Development FIP grants to the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment B to the Development FIP Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:32:00)

K. Implementation FIP Update (Audio = 3:33:20)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams was joined by Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer to provide a progress report on OWEB's FIP Implementation program and introduce representatives from OWEB's six FIP Implementation partnerships, each of whom provided detailed reports about their partnership progress and activities. Partnerships were represented before the board as follows:

1. Deschutes Partnership ($4 million): Chris Gannon from the Crooked River Watershed Council; Kolleen Miller from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council; Natasha Bellis from the Deschutes River Conservancy. (Audio = 3:42:00)
2. Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group ($2.45 million): Taylor Larson from Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council; Marci Krass from Willamette Riverkeepers; Collin McCandless from the Calapooia Watershed Council. (Audio = 4:07:15)
3. Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partners ($2.4 million): Jesse Steele and Kayla Morinaga from the Grande Ronde Model Watershed; Jim Webster from the Union Soil

and Water Conservation District; Ted Sedell from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Audio = 4:36:40)

4. Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative ($1.97 million): Esther Lev from the Wetlands Conservancy; James Pearson from Oregon State University; Brenda Smith from the High Desert Partnership. (Audio = 5:00:15)
5. Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties Partnership ($2.355 million): Sarah Mundy and Marty Suter-Goold from Harney Soil and Water Conservation District, Derek Burkhardt from the Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District; Justin Ferrell from Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District. (Audio = 5:30:30)
6. Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative ($2.34 million): Marko Bey from Lomakatsi Restoration Project; Darren Borgias from The Nature Conservancy; Chris Chambers from the City of Ashland. (Audio = 5:50:25)

L. Land Acquisition Conveyance (Audio = 6:27:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams explained to the board a potential conveyance to the U.S. Forest Service of the Keystone property, which was acquired by the Wild Rivers Land Trust (formerly Elk River Land Trust) with OWEB acquisition program funds. This transaction will require OWEB relinquish an easement to allow the transfer of ownership to a federal agency, and provisions for repayment of grant funds used for the initial purchase. Wild Rivers Land Trust is seeking a sense of direction from the board prior to expending significant resources on due diligence before initiating a formal request for the conveyance.

Q. ODOT Fish Passage (Audio = 7:00:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams came before the board to request that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the existing interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for fish passage grants by increasing the amount received from ODOT from $250,000 to $500,000. The initial funding of $250,000 has already been encumbered for eligible projects, and ODOT has three projects that are currently eligible, and expects several more in the near term.

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (#217-901) with Oregon Department of Transportation by increasing ODOT's contribution from $250,000 to $500,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Bruce Buckmaster. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 7:09:05)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 16, 2019 Board Meeting

Surfsand Resort – Oceanview Ballroom
148 W Gower Ave
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/hCZnaiCPzlY)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Buckmaster, Bruce
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT
Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Abercrombie, Troy
Beamer, Kelley
Berg, Tristen
Blankenship, Michael
Brick, Jim
Burkhardt, Derek
Butler, Tim
Charette, Amy
Coordes, Regan
Gannon, Chris
Keith, John
McGinnis, Cheryl
Morford, Shawn
Neeley, Doug
Salzer, Jan
Salzer, Tom
Shalom, Gail
Vaughan, Bruan
Walls, Kristen
Winters, Herb
Zwissler, Sarah

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

M. Public Comment (Audio =0:01:05)
The board was addressed by Tim Butler and Tristen Berg from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Troy Abercrombie from the Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District to thank the board for their support of OWEB funding for the Oregon State Weed Board grant program.

N. Implementation FIP 2017-2019 Action Items (Audio = 0:11:55)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer presented to the board two requests related to Implementation FIPs. Hartstein requested the board carry-forward on 2015-2017 biennium funds for current Implementation FIP initiatives,

and explained how OWEB policy is being modified to reduce future requests. Dutterer explained a request by the Deschutes Partnership to adjust the scope of their FIP initiative to include stream habitat restoration in the Crooked River basin.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board carry-forward 2015-2017 biennium funding for each of the six current Implementation FIP partnerships to make any balances of funding available to the partnerships through the 2019-2021 biennium. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:19:35)

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the scope of initiative change for the Deschutes Partnership to pursue instream and riparian habitat improvement projects in the Crooked River basin. The motion was seconded by Bruce Buckmaster. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:25:35)

O. Implementation FIPs (Audio = 0:26:20)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided an overview of the 2019-2021 FIP solicitation, covering the application and expert technical review team processes, as well as the interview of partnerships, and recommendations made by the focused investments board subcommittee.

O-1: 2019-21 Implementation FIP Selections (Audio = 0:16:15)
Public Comment (Audio: 0:16:20):
Members from the Clackamas Partnership, represented by Cheryl McGinnis, Tom Salzer, Jim Brick, Doug Neeley, and Gail Shalom addressed the board to discuss the importance of the restoration work they are doing in their watershed, the match they are able to secure, and to request that, if additional funding becomes available, that the board will consider the Clackamas partnership for a 2019-21 Implementation FIP grant award.

Members from the John Day Partnership, represented by Amy Charrette, Kristin Walls, and Herb Winters thanked the board for their investment in the John Day Partnership through the FIP Development program and the recommended investment in the partnership as an Implementation FIP.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board alter the existing recommendation of the focused investment subcommittee to include the Clackamas Partnership among the list of FIPs recommended for funding in Attachment C to the 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Selections staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed with seven favorable votes and two dissenting votes (McAlister and Marshall). (Audio = 1:47:45)

O-2: Implementation FIPs Kickoff Funding (Audio 1:59:45)
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff discussed with the board the activities of the five newly selected FIPs leading up to their funding in July 2019, recommending $60,000 to cover required activities that commence prior to final approval of FIP implementation grants in July 2019.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to enter into agreements with an award date of January 16, 2019, with selected 2019-2021 Implementation FIPs to cover OWEB-required activities that commence prior to July 2019, in an amount not to exceed $60,000, to be taken from the Development FIP line

item in the spending plan. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:03:00)

P. Spending Plan (Audio = 2:04:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed the process for the board to approve the spending plan each biennium and explained delegated authority. She also presented the timeline for approving the 2019-21 spending plan for the next biennium, including spending plan categories, and the percentages allocated to each major category.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by Co-Chair Neuhauser. (Audio = 2:42:25)

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

BOARD MEETING

APRIL 16-17, 2019

SALEM

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
April 16-17, 2019

Monday, April 15, 2019

Reception – 5:00p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of OWEB.

Location of Reception:

Willamette Heritage Center
Dye House
1313 Mill St. SE
Salem, OR 97301
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/i9yeoactTJk

Tuesday, April 16, 2019

Macleay Conference & Retreat Center
Fireside Hall
2887 74th Ave. SE
Salem, OR 97317
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/K4hg6vokwkx

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 F, I, J, L, O, and P), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after April 9, 2019 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 January 15-16, 2019 meeting in Cannon Beach will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

C. Board Co-Chair Election (8:50 a.m.)

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Will Neuhauser ends in April 2019. Co-Chair Randy Labbe will lead a discussion and vote by Board members to elect one Board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term. *Action item.*

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:55 a.m.)

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

E. Strategic Plan Update (9:00 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will provide a *written* report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation. *Information item.*

F. Public Comment (9:00 a.m.)

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

G. Harney Basin Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) (9:15 a.m.)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will be joined by Harney County Commissioner Mark Owens, High Desert Partnership Executive Director Brenda Smith, and Consultant Ken Bierly to provide a presentation to the board on a proposal to develop a Harney Basin Groundwater CREP initiative to reduce groundwater use across the basin. *Information item.*

H. Director's Update (9:45 a.m.)

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

I. Spending Plan Presentations and Discussion (10:20 a.m.)

***NOTE*: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.**

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

Wednesday, April 17, 2019

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 F, I, J, L, O, and P), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes*.** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after April 9, 2019 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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

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

K. Land Acquisition Grant Program- Administrative Rules (8:15 a.m.)

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

L. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (9:00 a.m.)

***NOTE:* Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 9:15 a.m.**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney will request board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2018 grant offering. *Action item.*

M. Monitoring Grants-Administrative Rules (10:00 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will request the board authorize rulemaking for the monitoring grant program. *Action item.*

N. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request (10:10 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request the board provide funding for tidal wetland effectiveness monitoring. *Action item.*

O. Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (10:30 a.m.)

***NOTE*: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 11:40 a.m.**

Introduction

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:40 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 **April 9, 2019 deadline** in order to be provided to the board in advance of the meeting. ***The board encourages speakers to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications
The board will consider grant applications submitted through the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

P. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (1:30 p.m.)

***NOTE*: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 1:40 p.m.**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request board action on water acquisition grant applications that were received during the December 2018 grant cycle. *Action item.*

Q. Coastal Wetlands Grants- Permission to Apply for 2020 Federal Grant (2:00 p.m.)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request permission from the board to apply to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program for funding in 2020. *Action item.*

R. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program- Rule Waiver (2:20 p.m.)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer will provide a report to the board explaining a pending administrative rule waiver regarding the John Day Partnership, which was recently selected by the board as a FIP beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

S. Other Business (2:35 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, April 16 at 8:55 a.m., and Wednesday, April 17 at 8:00 a.m.* for any matter before the board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes*. Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after *April 9, 2019* 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

Barbara Boyer, *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

Vacant, *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. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
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

2019 Board Meeting Schedule

January 14-16, in Cannon Beach
April 16-17, in Salem
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

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. This plan celebrates all we have accomplished together over the last twenty years and sets a course for the next ten.

Mission

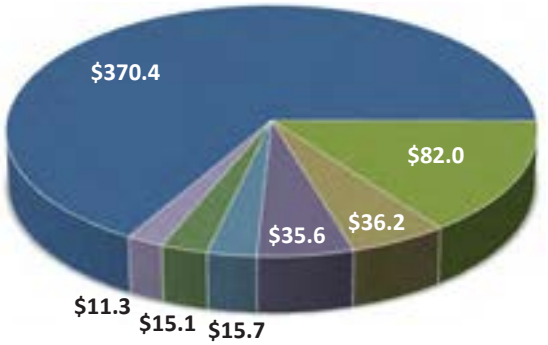
To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies

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.

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.

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%







Who We Are

We are dedicated to the idea that…

- Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities now and in the future.
- Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.
- It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.
- The work to improve our watersheds requires we take the long view.

Our work is in service to…

- Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)
- Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)
- Adaptive capacity of communities to support their watersheds (Community)
- Strengthened economies emerging from healthy watersheds (Economic)
- Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)

In all things, we will…

- Be bold
- Be open and transparent
- Consider future Oregonians
- Be curious

Our work is characterized by…

- Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership
- Using best available science supported by local knowledge
- Investing with long-term outcomes in mind
- Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation
- Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

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 farms, ranches, 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
- 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 Proposed for the April Board Meeting

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Spending Plan as of Jan 2019	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards	Apr 2019 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after April 2019 awards
1	**Open Solicitation:**					
2	Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)	33.000	25.032	7.968	7.761	0.207
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA	4.000	2.636	1.364	1.229	0.135
5	CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds)	1.435	1.435	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700	0.632	0.068	0.240	(0.172)
7	Monitoring grants	3.100	1.784	1.316	1.325	(0.009)
8	Land and Water Acquisition					
9	Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)	9.900	6.630	3.270	3.802	(0.532)
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	0.756	0.831	0.253	0.578
14	**TOTAL**	**60.472**	**45.205**	**15.267**	**14.610**	**0.657**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**62.43%**				
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	0.916	0.234		0.234
24	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
25	**TOTAL**	**17.427**	**17.193**	**0.234**	**0.000**	**0.234**
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	0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
30	Organizational Collaborative Grants	0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
31	**TOTAL**	**15.498**	**15.498**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**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	1.011	1.011	0.000		0.000
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**	**3.461**	**3.461**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**3.57%**				
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**96.858**	**81.357**	**15.501**	**14.610**	**0.891**
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	0.250	0.250	0.000		0.000
47	**TOTAL**	**12.404**	**12.404**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
48	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**109.262**	**93.761**	**15.501**	**14.610**	**0.891**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 15, 2019 Board Meeting

Surfsand Resort – Oceanview Ballroom
148 W Gower Ave
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/x8kFe2ea9rg)

OWEB BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT

Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Arnold, Jed
Ayres, Betsy
Beamer, Kelley
Bey, Marko
Bierly, Ken
Borgia, Darren
Brock, Jim
Burkhardt, Derek
Chambers, Chris
Charette, Amy
Coordes, Regan
Esquivel, Robert
Farrell, Justin
Gannon, Chris
Graham, Becki
Henderson, Bonnie
Krass, Marci
Larson, Taylor
Lev, Esther
Littell, Nancy
Loop, Lois
Luncy, Bob
Jackson, Nathan
Keith, John
McCandless, Collin
McGinnis, Cheryl
Mendoza, Lydia
Merscreau, John
Miller, Kolleen
Morford, Shawn
Morinaga, Kayla
Mundy, Sarah
Ortiz, Lorraine
Oveson, Jeff
Pearson, James
Polenz, Marla
Propst, Carolyn
Resland, Angie
Runyon, John
Schiffman, Ron
Schmeirer, Ann
Schuler, Marci
Sedell, Ted
Sibert-Wahimund, Jan
Smith, Brenda
Stanely, Brooke
Steele, Jesse
Stern, Mark
Suter-Goold, Marty
Swanson, Kaola
Voelke, Katie
Walz, Kristen
Webster, Jim
Winter, Herb
Zwissler, Sarah

The meeting was called to order at 7:57 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser.

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 June Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:35:00)
The minutes of the October 16-17, 2018 meeting in Gold Beach were presented to the board for approval.

> Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the October 16-17, 2018 meeting in Gold Beach. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:35:20)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:35:40)
Subcommittee reports were presented to the board in written form.

D. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 0:36:50)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided general updates on OWEB's 2018 strategic plan progress, and more detailed updates on specific priority areas and how OWEB staff are tracking the progress of each priority and supporting strategies.

E. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 0:47:25)

E-1: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring
This report was provided to the board in written form.

E-2: Salmon License Plates
This report was provided to the board in written form.

E-3: Budget and Legislative (Audio = 0:48:03)
Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of OWEB's budget-related activities in preparation for the 2019 Legislative Session, highlighting the differences in OWEB's Agency Request Budget and the Governor's Recommended Budget. Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided a broad overview of the upcoming legislative session, including relevant Natural Resources committee assignments, and briefly reviewed legislation that would provide technical corrections to OAHP statutes, if approved.

F. Public Comment (Audio = 1:18:35)
The Oregon Conservation Partnership came before the board to provide an update on their organizations' individual and collective activities. The Partnership was represented by Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, and John Keith from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts. They announced they received a grant from the Brainerd Foundation to support communication efforts. Beamer asked that the board watch a video on YouTube called "Wild Possibilities," which is one of a series of short films produced by COLT and the Land Trust Alliance with a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust.

G. Water 4 Initiative
Due to the Federal government furlough, this agenda item was cancelled.

H. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Requests (Audio = 1:29:20)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho presented three funding requests to the board for 1) a pilot to track performance for

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) projects, 2) effectiveness monitoring support for the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and 3) to continue a grant offering that assists OWEB and its partners with communicating outcomes from restoration work.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award up to $25,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants that develop and pilot a performance tracking approach for CREP, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:59:50)

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award up to $75,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support the effectiveness monitoring program associated with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio 2:00:35)

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award $100,000 from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2017-19 spending plan to support grants for additional retrospective analyses to tell the restoration story, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 15, 2019.The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:01:20)

I. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) (Audio = 2:02:50)

I-2: OAHP Commission Appointments (Audio = 2:04:00)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams briefly reviewed the structure of OAHP appointments and recommended to the board that Mary Wahl and Ken Bailey be re-appointed to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, each for a four-year term.

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board reappoint Ken Bailey, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, and Mary Wahl, as recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Commission, to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:06:30)

I-1: OAHP Rules (Audio = 2:07:45)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented the Oregon Administrative Rules being proposed for adoption, which have been revised according to public comment and recommended by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Commissioners Lois Loop and Nathan Jackson joined Williams before the board to provide information about the Commission and the development of the draft rules. Board members were given the opportunity to ask clarifying questions on each section of the rules.

OAHP Rule Public Comment (Audio = 2:20:30):
Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts came before the board to discuss the progress of a proposed legislative bill that would provide funding for the OAHP. She talked about different ways the bill will be promoted and supported, including legislative breakfasts, a Capitol Day, legislator visits, and more.

> Meg Reeves moved the board adopt the administrative rules as revised in response to public comment and recommended by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission as specified in Attachments A through E in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rules staff report with the additional revision that rules titled OAR 698-005-0100 and related waiver rules in each division be modified to say that "any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies and reported to the Commission by the next meeting," and the additional authority to correct any Scrivener's errors that come to light as the rules are finalized. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:10:30)

J. 2019-2021 Development FIP Grant Awards (Audio = 3:13:10)
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff presented three applications being recommended for Development FIP grant awards to support existing high-functioning partnerships that wish to write a strategic action plan, enhance an existing plan, and/or develop a financial plan.

Public Comment (Audio = 3:18:20):
Sarah Zwissler from Trout Unlimited came to support the Salmon Super Highway project (219-302-165740) and explained how the funds will be used by their partnership. Regional Program Representative Katie Duzik was called upon to discuss OWEB's past interaction with the Salmon Super Highway Partnership.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award Development FIP grants to the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment B to the Development FIP Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:32:00)

K. Implementation FIP Update (Audio = 3:33:20)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams was joined by Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer to provide a progress report on OWEB's FIP Implementation program and introduce representatives from OWEB's six FIP Implementation partnerships, each of whom provided detailed reports about their partnership progress and activities. Partnerships were represented before the board as follows:

1. Deschutes Partnership ($4 million): Chris Gannon from the Crooked River Watershed Council; Kolleen Miller from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council; Natasha Bellis from the Deschutes River Conservancy. (Audio = 3:42:00)
2. Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group ($2.45 million): Taylor Larson from Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council; Marci Krass from Willamette Riverkeepers; Collin McCandless from the Calapooia Watershed Council. (Audio = 4:07:15)
3. Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partners ($2.4 million): Jesse Steele and Kayla Morinaga from the Grande Ronde Model Watershed; Jim Webster from the Union Soil

and Water Conservation District; Ted Sedell from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. (Audio = 4:36:40)

4. Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative ($1.97 million): Esther Lev from the Wetlands Conservancy; James Pearson from Oregon State University; Brenda Smith from the High Desert Partnership. (Audio = 5:00:15)
5. Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties Partnership ($2.355 million): Sarah Mundy and Marty Suter-Goold from Harney Soil and Water Conservation District, Derek Burkhardt from the Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District; Justin Ferrell from Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District. (Audio = 5:30:30)
6. Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative ($2.34 million): Marko Bey from Lomakatsi Restoration Project; Darren Borgias from The Nature Conservancy; Chris Chambers from the City of Ashland. (Audio = 5:50:25)

L. Land Acquisition Conveyance (Audio = 6:27:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams explained to the board a potential conveyance to the U.S. Forest Service of the Keystone property, which was acquired by the Wild Rivers Land Trust (formerly Elk River Land Trust) with OWEB acquisition program funds. This transaction will require OWEB relinquish an easement to allow the transfer of ownership to a federal agency, and provisions for repayment of grant funds used for the initial purchase. Wild Rivers Land Trust is seeking a sense of direction from the board prior to expending significant resources on due diligence before initiating a formal request for the conveyance.

Q. ODOT Fish Passage (Audio = 7:00:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams came before the board to request that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the existing interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for fish passage grants by increasing the amount received from ODOT from $250,000 to $500,000. The initial funding of $250,000 has already been encumbered for eligible projects, and ODOT has several three projects that are currently eligible, and expects several more in the near term.

> Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (#217-901) with Oregon Department of Transportation by increasing ODOT's contribution from $250,000 to $500,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Bruce Buckmaster. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 7:09:05)

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 16, 2019 Board Meeting

Surfsand Resort – Oceanview Ballroom
148 W Gower Ave
Cannon Beach, OR 97110

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/hCZnaiCPzlY)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Buckmaster, Bruce
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT
Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Abercrombie, Troy
Beamer, Kelley
Berg, Tristen
Blankenship, Michael
Brick, Jim
Burkhardt, Derek
Butler, Tim
Charette, Amy
Coordes, Regan
Gannon, Chris
Keith, John
McGinnis, Cheryl
Morford, Shawn
Neeley, Doug
Salzer, Jan
Salzer, Tom
Shalom, Gail
Vaughan, Bruan
Walls, Kristen
Winters, Herb
Zwissler, Sarah

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

M. Public Comment (Audio =0:01:05)
The board was addressed by Tim Butler and Tristen Berg from the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Troy Abercrombie from the Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District to thank the board for their support of OWEB funding for the Oregon State Weed Board grant program.

N. Implementation FIP 2017-2019 Action Items (Audio = 0:11:55)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer presented to the board two requests related to Implementation FIPs. Hartstein requested the board carry-forward on 2015-2017 biennium funds for current Implementation FIP initiatives,

and explained how OWEB policy is being modified to reduce future requests. Dutterer explained a request by the Deschutes Partnership to adjust the scope of their FIP initiative to include stream habitat restoration in the Crooked River basin.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board carry-forward 2015-2017 biennium funding for each of the six current Implementation FIP partnerships to make any balances of funding available to the partnerships through the 2019-2021 biennium. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:19:35)

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the scope of initiative change for the Deschutes Partnership to pursue instream and riparian habitat improvement projects in the Crooked River basin. The motion was seconded by Bruce Buckmaster. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:25:35)

O. Implementation FIPs (Audio = 0:26:20)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided an overview of the 2019-2021 FIP solicitation, covering the application and expert technical review team processes, as well as the interview of partnerships, and recommendations made by the focused investments board subcommittee.

O-1: 2019-21 Implementation FIP Selections (Audio = 0:16:15)
Public Comment (Audio: 0:16:20):
Members from the Clackamas Partnership, represented by Cheryl McGinnis, Tom Salzer, Jim Brick, Doug Neeley, and Gail Shalom addressed the board to discuss the importance of the restoration work they are doing in their watershed, the match they are able to secure, and to request that, if additional funding becomes available, that the board will consider the Clackamas partnership for a 2019-21 Implementation FIP grant award.

Members from the John Day Partnership, represented by Amy Charrette, Kristin Walls, and Herb Winters thanked the board for their investment in the John Day Partnership through the FIP Development program and the recommended investment in the partnership as an Implementation FIP.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board alter the existing recommendation of the focused investment subcommittee to include the Clackamas Partnership among the list of FIPs recommended for funding in Attachment C to the 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Selections staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed with seven favorable votes and two dissenting votes (McAlister and Marshall). (Audio = 1:47:45)

O-2: Implementation FIPs Kickoff Funding (Audio 1:59:45)
Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff discussed with the board the activities of the five newly selected FIPs leading up to their funding in July 2019, recommending $60,000 to cover required activities that commence prior to final approval of FIP implementation grants in July 2019.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to enter into agreements with an award date of January 16, 2019, with selected 2019-2021 Implementation FIPs to cover OWEB-required activities that commence prior to July 2019, in an amount not to exceed $60,000, to be taken from the Development FIP line

item in the spending plan. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:03:00)

P. Spending Plan (Audio = 2:04:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed the process for the board to approve the spending plan each biennium and explained delegated authority. She also presented the timeline for approving the 2019-21 spending plan for the next biennium, including spending plan categories, and the percentages allocated to each major category.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. by Co-Chair Neuhauser. (Audio = 2:42:25)

April 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Debbie Hollen, Jan Lee, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, 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 Operating Capacity Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on January 3 and March 12, 2019. The meeting on March 12 also included a joint meeting with the Monitoring Subcommittee. The subcommittee discussed the following topics:

- Update on the 2019-2021 Council Capacity grant cycle and the role of the subcommittee. The application deadline was extended by one week to allow applicants impacted by the late winter snow storm to be able to meet the deadline. Fifty-nine applications were received by the March 8, 2019 deadline.
- Merger Implementation grants and the amount and type of funding OWEB should provide to merged watershed councils in the future. Attachment A provides additional information. This will be discussed in more detail with the board at the July board meeting.
- Status update on Capacity monitoring.

To be presented at the April 2019 Board meeting by:
Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

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

Attachments
A. Council Capacity Merger Funding Concept

Council Capacity Merger Funding Concept

Background

In 2013 the Board awarded its first Organizational Collaboration grants, one of which supported the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue Basin. At the same time, the Board recognized the real costs associated with post-merger life and created the merger implementation grant offering. These grant funds can be used for strategic planning, board and staff development, and other real costs of merging multiple organizations. The goal of both the Organizational Collaboration and the Merger Implementation grant programs is to build capacity and support strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

This fall, OWEB staff talked with other funders, reviewed the literature, reflected on the agency's lessons learned, and talked with the Rogue River Watershed Council to begin to develop post-merger funding options. When OWEB first awarded the Merger Implementation grants, the agency had not yet defined what a successful merger would look like. Mergers in general are not common, and funders all over the county are struggling with how to define success. OWEB is in a unique situation as an agency which funds both mergers and ongoing operating costs of organizations. In addition, the agency believes that more organizations may consider merging in the future, and OWEB wants to support organizations in that process.

Research Findings

The following common themes emerged from the research:

1) Reaching "success" is harder and takes longer than organizations think.
2) Having a supportive funder as a partner is key to success.
3) Clear merger goals should be set at the beginning and revisited on a regular basis.
4) The first few years are spent focusing on the logistics of the merger, after the logistics comes growing a strong, resilient organization.
5) Stakeholder engagement and community recognition of the organization within the broader geography are important to address, but the organization has to be at a point of stability before it can addresses these issues.
6) Board member development and transition take time, especially when organizations need to develop a new board with a broader vision.

In addition, the literature repeatedly lists the following as key indicators of success.

- Increased social capital
- Improved/expanded services
- Effective/efficient operations
- Financial stability
- Culture of new board and staff

Proposed Funding Options Moving Forward

Pre-merger funding options
Continue to provide Organizational Collaboration grants. As part of any application requesting funds for a merger, the application must include direct and clear measures of success for the merger process. The final project completion report at the conclusion of the merger must report on direct measures of success and methods for evaluating the new organization's post-merger progress toward integration.

Post-Merger Funding Options
Individual councils apply for a council capacity grant each biennium. If a group of councils is interested in merging they can apply for an organizational collaboration grant to help cover the costs of the merger process. The descriptions of funding options below are what two or more merged councils can apply for after the merger process is complete. The funding amount available is different when two, three, or four or more councils merge. The funding available reduces between the first biennium after the merger and the second biennium, reducing again in the third biennium. The explanation and proposed amounts are below.

When four or more watershed councils merge
When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what four of more watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged. In 2017-19, this would be $473,300 or more for a biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 after the merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be $236,850, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425 x 2. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be $207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425 x 1.75. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of $177,637, $118,425x1.5.

Table 1 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where four or more watershed councils merged.

Table 1

	Council Capacity	**Merger Funding**	**Total**
Biennium 0 (pre-merger, four councils)	$473,300	$0	$473,300
Biennium 1	$118,425	$236,850 ($118,425x2)	$355,275
Biennium 2	$118,425	$207,243 ($118,425x1.75)	$306,425
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	$118,425	$177,637 ($118,425x1.5)	$296,062

When three watershed councils merge
When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what three watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, up to $355,275 (in 2017-2019) for a biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be $207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425x1.75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be $177,637, which is the council capacity grant award,

$118,425x1.5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of $148,031, $118,425x1.25.

Table 2 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where three watershed councils merged.

Table 2

	Council Capacity	**Merger Funding**	**Total**
Biennium 0 (pre-merger)	$355,275	$0	$355,275
Biennium 1	$118,425	$207,243 ($118,425x1.75)	$325,668
Biennium 2	$118,425	$177,637 ($118,425x1.5)	$296,062
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	$118,425	$148,031 ($118,425x1.25)	$266,456

When two watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what two watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, up to $236,850 (in 2017-2019) for a biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, the council could apply for merger implementation funding in addition to their council capacity grant. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be $88,818, which is the council capacity grant award, 118,425 x .75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be $59,212, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425 x .5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of .25x the base award ($118,425x.25=$29,606).

Table 3 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where two watershed councils merged.

Table 3

	Council Capacity	**Merger Funding**	**Total**
Biennium 0 (per-merger)	$236,850	$0	236,850
Biennium 1	$118,425	$88,818 (118,425x .75)	$207,243
Biennium 2	$118,425	$59,212 ($118,425x .5)	$177,637
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	$118,425	$29,606 ($118,425x .25)	$148,031

April 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members

Chair Meg Reeves, Kathy Stangl, Rosemary Furfey, Stephen Brandt

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee focuses on issues related to open solicitation grants, including restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement, and the effectiveness of these programs.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on February 28 and discussed the following topics:

- Strategic Plan progress on Priority #6 (Working Lands), including recent actions with respect to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and the status of bills to address technical fixes in statute and to fund the program. The subcommittee was briefed on agenda items to be addressed at the March 6 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) meeting. The OAHC will discuss efforts to determine valuation methodologies for implementing conservation management plans and purchasing termed covenants. Pending appropriation of funds, the OAHC will discuss a prospective solicitation timeline for grants in the 2019-2021 biennium.
- The subcommittee also discussed a key OWEB/Oregon Department of Agriculture working lands program – Strategic Implementation Areas. The program has been revamped to provide technical assistance funding to work with landowners in designing solutions to identified water quality concerns. Implementers can then apply for restoration funding through the open solicitation program. There is potential for additional leverage by applying to the Natural Resources Conservation Service for a Resource Conservation Partnership Program grant as a statewide priority with identified SIA areas as targeted geographies.
- Strategic Plan progress on Priority #7 (Bold and Innovative Actions), as the subcommittee was briefed on the Executive Director's dialogue with all six regional review teams about the strategic plan initiatives. Priority #7 in particular resonated with review teams, who felt that it gives them the space to recommend innovative approaches where they feel such approaches are technically sound. In addition, the proposed Land Acquisition rules, on the April board agenda for adoption, include a new risk-sharing option where grantees can request reimbursement for certain eligible due diligence costs prior to closing a transaction.
- Subcommittee Topics: In the current biennium, the subcommittee has completed work addressing conversion of outreach grants to stakeholder engagement grants, an assessment of the small grants program, and assessments of funding line development and board presentations for open solicitation grants. In order to gage the preference of the board regarding topics the subcommittee should address, the subcommittee will survey board members for input.

To be presented at the April 2019 Board Meeting as a written report only.

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

April 16-17, 2019 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 March 8 and discussed the following items:

- A preview of a board agenda item relative to allocation of funds for development FIPs in the Operating Capacity spending plan category, calling them "Partnership Capacity" grants. Twelve partnerships have received development FIP funding in the past two biennia. Through the Partnership Learning Project, which assessed the effectiveness of partnerships, OWEB changed the name of the grants from "Capacity Building FIPs" to "Development FIPs" to better characterize their work in developing effective partnerships.

  There are partnerships working outside of the FIP program doing similar work as well; some of these are high performing partnerships worthy of capacity investment. Partnership Capacity grants would continue to fund development of strategic action plans, partnership governance, and financial plans. In addition, funds would be available for the continuing management of high-performing partnerships. This new grant type would fall under the Operating Capacity spending plan category rather than the FIP category.

- Progress toward updating the board-designated ecological priorities for the FIP program, which is required by FIP program rules at least every five years. The initial priorities were established in 2015; the update is scheduled for board action in October 2019, for use in the planned 2020 FIP solicitation. Priority updates are under development for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species and Dry-type Forest. ODFW is reviewing the priority maps and will provide recommendations for updates. ODFW was also consulted to better reflect habitat needs within the dry-type forest priority.

  The need to incorporate climate change into the program was discussed, in particular through voluntary carbon sequestration markets. Staff will bring a proposal back for subcommittee consideration on this topic.

- FIP Kick-off Meeting – Eric Williams summarized the FIP kick-off meeting held as a teleconference on February 26.

- Implementation FIP Board Reporting – The subcommittee provided feedback on the written and oral reporting from the partnerships at the January board meeting. The subcommittee sees value in having in-person reports from the partnerships.

To be presented at the April 2019 Board meeting as a written report only.

Staff Contact

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

April 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Debbie Hollen, Molly Kile, Jason Robison

Background
The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring, and provides input about the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on February 15 and March 12, 2019, and discussed the following topics:

- Strategic Plan progress check-in, with a focus on Priority #6 (Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning) and brief discussion of Priorities #3 (Community Capacity and Strategic Partnerships) and #7 (Bold and Innovative Actions);
- Status updates about 1) 'telling the restoration story,' 2) FIP monitoring, 3) FIP progress tracking reports, 4) CREP performance tracking, and 5) tide gate monitoring next steps, including a collaborative effort with Extension Sea Grant to disseminate key findings of the Oregon State University literature review in a non-technical format geared for decision-makers and practitioners;
- An update about the retrospective evaluation framework for capacity investments to watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (the update was completed in coordination with the Operating Capacity subcommittee), including feedback received from stakeholder and expert advisory groups;
- Recent discussions with local, agency, and academic partners about data and information needs that could be addressed with a programmatic investment in monitoring associated with the Stage 0 restoration approaches (this potential investment will be discussed in more detail with the subcommittee during its spring 2019 meeting). For an example of Stage O restoration see: https://www.middleforkwillamette.org/restore/rivers-and-streams/staley-creek/; and
- April board meeting items, including a) monitoring related investments proposed in the 2019-21 spending plan, b) a programmatic investment in tidal wetland effectiveness monitoring, which builds on recommendations from the OSU tide gate literature review, and c) a request to approve rulemaking for OWEB monitoring grants.

The group is scheduled to meet again on May 14, 2019.

To be presented at the April 2019 Board Meeting as a written report only.

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

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item E supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Strategic Plan Update
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

II. Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. For the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities. This template was presented and feedback about structure and content was provided by the board.

Following the October board meeting, staff added a header to all staff reports outlining the connection between the work contained in the staff report and the board's approved strategic plan.

Attached is the quarterly update of the strategic plan. Based on time constraints at the April board meeting, the update is in written format only. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, January to March 2019

OWEB Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – January-March 2019

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
2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)

- Recently launched news site of the Governor's Office, https://myoregon.gov/, featured Oregon Lottery videos.
- Process to update the Salmon License plate is underway, and design options are being evaluated.
- Unveiled a new logo in alignment with OWEB's 20th Birthday.
- 50 stakeholders from around the state gathered at the Capitol on Feb. 22 for OWEB's 20th Birthday Celebration hosted by the Oregon Conservation Partnership.
- OWEB Staff volunteered at Miller Woods for the Yamhill SWCD in celebration of OWEB's 20th Birthday.

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:
  - are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed;
  - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;
  - understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.

Near-term measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with 1,473 YouTube views (accessed 2/12/2019).

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.

Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

Strategies

1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations
2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) cross-sectional team met monthly and continued developing work plan.
- Two staff attended SAIF Corporation Workers' Compensation Insurance's "Delivering a Culturally Inclusive Experience - State Agency" workshop.
- Staff engagement:
  - All-staff meeting activity on the Native American roots of many Oregon place names and how tribes are working with the State to restore historic place names.
  - Provided staff Black History month resources.
- Continued development of DEI survey for grantees, including Department of Justice review. Will be released in second quarter.
- Engaged Oregon Employment Department DEI Officer to understand their approach to equity work and share lessons learned.

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:

- Staff has participated in 190 hours of cumulative training since July 2018.

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.

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	Near-term measure:
1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	- OWEB Capacity Evaluation Expert Group met to give feedback on the capacity evaluation approach and methodologies. Feedback has been compiled and next steps are under consideration.	- 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.	- 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.	- Under development 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	- Three new D-FIPs were funded to advance strategic conservation planning among high-performing partnerships: The Intertwine Alliance Oak Prairie Working Group, Salmon Super Highway, and Pure Water Partners. - Coordinated FIP Cohort Orientation & Onboarding for new partnerships on agreement and theory of change development processes.			
3. Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	- Coordinated with Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to prepare for presentation at CONNECT on capacity evaluation of SWCD & Watershed Councils. - Presented OWEB Strategic Plan to Region 2 Review Team (6/6 RRTs now complete), 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

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	Near-term measure:
1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	- Awarded just under $1 million of Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) funding to local partners to support coordinated activities between them and NRCS. - Launched annual grant offering for coastal wetland conservation and restoration projects with federal funding from US Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program. - Water Core Team kicked off interagency effort to explore opportunities to coordinate mitigation and associated investments across agencies.	- 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 can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in	- 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.	- 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				
3. Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector				
4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources	- Presented climate change agricultural incentives concept to Oregon Board of Agriculture. - Presented information about existing incentives programs that address carbon sequestration and climate adaptation (in coordination with Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry) to Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction - Continuing work with Water Core Team to prioritize information gaps regarding natural and built water infrastructure. - Began process to work with Harney place-based planning for groundwater to determine best approaches to invest in reducing			

		water use focused on key groundwater areas in the basin. Board will receive information at its April meeting.	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 (OAHP)	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - HB 2086 was filed and heard to make technical fixes to the OAHP statute. The Commission met in March to tackle valuation of termed covenants and conservation management plan implementation, and to discuss potential grant solicitation timelines if program funding is secured.	<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	- Continued Strategic Implementation Area technical assistance grant program to engage private landowners in streamside management for water quality; an additional six applications were submitted for the 2019 funding, bringing the total number of SIAs this biennium to 12.			
	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) - Products are in development with seven "Telling the Restoration Story" grantees; additional story-telling opportunities are being scoped. - Continued work with Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) to update the Fifteenmile Creek Fact Sheet and produce an online StoryMap. New watershed case studies are being explored.	<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 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	<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, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Evaluation of impact, not just	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Number of communication tools developed through staff, grants or partnerships. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased public awareness about 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
	2. Invest in monitoring over the long term	- Convened a meeting with CREP technicians to review a draft monitoring checklist to pilot performance tracking in 2019.			
	3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- Interagency STREAM Team kicked off an initiative to improve data access among agencies for water temperature data. - Completed review processes to award funding to five of the six implementation FIPs on priority monitoring identified in their Progress Monitoring Framework.			

			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.	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.	- 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.
	4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Coordinated with Oregon Sea Grant Extension to develop outreach materials on OSU's tidegate literature review report. - Fostered information exchange on OWEB-funded projects by recruiting presenters for the Network of Oregon Watershed Council webinar series and a presentation by Bonneville Environmental Foundation at OR American Fisheries Society conference on applying the theory of change using the Deschutes FIP Progress Monitoring Framework as an example.			
	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) - Funded five new I-FIP partnerships, including John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative, Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction, Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative, Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative, and Clackamas Partnership Restoration for Native Fish Recovery. - Presented OWEB Strategic Plan to Region 2 Review Team (6/6 RRTs now complete), 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> - 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business 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	- Began agency, NGO and academia stakeholder engagement to scope monitoring and information needs and ideas to fill information gaps related to Stage 0 Restoration. - Incorporated a shared risk approach in the draft land acquisition rules, which will allow reimbursement for certain due diligence costs prior to closing a transaction. - Presented OWEB Strategic Plan to Region 2 Review Team (6/6 RRTs now complete), including dialogue around Priority 7 and OWEB's interest in supporting experimentation where appropriate.			

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Harney Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the proposed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for groundwater in the Harney Basin.

II. Background

The Harney Basin is a semi-arid, internally draining system in southeastern Oregon. While also used for domestic, municipal, and livestock watering, groundwater in the basin is predominantly used for agricultural irrigation for the production of alfalfa. The water resources of the Harney Basin have been significantly over-allocated. Surface water was fully appropriated by the 1960's, and permitted groundwater development began increasing in the 1970's. In 2016, due to the decline in groundwater, the Oregon Water Resources Commission adopted rules designating the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GHVGAC) that included a moratorium on new groundwater permit applications within the GHVGAC (see map in Attachment A).

Also in 2016, the Harney County Watershed Council and the Harney County Court (County Government) were awarded a planning grant to conduct place-based water resource planning for the Harney Basin. The partners developed a collaborative planning program and have been convening work groups for Vegetation Management, Domestic and Municipal Water Use, Agricultural Irrigation, and Ecological Conditions. The Harney Basin Groundwater CREP Program is one part of a larger effort to reach sustainable levels of groundwater use in the Harney Basin.

In the summer of 2018, the Community-Based Water Planning Collaborative requested assistance from OWEB to develop a Harney Basin Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) proposal in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Harney Basin Groundwater CREP Program proposes to develop incentives

for farmers in the Harney Basin to reduce the use of groundwater through voluntary enrollment in the program.

III. Harney Basin Groundwater CREP Proposal

The primary goal for the Harney Basin Groundwater CREP is to reduce groundwater use to sustainable levels when coupled with other strategies of groundwater use reduction. There are approximately 100,000 acres of permitted groundwater irrigated acres in the Harney Basin. While it is very early in the development process, groundwater-based CREP programs in other states have provided ideas for how the Harney Basin Groundwater CREP could be structured. A proposal for Harney Basin Groundwater CREP program would be developed with significant discussion by a technical committee and staff with other agencies and interests.

Considering groundwater-based CREP programs in other states, the Harney Basin Groundwater CREP could involve enrollment of up to 30,000 acres of actively irrigated land within the GHVGAC and up to 4,500 acres of associated dryland (pivot corners) for 15 year contracts. Conservation rental payments for irrigated land could occur at an irrigated land rental rate with pivot corners at a dryland rental rate. Cost-share of up to 50% could be available for conservation practices implemented. Other considerations for the technical team would include incentive options to retire water rights and provide lump sum payments and well closure costs, and targeted incentives for areas of significant groundwater level declines.

Full implementation of the program could result in the conservation of 90,000 acre-feet of groundwater annually. In addition, the program could provide additional habitat for sage-grouse. The direct results of full enrollment are expected to result in a decrease in the rate of decline of the groundwater table, reduced threat to domestic water users, and long-term sustainability of agricultural production in the basin.

Total program costs and state cost-share would be estimated when the program is fully defined. It will be important to consider the current obligations of OWEB and other state agencies when developing program incentives.

The first step to explore the potential for the program is to appoint and charge a technical committee to follow Farm Service Agency (FSA) guidelines (Attachment B) for a program proposal development. When a final draft is prepared, it will be brought back to the board for consideration and deliberation.

IV. Sage Grouse and Harney Basin CREP

The sage-steppe habitats of Harney County are crucial for the recovery of sage grouse. The Harney Basin CREP would provide additional habitat for sage grouse adjacent to mesic vegetation, which is important for grouse brood rearing. It would also provide an opportunity to connect agricultural practices with sage grouse conservation, such as the potential to convert irrigated lands to permanent cover with a preference for sage steppe vegetation.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

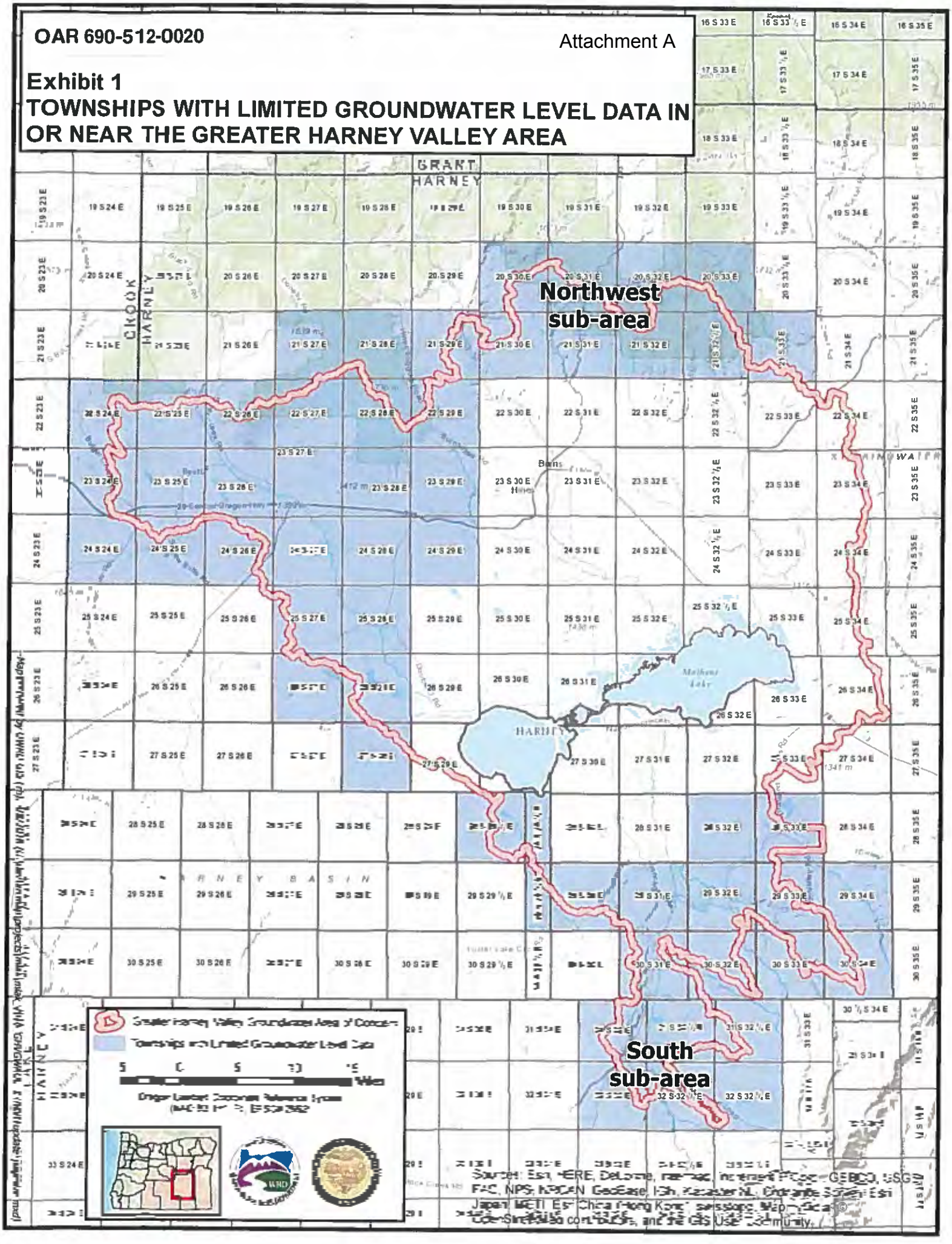
Attachments

A. Harney Basin and the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern Map
B. FSA Process for CREP Proposal Development

OAR 690-512-0020

Attachment A

Exhibit 1
TOWNSHIPS WITH LIMITED GROUNDWATER LEVEL DATA IN OR NEAR THE GREATER HARNEY VALLEY AREA



CREP Proposal Overview

A New CREP Project Development Stages

--The implementation of a new CREP program typically has the following 7 general stages.--

Stage	Development
1	State CREP partners identify natural resource concerns, identify a solid State funding commitment, and draft a written CREP proposal for submission to the Program Manager. * * *
2	Program Manager and National CREP Review Team will review the proposal and provide written comments to State CREP partners. Subsequent negotiation with State CREP partners may also be conducted to resolve outstanding issues.
3	State CREP partners will develop a Draft CREP Agreement outlining the legal provisions of the proposed State CREP Program and submit to the Program Manager. The Program Manager, National CREP Review Team, and USDA-OGC will review the draft agreement and provide all necessary agreement wording changes back to the State CREP partners. **Note:** In most cases, CREP agreement drafts are updated through cycles of review and refinement between State CREP partners and National CREP Review Team/OGC negotiations.
4	After full agreement and consensus is achieved among State CREP partners and between State CREP partners and the Program Manager, a Final CREP Agreement is prepared by State CREP partners and submitted to the Program Manager for USDA OGC approval.
*--5	The FSA State Office, in consultation with State CREP partners, must: • submit a CREP project area shapefile for the new CREP project area **Note:** A separate shapefile must be submitted to CEPD for each project area. • consult CEPD to ensure that the shapefile format is consistent with all CREP shapefiles.--*
6	After the final agreement is signed by the Secretary of Agriculture and the Governor, the FSA State Office drafts and submits a State supplement to 2-CRP to the Program Manager for approval.
7	The State and County FSA Offices, PAS, and State CREP partners conduct outreach/promotional activities, issue local press releases and fact sheets, conduct training, and announce CREP program signup.

April 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update H-1: Budget and Legislative

This report provides the board an update about the legislative budgeting process and the 2019 Legislative Session.

Background

The 2019 Legislative Session began on January 22 and is expected to adjourn by late June, 2019.

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. Budgets are structured so that each agency's current (or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "policy option packages," or POPs. The board approved OWEB's POPs in June of 2018 and these were included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) that was submitted in August 2018. The Governor's Budget was released in late November 2018.

The Legislative Budgeting Process

The Governor's Recommended Budget, or GRB, is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the legislative session, agencies may advocate for their individual POPs only to the extent that they are included in the GRB. The GRB retains all of the following requests from OWEB's ARB:

- Program Continuity package (Conservation Outcomes Coordinator and Conservation Outcomes Specialist positions);
- Program Enhancement package (Partnerships Coordinator and Online Systems Project Manager positions and contracted services);
- Conservation Policy and Strategy Coordination package (contracted services); and
- Grant funds for: carryforward of federal grant funds and other funds; forest collaborative grant funds; federal funds from Natural Resources Conservation Service; loan funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund; and funds for Upper Klamath Basin grants associated with salmon reintroduction.

Along with 12 other agencies, the Governor's Office added funding for an internal auditor position to OWEB's budget, as part of her 'Smart Government' emphasis area. Policy packages requested by OWEB, but not included in the GRB, are both operations and grant funding related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). OWEB's current service level did not take any reductions in the GRB. However, prior to the start of legislative session, the agency was required to submit to Legislative Fiscal Office a report that lists 10 percent reduction options from current service level by priority for all fund sources.

OWEB's budget was heard by the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on March 18-19. Day 1 was a presentation of the agency's budget by OWEB leadership, and Day 2 was reserved for public comment. Work sessions with the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee may occur any time after agency budget hearings are completed.

The only substantive change to OWEB's requested budget for the 2019-21 biennium since release of the GRB involves the Policy Option Package 240, Septic System Loan Funds. The package proposed an increase in limitation to enable OWEB to enter into a partnership to

receive loan funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Based on discussions during the legislative session, the decision was made to withdraw this POP, and instead change DEQ's statutes directly.

The February 2019 economic forecast projects that the economy will continue to grow at a modest, but slower pace than in recent years. Lottery revenues to OWEB in 2019-21 are expected to be higher than budgeted in 2017-19, and the 2017-19 biennium will have an ending balance for use in 2019-21. Depending on future revenue outlooks and the level of remaining ending balances from the 2017-19 biennium, the upcoming legislative budget cycle may or may not require the implementation of some degree of reductions. Staff will continue to update the board about key milestones in the legislative budgeting process.

Legislative

I. Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program (OAHP) Bills

HB 2086 is an OWEB-supported bill that, if approved, will provide technical corrections to OAHP statutes. Attachment A describes the proposed revisions to OAHP statutes. At the time of writing this staff report, HB 2086 has passed the House, and has been moved out of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources committee with a "Do-Pass" recommendation to the full Senate. HB 2729 is a bill that would provide $10 million to OWEB for OAHP grants. The bill received a public hearing in February.

II. House Bill 2020

HB 2020 would establish the Oregon Climate Action Program. A cap-and-trade program would be created that sets a cap on allowable emissions, then auctions these allowances to regulated entities (e.g., fuel sector, natural gas sector). Proceeds from the sale of allowances will be deposited into accounts with the state treasury, including a Transportation Decarbonization Account, a Just Transition Fund, and a Climate Investments Fund (CIF). The CIF will support programs and projects that achieve emissions mitigation, climate adaptation, carbon sequestration, and/or clean energy transition. Under a separate bill (SB 928), a new agency—the Oregon Climate Authority—is established.

The Oregon Climate Authority will biennially outline the best opportunities for climate mitigation, adaptation, and carbon sequestration. This report, along with input from other entities, will inform budget funding recommends by the Joint Legislative Committee on Climate Action. The CIF could fund a range of activities such as energy efficiency and conservation; renewable energy; fuel efficiency; resilience planning; and adaptation or resiliency through natural and working lands investments, such as agricultural or forestry practices that reduce emissions or sequester carbon, restoration of tidal marsh or intertidal areas of estuaries, irrigation efficiency projects, and riparian restoration. Funding also would be available to "strengthen the resilience of fish, wildlife, and ecosystems in the face of climate change through investments in projects, including but not limited to projects involving instream flow acquisition and protection, fish barrier removal, habitat restoration and enhancement and protection of wildlife corridors, coldwater refugia areas and species strongholds."

Currently, the Oregon Climate Authority can consult with OWEB and the Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Forestry to develop offset programs. Amendments to

HB2020 are expected. At the April board meeting, staff will update the board about any changes that have the potential to affect OWEB.

Staff Contact

Budget topics or HB 2020: Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203. Legislative topics: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. OWEB 2019-2021 Agency Legislation and Budget

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 2019-2021 Agency Legislation and Governor's Budget

HB 2086 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Technical Corrections

In addition to general clean-up, HB 2086 includes the following revisions to OAHP statutes:

- Requiring that the use of the land be preserved and protected for agricultural production as a requirement of a conservation easement.
- Clarifying that the succession planning program is intended to benefit "agricultural owners or operators" with succession planning for "working lands," using terms defined by statute.
- Clarifying that conservation management plans are "developed," whereas working land covenants and easements are "purchased."
- Revising technical assistance grant use to more accurately reflect the purpose of the grant funds, and to expand the eligible applicants to all organizations that are eligible to enter into conservation easements or covenants.
- Changing language to be consistent throughout the statute regarding the relationship between the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and the OWEB Board.
- Revising language to align with OWEB's process by which technical committees can either advise staff who make recommendations to the OWEB Board/Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission or advise the board/commission directly.

Budget

Category	2017-2019 Legislatively Approved Budget	2019-2021 Governor's Budget
General Fund	$190,000	$0
Lottery Funds	$79,589,460	$84,173,659
Other Funds	$3,009,486	$5,570,646
Federal Funds	$41,759,143	$58,710,763
Total Funds	$124,548,089	$148,455,068
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	33.00	35.88

Policy Packages - Recommended

100-NRS-4 - Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Request position be made permanent. Measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. Coordinates with various agencies and stakeholders to implement the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and similar initiatives (including those with a connection to salmon habitat and recovery), and develop metrics and evaluation methods. $266,080 (FF: PCSRF)

100-NRS-3 - Conservation Outcomes Specialist
Limited duration; Assists in building structure for monitoring and reporting results of agency and partner investments in watershed restoration. Helps to implement coordinated monitoring, adaptive management and shared learning aspects of OWEB's updated strategic plan. $195,313 (LF: Ops)

200-Carry Forward
Proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2019-21 biennium. $16,400,000 (FF/OF)

210-Forest Collaborative Grants
Funding to OWEB from Oregon Department of Forestry for implementation of the competitive grants under the Oregon Federal Forest Health Program. $500,000 (OF)

110-Personal Services Contracting Funds
Contract funds are critical for the agency to implement its programs in the most efficient and effective manner possible. $375,000 (LF: Ops)

110-NRS-4 - Partnerships Coordinator
Limited duration; Manages work associated with Focused Investment Partnership program, which intends to scale up conservation to ensure progress toward quantifiable ecological outcomes. $230,375 (LF: Ops)

110-PM-2 - Online Systems Project Manager
Limited duration; Manages work associated with OWEB's online grant management systems. $218,375 (LF: Ops)

130-Conservation Policy and Strategy Coordination
Provides contracting resources to assist with conservation policy and strategy coordination on complex, landscape-scale natural resource issues. Examples include tide gates, sage-grouse habitat conservation and Governor Brown's initiative to create a secure, safe and resilient water future for all Oregonians. Using a model that has been successfully implemented for other programs, this package requests contracted services for effective program delivery. $325,000 (LF: Ops)

230-Additional Grant Funds
Allows OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service, should this service be requested, and if federal funds are available for this purpose. $2,000,000 (FF)

250-Upper Klamath Basin Grants
Provides funds to support the reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into the Upper Klamath Basin and enable associated habitat restoration work through on-the ground grants, if federal funds are available for this purpose. $13,400,000 (FF)

Policy Packages – Analyst Adjustment

090-Analyst Adjustments
Adds an Internal Auditor 2 position. $183,351 (LF: Ops)

Policy Packages – Not Recommended

120-Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program-Operations
This package would provide staff and funds for contracting to support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. $738,652 (GF/LF: Ops)

220-Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Grants
This package proposes funding for grant for implementation of the OAHP to help farmers and ranchers voluntarily keep their land in agriculture and maintain or improve fish and wildlife habitat. $9,250,000 (GF)

April 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update H-2: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

This report provides the board an update about the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP).

Background

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) was established by law in 2017 to provide voluntary tools to protect and enhance working lands while maintaining or enhancing valuable fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values. The OAHC is authorized to make grant recommendations supporting conservation values on working lands, including grants for succession planning, developing and implementing conservation management plans, technical assistance, and conservation covenants and easements. The OAHC makes recommendations to the OWEB Board for approval.

OAHC Meeting

The OAHC met on March 6, 2019 to discuss the following items: valuation of conservation management plan (CMP) implementation; valuation of termed conservation covenants; OAHP legislation; and a potential timeline for solicitation of OAHP grants.

I. Valuing CMP Implementation

The commission's CMP subcommittee presented a report on valuation of CMP implementation. The subcommittee noted that some programs pay for the capital cost of installing practices, but not maintenance and monitoring. Since the OAHP could potentially pay for CMP implementation for 20-50 years, more work is needed to develop a payment system that recognizes the public benefit provided by CMP implementation. The OAHC decided to solicit contracting services to determine valuation of public benefits received from implementation of CMPs. Staff have released an RFP for this process.

II. Valuing Termed Conservation Covenants

The OAHC found that there is no standardized appraisal process for termed covenants. Available information found that valuation generally corresponded to the length of the term. Until standardized methods of appraisal are available, the OAHC decided that termed covenants should be valued at a percentage of market value that aligns with the number of years of the covenant, or 20% for a 20-year covenant and up to 50% for a 50-year covenant.

III. OAHP Legislation

Bills related to OAHP are described in Director's Update H-1.

IV. Potential Timeline for Solicitation of OAHP Grants

Should OAHP funding be appropriated for the 2019-2021 biennium, the OAHC expressed a desire to make funding available as soon as possible after the beginning of the biennium. Staff have drafted application templates for use in OWEB's online grant application system. If funding becomes available, a solicitation would be announced in July 2019 with applications due in October 2019. Following expert review and evaluation, the OAHC would recommend applications for funding at a March 2020 meeting. The board would act on the funding requests at its April 2020 meeting.

Staff Contact

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Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item I supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Spending Plan
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on OWEB's 2019-2021 Spending Plan. This item is for discussion only; no board action will be taken at this time. However, the board will be asked to provide direction to staff for moving forward with final options for the July 2019 meeting.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plates. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

At its July 2017 meeting, the board adopted a 2017-2019 Spending Plan totaling $84.352 million. In June 2018, the board updated the spending plan to include additional Lottery and PCSRF monies, as well as funding transfers to other agencies. These funds, combined with additional revenues from Lottery, resulted in a final 2017-19 spending plan of $96.858 million. Attachment A shows the 2017-2019 Spending Plan, total board awards to date, and funds remaining in each line item as of April 2019.

III. 2019-2021 Spending Plan Development

Based on the February 2019 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined $96 million will be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received. For PCSRF funding, this amount will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through their competitive grant process. If Congressional funding is available, PCSRF provides an opportunity for eligible applicants—including OWEB on behalf of the State of

Oregon—to submit grants each year. It should be noted that there are limitations on eligible uses of the available PCSRF funds, such that these funds cannot be used for all aspects of OWEB's grant program.

In October 2018, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2019-2021 Spending Plan. In January 2019, the board discussed spending plan categories and provided feedback on the proposed percentages allotted to each category. Between January and April, staff discussed funding options for specific grant types within each category. Based on board feedback and staff discussions, a draft 2019-21 spending is provided as Attachments B (percentages) and C (spending plan detail).

IV. Spending Plan Line Items

The spending plan contains a range of items. Some are frequently discussed (restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring grants; focused investments and council capacity), while others (weed grants, small grants, district capacity, CREP) are less frequently on the board's agenda. At the April 2019 board meeting, staff will present on each line item to give the board a better sense of what is funded in each area. These presentations are in advance of the July 2019 board meeting where decisions will be made on spending plan amounts for the 2019-21 biennium. Attachments I-1 through I-18 to the staff report provide summaries of the spending plan line items. Staff will present information to the board at the April meeting to provide additional details about the programs and answer any questions the board may have about those programs.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Staff will be seeking feedback on overall spending plan direction for development of a final proposal for board consideration in July 2019. No final decisions will occur at the April meeting.

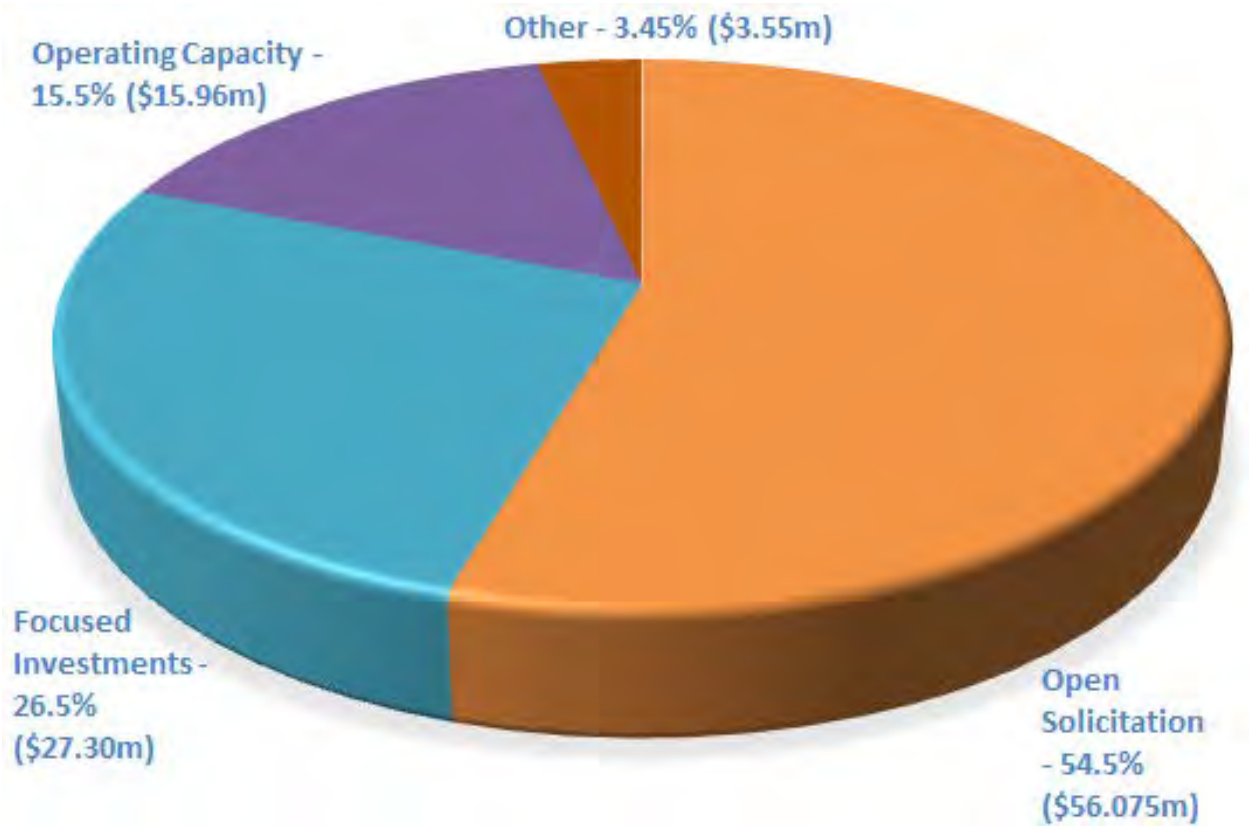
Attachments

A. 2017-2019 Spending Plan
B. Draft 2019-2021 Spending Plan Percentages
C. Draft 2019-21 Spending Plan
D. Spending Plan Line Item Summaries 1-18

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

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Spending Plan as of Jan 2019	TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after To-Date Awards	Apr 2019 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after April 2019 awards
1	**Open Solicitation:**					
2	Restoration (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)	33.000	25.032	7.968	7.761	0.207
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA	4.000	2.636	1.364	1.229	0.135
5	CREP TA (includes NRCS & ODF funds)	1.435	1.435	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700	0.632	0.068	0.240	(0.172)
7	Monitoring grants	3.100	1.784	1.316	1.325	(0.009)
8	Land and Water Acquisition					
9	Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)	9.900	6.630	3.270	3.802	(0.532)
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	0.756	0.831	0.253	0.578
14	**TOTAL**	**60.472**	**45.205**	**15.267**	**14.610**	**0.657**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**62.43%**				
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	0.916	0.234		0.234
24	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
25	**TOTAL**	**17.427**	**17.193**	**0.234**	**0.000**	**0.234**
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	0.500	0.500	0.000		0.000
30	Organizational Collaborative Grants	0.400	0.400	0.000		0.000
31	**TOTAL**	**15.498**	**15.498**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**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	1.011	1.011	0.000		0.000
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**	**3.461**	**3.461**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**3.57%**				
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**96.858**	**81.357**	**15.501**	**14.610**	**0.891**
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	0.250	0.250	0.000		0.000
47	**TOTAL**	**12.404**	**12.404**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
48	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**109.262**	**93.761**	**15.501**	**14.610**	**0.891**

2019-2021 Proposed Spending Plan Percentages



OWEB 2019-21 Proposed Spending Plan

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	2017-19 Spending Plan as of Jan 2019	Carry Forward	Proposed 2019 Spending Plan	Proposed 2020 Spending Plan	Difference from 2017-19 Biennial Plan
1	**Open Solicitation:**					
2	Restoration	32.000		30.200	31.200	-0.800
	Coastal Wetlands Restoration	1.000		0.332		-0.668
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA	4.000		2.850	3.850	-0.150
5	CREP TA *(includes NRCS & ODF funds 17-19; and $250k NRCS funds in 19-21)*	1.435		1.375	1.375	-0.060
6	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700		0.900	0.900	0.200
7	Monitoring grants	3.100		3.250	3.250	0.150
8	Land and Water Acquisition					0.000
9	Acquisition (includes USFW Coastal Wetlands)	8.900		6.500	8.500	-0.400
	Coastal Wetlands Acquisition	1.000				-1.000
10	Acquisition Technical Assistance	0.600				-0.600
11	Weed Grants	3.000		3.000	3.000	0.000
12	Small Grants (*carryforward up to $500k based on 2017 board policy)*	3.150	0.500	2.800	2.800	-0.350
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes *(name change)*	1.587	0.560	0.700	1.200	0.173
14	**TOTAL**	**60.472**	**1.060**	**51.907**	**56.075**	**-3.505**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**63.12%**		**53.78%**	**54.50%**	
16	**Focused Investments:**					
17	Deschutes	4.000		4.000	4.000	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	2.445		2.180	2.180	-0.265
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	1.970		2.500	2.500	0.530
20	Sage Grouse	2.355		0.474	0.474	-1.881
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.340		2.000	2.000	-0.340
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.417		2.777	2.777	0.360
23	John Day Partnership			4.000	4.000	4.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse			1.715	1.715	1.715
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat			2.000	2.000	2.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Partnership			1.500	1.500	1.500
27	Clackamas Partnership			3.455	3.455	3.455
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750		0.450	0.700	-0.050
29	**TOTAL**	**16.277**	**0.000**	**27.051**	**27.301**	**11.024**
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**16.99%**		**28.03%**	**26.54%**	
31	**Operating Capacity:**					
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) *(includes 3.8% COLA 19-21)*	13.547	0.157	14.259	14.259	0.869
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.500		0.250	0.500	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative Grants	0.400		0.200	0.200	-0.200
35	Partnership Technical Assistance *(name change)*	1.150		0.500	1.000	-0.150
36	**TOTAL**	**15.597**	**0.157**	**15.209**	**15.959**	**0.519**
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**16.28%**		**15.76%**	**15.51%**	
38	**Other:**					
39	CREP	0.750		0.750	0.750	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.011		1.000	1.000	-0.011
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.200		0.600	1.800	0.600
42	Strategic Plan Implementation Grants	0.500	0.435	0.000	0.000	-0.065
43	**TOTAL**	**3.461**	**0.435**	**2.350**	**3.550**	**0.524**
44	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**3.61%**		**2.43%**	**3.45%**	
45	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**95.807**	**1.652**	**96.517**	**102.885**	**8.562**
46	**OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION**					
47	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	10.450		11.437	11.437	0.987
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.309		0.321	0.321	0.012
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.500		0.500	0.500	0.000
51	NRCS technical support	1.000		0.000	0.000	-1.000
52	PSMFC-IMW	0.729		0.600	0.600	-0.129
53	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools	0.166		0.166	0.166	0.000
54	ODOT	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000
55	**TOTAL**	**13.154**	**0.000**	**13.024**	**13.024**	**-0.130**
56	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**108.961**	**1.652**	**109.541**	**115.909**	**8.432**

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Governor's Priorities

Recommended Amount: $1.0 million

Summary: The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically these investments address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor's Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work. These types of investments are unique in that they address both technical assistance and restoration needs while focusing on areas of importance to the Governor.

Program History: Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

These investments have varied over time and include:

- Support for initial work of forest-health collaboratives, including statewide coordination, technical support for local collaboratives, and planning and implementation support for these groups.
- Partnerships with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support on-the-ground investments in Salmon Stronghold projects. This work led to a multi-organizational partnership to develop a Coastal Coho Business Plan and component action plans through a partnership with NFWF, the Wild Salmon Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Support for Oregon's Sage-Grouse Plan, including convening partners to develop strategies for successful restoration programs, as well as Geographic Information Systems and other data gathering and analysis.
- Support for development of a federal, state, and local agency and organization partnership focused on clean water. The partnership includes a comprehensive framework in support of monitoring and implementation focused on the state's agricultural water quality program, currently focused on Strategic Implementation Areas. This investment has also been instrumental in the current Water Vision work with multiple state agencies
- Support for the development of a working lands easement program concept focused on agricultural lands. This resulted in legislative approval of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Demand: Investments have totaled $1 million in each of the last two biennia. Because this program operates as a proactive grant-making item, the demand does not exceed the funding available.

Future Need*:* The Governor's office is still in the process of identifying future focus areas for the program and will provide updates at both the April and July board meetings. In addition, as in previous biennia, the Governor's office may come before the board during the biennium with additional program priorities. At this time, it is not expected that additional requests will increase the spending plan amount requested.

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

- **Oregon's Water Vision –** $65,000 to support work to ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians. Work will continue to focus on:
  - Understanding the context for change, including what has been accomplished in other areas;
  - Helping to better define and frame Oregon's water 'story' as it relates to community resiliency, economy, and health;
  - Developing a strong framework for the program that will lead to an effective governance and funding model; and
  - Continuing to develop a statewide shared vision and path.

- **Tide Gate Partnership -** $300,000 to support work to support resilient coastal communities by reducing risks from coastal hazards, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife. Work continues to focus around local outreach, completion of a tide gate inventory, development of an interactive decision support tool, and building out engineering and regulatory toolboxes resulting in more, high quality on-the-ground projects.

- **Post-Fire Response -** $85,000 to support post-fire recovery work from both the Chetco Bar fire in 2017 and fires in the mid-Columbia region in 2018. Work included an inventory of the stream network on private lands to locate areas within the burn region that are most likely to degrade based on variables such as slope, loss of canopy, soil burn severity, road density, and channel morphology. Funds were also used for conservation planning and project implementation in partnership with Natural Resources Conservation Service funds.

- **SageCon Partnership -** $550,000 to continue key coordination and collaborative governance role for statewide planning and coordination related to the health of Oregon's sage-steppe ecosystem, rural community vitality, addressing threats to habitat and wildlife, and advancing economic development within a conservation framework.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Governor's Priorities		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$1.00	$0.00
2015-2017	$1.00	$0.00
2017-2019	$1.011	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Strategic Implementation Areas

Recommended Amount: $1.8 million

Summary: The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is leading the "Strategic Implementation Area" (SIA) program, where select areas around the state will receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

During the 2017-2019 biennium, 11 SIAs were identified by ODA. OWEB provided $100,000 in technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funding to soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to support working with landowners and developing restoration project designs within newly identified SIAs. Any restoration projects developed from SIAs as a result of OWEB's technical assistance funding may be submitted either through OWEB's other grant programs or in partnership with other agencies for implementation.

In addition to the support for technical assistance and stakeholder engagement, OWEB has also provided $25,000 to each SIA to support baseline and long-term monitoring with the SIA geography.

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

In the 2015-2017 biennium, ODA identified SIAs in Deschutes, Polk, Columbia, Clatsop, Polk, Yamhill, East Multnomah, Clackamas, Jackson, Tillamook, Marion, Hood River, and Umatilla counties. To assist producers in these regions, OWEB allocated $1 million to fund restoration projects within SIA boundaries. At the conclusion of the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB and ODA collectively reevaluated this approach and identified that the highest need for the program was to provide technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring funds to the SIA's. This revised approach began in 2017-2019 biennium, where ODA has identified SIAs in Lane, Curry, Wasco, Benton, Linn, Klamath, Umatilla, Baker, Gilliam, Malheur, and Harney counties.

Demand: In the 2019-2021 biennium, ODA will identify 12 additional SIAs. ODA has requested additional staff through the legislative process to support an increased number of SIAs. Following SIA identification, OWEB funds will be eligible to assist local partners in providing technical assistance to agricultural operators for water quality improvement. Restoration projects may be proposed through existing OWEB processes in the Small Grant and Open Solicitation grant programs.

ODA and OWEB believe that strategic delivery of stakeholder engagement and technical assistance will lead to greater program effectiveness and allow ODA and its partners to make better use of limited resources.

Future Need*:* It is anticipated that SIAs will continue to be selected using a robust prioritization approach based on data from multiple sources including state and federal agencies. Funding will

continue to be needed to assist in providing stakeholder engagement technical assistance in selected SIAs.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Several soil and water conservation districts have developed projects as a result of the SIA program and OWEB technical assistance funds and have submitted applications to OWEB's small grant program. In addition, several groups have developed monitoring plans and are beginning to plan for baseline data collection.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Strategic Implementation Areas		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.00	$0.00
2015-2017	$1.00	$0.00
2017-2019	$1.20	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation - Restoration

Recommended Amount: $31.2 million

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

Program History: Open solicitation restoration grants provide assistance to landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board. Initial investments were modest and focused on restoration demonstration projects. The number of projects and level of investment quickly increased as the Oregon Legislature and the public supported OWEB through Ballot Measures 66 and 76. At the same time, organizational capacity within watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other groups to plan and implement projects grew, and landowners became engaged in implementing voluntary projects.

Restoration accomplishments in Oregon, including those funded by OWEB, have been reported through the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI). From 1999 through 2018, OWEB invested $337 million in 6,112 OWEB restoration projects that have reported their accomplishments to OWRI. Riparian, road, upland, fish passage, and instream restoration activities make up the largest number of projects, respectively. These projects have resulted in:

- 5,417 linear stream miles treated through instream and riparian activities
- 6.469 miles of habitat made accessible for fish
- 1,198,227 acres treated through upland activities
- 54,527 acres of wetland/estuarine habitat restored/created/enhanced

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, the board awarded 62% of requested funds, or $31.5 million out of $51 million requested. The board awarded 85% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

Future Need: While the five new implementation Focused Investment Partnerships will absorb some of the demand for open solicitation restoration funds, this category of the spending plan is expected to continue to require a high proportion of available funds.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: In 2017, the board adopted revised restoration rules that clarify evaluation criteria that successful projects must address. Facilitation of regional review teams incorporated graphic references to the criteria, the "bubble diagrams," to help review teams address evaluation comments commensurate with criteria in rule.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Open Solicitation - Restoration		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$27.720	$0.102
2015-2017	$25.982	$0.00
2017-2019	$33.000	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: $3.85 million

Summary: Open solicitation technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program for watershed assessments and designs that lead to eligible restoration projects. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at $75,000 per grant.

Program History: Since 1999, OWEB has been awarding technical assistance grants. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination, and permitting. There are two types of technical assistance grants offered through the open solicitation program:

- Technical Design and Engineering: Development of technical design for a restoration project; and
- Resource Assessment and Planning: Development of an implementation plan for restoration activities.

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, the board awarded 60% of requested funds, or $3.9 million out of $6.5 million requested for eligible projects. The board awarded 77% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

Future Need: Demand remains high, even after the spending plan line item was increased mid-biennium in 2016. Similar to restoration grants, it is anticipated that the five new implementation FIPs will reduce demand somewhat.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The cap on technical assistance grant requests was increased from $50,000 to $75,000, reflecting increased costs of services and increased complexity of project types. For the first time, the board adopted rules specific to technical assistance grants, including evaluation criteria that better relate to planning, assessment, and design projects. Landowner recruitment projects were moved out of the technical assistance grant type to the new stakeholder engagement grants, which are more appropriate for that project type.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$2.60	-$0.024
2015-2017	$3.06	$0.169
2017-2019	$4.00	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants

Recommended Amount: $3.25 million

Summary: Open solicitation monitoring grants are awarded once per year in the fall grant cycle. Funded monitoring grants may include: gathering baseline data on current conditions in a watershed, evaluating the specific efforts of management actions, or identifying causes for changes in trajectory (either up or down) in habitat, fish and wildlife populations, and water quality/quantity. All monitoring projects must be developed within the context of the entire watershed, follow OWEB approved protocols, and use the information to design, direct, or implement projects to enhance or sustain the health of watersheds.

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

Open solicitation monitoring grants differ from OWEB's Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan in that the open solicitation monitoring grants are proposed by local partners to OWEB as part of the agency's responsive grant-making process. The projects are designed and led by grantees, and typically are smaller in scope and effort than programmatic effectiveness monitoring projects.

Program History: As a part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, OWEB and other state natural resources agencies developed an associated monitoring strategy. This strategy described an overall framework for structuring coordinated monitoring and provided direction to help integrate Oregon Plan programs and monitoring with region-wide watershed enhancement and salmon recovery efforts. OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to: 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on Oregon Plan progress.

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, the board awarded 57% of requested funds, or $3.1 million out of $5.4 million requested. . The board awarded 79% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams (RRTs).The total allocation to open solicitation monitoring grants this biennium was increased from previous biennia, to help address the high demand for monitoring funds.

Future Need: It is anticipated that a consistent and significant need for monitoring funds will extend into the next biennium, given that approximately 25-30 monitoring applications are received each year on average. Alternate sources of funding for monitoring are limited, and in some cases other funding sources have seen reductions in available funds in recent years. For example, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s Clean Water Act Section 319 grants can only fund a limited number of monitoring projects statewide due to recent funding cuts. Staff anticipate working with the board's monitoring subcommittee in the 2019-21 biennium to scope resource needs associated with potential future monitoring actions, such as long-term monitoring investments and paired restoration and effectiveness monitoring.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: OWEB staff convened the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) to discuss the technical merits and potential benefits of submitted monitoring grants in two open solicitation grant cycles. The OPMT reviews were provided to RRTs to inform funding recommendations for monitoring grants.

In 2017, OWEB monitoring staff solicited input from OWEB Grant Program staff, OPMT and RRT members, and monitoring grantees to determine how to improve the monitoring application guidance to maximize the quality and success of monitoring grant investments. Based on those recommendations, in May 2018, staff revised and added guidance for the online monitoring grant application, and hosted a webinar to provide additional training to interested applicants.

In the 2017-2019 biennium, the effectiveness monitoring coordinator and regional program representatives successfully implemented an informal pre-application consultation process with potential monitoring applicants. This consultation allows the applicant to describe their monitoring interest and provides an opportunity for OWEB staff to advise them on integral components of a successful monitoring project, including data management and analyses recommendations, engagement with agencies as project partners, well defined and implemented monitoring objectives, and appropriate sampling methodologies. Staff can also alert applicants to questions in the monitoring application and the important information that is of interest to the reviewers.

This biennium, monitoring and grant staff have further increased coordination, including collaboratively administering monitoring grants over the life of the project and jointly reviewing grant reports to ensure they adequately fulfill the scope of work described in the grant application. This effort is another example of OWEB staff working across programs to ensure accountable use of funds, and to support sharing of important findings obtained through these monitoring funds.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$2.50	-$0.024
2015-2017	$2.12	$0.024
2017-2019	$3.10	*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes

Recommended Amount: $1.2 million

Summary: Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes is the new title for the previous Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in OWEB's spending plan. This item includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. This program-level monitoring and evaluation that is supported through targeted investments is different from open solicitation monitoring grants, which are conceptualized by local partners and considered through OWEB's responsive grant program.

Programmatic monitoring consists of evaluating the cumulative effectiveness of restoration action types that are funded through OWEB's open solicitation grants. Recent examples include the livestock exclusion effectiveness monitoring study completed in 2018, and the ongoing Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). This spending plan line item also supports quantification of conservation outcomes. For example, funds have supported the 'Telling the Restoration Story' initiative, which helps local partners compile and report existing data to highlight progress towards meeting ecological outcomes and communicate lessons learned.

As a complement to these investments, OWEB staff also participate in cross-agency teams to evaluate programs and projects that share common goals and objectives. One example is the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP), which includes the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and OWEB. OWEB also has convened an interagency team consisting of ODA, DEQ and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to provide oversight and guidance for Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) monitoring.

Program History: In September 2004, the board authorized the initial concept of an effectiveness monitoring program. Since that time, staff have worked with the board monitoring subcommittee to build the program. This approach included the identification of specific scales at which to conduct monitoring, such as watershed-scale as with the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW, and certain prioritized project types for evaluation, like juniper removal or livestock exclusion.

In September 2016, OWEB filled a new position, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, which assists OWEB with quantifying outcomes associated with collective conservation actions implemented in Oregon, and works with cross-agency teams such as CEP. In July 2018, OWEB added another new position, Conservation Outcomes Specialist, adding more capacity to help OWEB track and report on ecological and programmatic outcomes.

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, $1.587 million was allocated for programmatic monitoring, with $756,000 awarded as of January 2019. Several additional investments are in development (e.g., tidal wetland effectiveness monitoring, monitoring of Stage 0 restoration approach) that will result in funding requests spanning this and early next biennium.

Future Need: Demand for Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes EM funds increased in the 2017-2019 biennium, and this trend is anticipated to continue in the 2019-2021 biennium. For example, given strong support expressed for 'Telling the Restoration Story,' sustained demand for this program is expected in the 2019-2021 biennium. Staff anticipate expansion of this initiative to support more paired

restoration and monitoring investments, which enable monitoring over the full life of a restoration project. Ongoing investment in monitoring under the Coordinated Streamside Management approach for SIAs will be needed. As implementation of OWEB's 2018 strategic plan continues, additional monitoring needs will emerge for investments related to Strategy 7, Bold and Innovative Actions, that require paired monitoring. Staff will work with the board's monitoring subcommittee to identify these needs and opportunities. For these reasons, staff recommend carrying forward funding for this line item from 2017-19 to 2019-21.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Example highlights are described below (not an exhaustive list):

- 'Telling the Restoration Story' - These grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project to tell the story of quantitative restoration effects. Seven retrospective projects are currently funded by OWEB, and each is anticipated to produce a suite of outreach and technical communications products by June 2019. More projects are in development.
- Coordinated Streamside Management/SIA monitoring - The inter-agency approach include funding for monitoring provided to each SIA, which will scale up restoration work to address agricultural water-quality issues. The statewide monitoring team has developed guidance for use by local partners and is working with current SIAs to help develop local monitoring plans.
- Tide gate Literature Review - In February 2018, a final report was completed by Oregon State University that summarizes existing information about the effects of tide gate restoration projects. This document reports on findings, conclusions and recommendations regarding the effectiveness of tide gate removal or upgrade in improving conditions for Oregon's native aquatic species (particularly salmonids), and will inform future programmatic monitoring investments by OWEB.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$1.00	$0.31
2015-2017	$0.50	$0.287
2017-2019	$1.587	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement

Recommended Amount: $0.9 million

Summary: Open solicitation stakeholder engagement projects include outreach efforts that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to eligible projects.

Program History: From 1999 to 2011, OWEB awarded outreach and education grants. Under Measure 66, these activities were funded through non-capital funds, which could be used for a variety of purposes that furthered the goals of improving water quality, recovering fish and wildlife, and enhancing watershed health.

Measure 76 changed the constitutional language regarding education and outreach grant offerings. Due to these changes, beginning with the October 2011 grant cycle, OWEB only offered outreach grants that are necessary for activities to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows. Grants for education only are not eligible under Measure 76. In 2017, the board adopted rules for the new stakeholder engagement offering that provided further guidance for the program.

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, the board awarded $0.875 million of the $1.6 million requested – an award amount of 54% compared to the requested amount. The board awarded 87% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

Future Need: While stakeholder engagement grants, and formerly outreach grants, were eligible for activities necessary for eligible acquisition projects, the offering had never been utilized for that purpose. With participation in rule development from the land trust community, and subsequent outreach to land trusts, there has been increased interest in accessing stakeholder engagement funds for the purpose of developing eligible acquisition projects. Increasing complexity of restoration projects is also expected to increase interest in stakeholder engagement grants for the purpose of community engagement.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Stakeholder engagement replaced outreach grants in the 2017-2019 biennium to better align the offering with constitutional and statutory requirements for Ballot Measure 76 Lottery funds. Staff worked with a rules advisory committee of stakeholders to develop new rules for the offering, including evaluation criteria that reflect the significant differences between stakeholder engagement grants and the former outreach grants. In addition to landowner recruitment, stakeholder engagement projects can include outreach necessary for community buy-in that is essential to subsequent restoration or acquisition project success.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$1.10	-$0.028
2015-2017	$0.65	$0.003
2017-2019	$0.70	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Land and Water Acquisitions

Recommended Amount: $8.5 million

Summary: OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts.

OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, and water leases.

Program History:

Land Acquisitions: The board began making land acquisition grants in 1998. Several grants were awarded during the first few years of the program. In 2000, interest in the program began growing, and grew significantly over subsequent biennia. During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB convened a rules advisory committee to recommend program rule changes for board consideration in April 2019. To date, the board has awarded nearly $49 million in land acquisition grants, leveraging $94 million in matching funds and protecting nearly 79,000 acres.

Water Acquisitions: The board awarded its first water acquisition grant in 2001. Until 2010, only five grants were awarded, with a relatively small award amount for each project (i.e., under $40,000). Beginning in 2010, interest in water acquisition grants began to grow as a result of increased organizational capacity in select areas of the state to carry out water acquisition projects and programs and increased concern about instream flow issues. Since 2010, the board has awarded over $4.55 million for water acquisition grants, resulting in the short-term transfer of over 98 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 17,987 acre-feet and the permanent transfer of about 30 cfs, or 6,256 acre-feet to instream use. To date, funding requests to OWEB have come from three primary locations in the state: the Deschutes, Klamath, and mid-Columbia Basins. In addition, OWEB is now seeing more applications from the Rogue Basin. These awards have supported a range of activities from permanent transfers and temporary leases of instream water rights to incentivizing voluntary curtailments by irrigators.

Demand:

Land Acquisitions: In the 2017-2019 biennium, twelve applicants requested approximately $10.3 million in funding through the Land Acquisition open solicitation program. Land acquisitions that are part of Special and Focused Investment Partnerships total $1, 943,850.

Water Acquisitions: In the 2017-2019 biennium, eleven applicants requested $1,891,040 in funding through the Water Lease and Transfer grant program. Seven projects were fully funded in 2017 and three applications are recommended for funding from the 2018 grant offering. One application was determined to be incomplete.

Future Need:

Land Acquisitions: The Land Acquisition open solicitation program seeks to continue annual solicitations for land acquisition applications in the 2019-2021 biennium. OWEB's land acquisition program prioritizes the purchase of land with intact, functioning systems that benefit priority plant communities and fish and wildlife species.

Water Acquisitions: The Water Lease and Transfer grant program seeks to continue annual solicitations for applications in the 2019-2021 biennium. The purpose of the program is to increase instream flow to address the conservation needs of habitats and species and to improve water quality.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium:

Land Acquisitions: During the 2017-2019 biennium, land acquisition staff completed one acquisition transaction, which permanently protected 1,771 acres, completed the conveyance of two OWEB-funded properties to a new grantee, started or continued eight land acquisition transactions, moved the land acquisition application to the online platform in collaboration with the Technical Services staff, and coordinated monitoring of OWEB's portfolio of land acquisition investments.

Water Acquisitions: During the 2017-2019 biennium, staff worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) to coordinate technical and organization capacity reviews of water acquisition grant applications. OWEB staff developed a new online application for water acquisition projects to better align the program with the agency's grant process improvements. Through this, application materials were updated to streamline and coordinate with NFWF's Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. The application review process utilized NFWF's Technical Advisory Committee to evaluate the 2018 OWEB Water Lease and Transfer grants for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity.

Investments by Biennium for Land and Water Acquisitions		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$8.00	$1.06
2015-2017	$6.675	$2.659
2017-2019	$10.50**	$*

*Full biennium data not available

** Includes federal Coastal Wetlands funding

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Small Grant Program

Recommended Amount: $3.3 million

Summary: OWEB small grant program (SGP) funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. These small grant teams (Teams) form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams select from an OWEB rule-defined list of actions when identifying priority watershed concerns for their small grant area. Priority concerns include: fish passage; urban impact reduction; road impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function. Teams set application cycles, review submitted proposals, and submit recommended projects to OWEB.

Program History: In 1999 OWEB investigated ways to be more responsive to small restoration projects. During this time the Oregon Legislature encouraged the agency to initiate a county-based, local cost-share program through a budget note in OWEB's legislative adopted budget.

In January 2002, the board adopted administrative rules establishing the SGP with the goal of supporting implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by funding small, straightforward restoration projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Such projects are to include, but are not limited to, those developed to address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's), Agriculture Water Quality Management Plans, urban non-point source pollution management plans, and the Board of Forestry's Forestry Program for Oregon.

The board set boundaries for 28 geographic areas throughout the state. Within each area a team may form comprised of representatives from local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Teams are guided by self-defined operating procedures, along with a list of watershed priorities and eligible project types revisited biennially. Historically the board has awarded $2.8 million ($100,000 per team) per biennium to the program.

During the 2015-2017 biennium, the board open solicitation subcommittee completed a review of the SGP. This process resulted in two recommended changes, the first being an increase in the project award cap from $10,000 to $15,000. The second recommendation was to allow the reallocation of up to $500,000 in unspent SGP funds carried over from one biennium to the next. Following board approval, these changes were implemented in the 2017-2019 biennium. SGP rules were updated April 2018, to reflect the increased project cap along with minor clarifying language updates.

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, all 28 Teams successfully reorganized and were awarded $100,000 each. As of March 8, 2019, 214 projects have been awarded utilizing nearly $2.4 million in SGP funding.

Future Need: The biennium spending plan need is expected to remain stable at $2.8 million. The continuation of unspent program funds carryover is requested to allow high-performing teams access to additional funding when their original funding award has been exhausted.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: As noted above, two changes to the SGP were implemented during the 2017-2019 biennium – the increased cap and board allowance for additional carryover. To date, more than half of projects awarded this biennium have utilized the increased award amount. Regarding carryover funds, these were added to the award of those teams allocating at least 95% of their original award by the mid-point of the biennium. Thirteen teams met the threshold and received an additional $26, 923 each to allocate to projects this biennium.

Both program changes were well-received and will allow for increased utilization of program funding by redistributing funds to those teams and areas where demand is greatest.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Small Grant Program		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$2.80	$0.404
2015-2017	$2.80	$0.350
2017-2019	$3.30	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

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

Recommended Amount: $3.0 million

Summary: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) using Measure 76 Lottery funds approved through OWEB's biennial spending plan. Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. Under the OSWB Grant program, the OSWB works to fund as many high priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project.

The prevention and control of State Listed noxious weed species are critical elements of watershed protection and enhancement. To address this issue, ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

Program History: The OSWB Grant Program was established in the 1999-2001 biennium, after the passage of Measure 66. Until 2010 and the passage of Measure 76, the fiscal responsibilities for Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grants were administered through ODA. The passage of Measure 76 in 2010 started the partnership between OWEB and ODA for OSWB grants. The ballot measure changed the language within the constitution, designating OWEB as the single granting agency for State Lottery funds designated for watershed restoration. This change resulted in a move of OSWB grant funding under OWEB's budget, rather than being transferred directly to and administered by ODA.

The 2011-2013 biennium was a transition period for the OSWB grant partnership. A Lean-Kaizen process was completed to identify strengths, challenges, and redundancies in the process, and refinements to the process were made based on the lessons learned. ODA and OWEB staff have worked together to ensure grantees meet the requirements and standards of both agencies under the new OSWB grants process, and have improved communication between the agencies and local partners such as watershed councils, county weed programs, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and soil and water conservation districts.

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

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, applicants to the OSWB grant program had a success rate of 79%; 103 projects secured full funding, seven obtained partial funding, and 29 projects did not receive funding. Historic demand for grants has only had a success rate of 68% of the projects which secured funding.

Future Need: The OSWB Grant Program is seeking to continue an increase of $500,000 in the 2019-2021 biennium that was first proposed in 2017-19. In the 2017-2019 biennium, the OSWB Grant Program was awarded an increase of $500,000 for the pilot County Weed Development Grants. Previous to that

increase, the program remained at $2.5 million since the 2011-2013 biennium. A continuation of this increase would provide the opportunity to expand existing projects and address new opportunities for weed grant investments that meet the requirements of M76.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium *(include programmatic highlights from the biennium)*: In 2017 grantees had a 179% match on the OSWB/OWEB funding that was received for project work, treating over 16,161 net acres and surveyed 730,556 gross acres.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$2.50	$0.00
2015-2017	$2.50	$0.00
2017-2019	$3.00	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation

Recommended Amount: $26.601

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

Program History: OWEB began its current partnership investments in 2006 with the Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative, a multi-agency, cooperative funding grant program to restore salmon habitat in priority watersheds throughout the state. This investment was followed by several Special Investment Partnerships.

In June 2013, the board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Effectiveness Monitoring. At that time, no formal definition, process, or solicitation approach for the FIP program existed. In October 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program design (including solicitation approach and process) for the FIP category in the Long-Term Investment Strategy. This was followed by initiation of an 18-month process to set board priorities and solicit for investments within the program.

Following an extensive public process, the board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
7) Coastal Estuaries

The first solicitation for Implementation FIP proposals occurred in 2015. Applications discussed the strength of the partnership; the partnership's strategic action plan; and the restoration strategy, work plan, and budget for the six-year FIP initiative. Proposals were evaluated by expert review teams formed around the designated board priorities, and partnerships were interviewed by the board Focused Investment subcommittee in January 2016 in a public meeting setting.

For the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded $14.058 million to the six partnerships listed below. In July 2017, these partnerships were awarded $15.512 million for the 2017-2019 biennium.

1) Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration
2) Habitat Restoration for Anadromous Fish Reintroduction in the Deschutes
3) Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative
4) Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties
5) Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats
6) Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

The second solicitation for Implementation FIP proposals occurred in 2018. The application and review process were similar to the initial 2015 solicitation, and included refinements based on lessons learned

from the first solicitation and the FIP program administrative rules that were adopted in January 2018. At the January 2019 meeting, the board selected five initiatives to be funded in 2019-2021 totaling $12.670 million, including:

1) John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative
2) Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction
3) Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative
4) Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
5) Clackamas Partnership Restoration for Native Fish Recovery

Demand: OWEB conducted required pre-application consultations with 15 partnerships for the 2018 solicitation. Of those, 10 partnerships submitted Implementation FIP applications and two submitted Development FIP applications. At the January 2019 board meeting, five partnerships were selected for Implementation FIP funding and both of the partnerships that submitted Development FIP applications were awarded funding through that grant offering.

Future Need: At the time of application, the original six FIP implementation initiatives requested funding and provided budgets for three biennia. The sum of FIP Implementation budgets for the 2019-2021 biennium is $13.931 million, an approximate 10.2% decrease from the 2017-2019 biennium. Details on 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 budgets are found in Attachment A. Having selected the five new initiatives for funding as noted above, the program would add an additional $12.670 million in the 2019-2021 biennium to make those awards. Thus, the total projected 2019-2021 biennium Implementation FIP investment is $26.601 million. Budgets for each of the FIP initiatives are available if requested.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The six partnerships awarded funding in 2016 have made strong, measurable progress toward their initiative goals. A full update on progress for each initiative was provided through written and oral reports in agenda item K at the January 2019 meeting. Additionally, 2018 marked just the second time the FIP program has solicited proposals for Implementation funding. This process was built on lessons learned from the first solicitation in 2015, and it recruited highly capable partnerships with ambitious restoration initiative goals. The program will seek to continue refining its solicitation and review processes in the future.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$10.25	$0.00
2015-2017	$14.058	$0.00
2017-2019	$15.527	$0.00

Attachments:
A. FIP Implementation Initiatives 2017-2019 Budgets and 2019-2021 Estimated Budgets

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
2017-2019 Implementation FIP Budget Tables

Table 1: Deschutes Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2017-2019 Biennial OWEB Investment	2017-2019 Balance to be Obligated*	2019-2021 Biennial OWEB Request**
Partnership Capacity	$123,900	$0	**$125,000**
Stakeholder Engagement	$174,536	$174,536	**$234,375**
Technical Assistance	$475,000	$200,000	**$40,000**
Restoration	$2,002,924	$1,802,924	**$2,491,875**
Land Acquisition	$938,750	$938,750	**$928,750**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$284,890	$284,890	**$180,000**
TOTAL	**$4,000,000**	**$3,401,100**	**$4,000,000**

Table 2: Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group

OWEB Grant Category	2017-2019 Biennial OWEB Investment	2017-2019 Balance to be Obligated*	2019-2021 Biennial OWEB Request**
Partnership Capacity	$101,661	$0	**$100,000**
Stakeholder Engagement	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$233,761	$158,761	**$0**
Restoration	$1,989,595	$1,121,271	**$1,960,000**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$119,983	$0	**$120,000**
TOTAL	**$2,445,000**	**$1,280,032**	**$2,180,000**

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
2017-2019 Implementation FIP Budget Tables

Table 3: Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2017-2019 Biennial OWEB Investment	2017-2019 Balance to be Obligated*	2019-2021 Biennial OWEB Request**
Partnership Capacity	$61,200	$0	$62,000
Stakeholder Engagement	$0	$0	$0
Technical Assistance	$488,350	$0	$0
Restoration	$1,821,960	$1,492,413	$2,685,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$44,990	$0	$30,000
TOTAL	**$2,416,500**	**$1,492,413**	**$2,777,000**

Table 4: Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration

OWEB Grant Category	2017-2019 Biennial OWEB Investment	2017-2019 Balance to be Obligated*	2019-2021 Biennial OWEB Request**
Partnership Capacity	$1,780,680	$0	$0
Stakeholder Engagement	$0	$0	$0
Technical Assistance	$449,778	$0	$547,425
Restoration	$0	$0	$1,228,603
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$109,542	$0	$223,972
TOTAL	**$2,340,000**	**$0**	**$2,000,000**

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
2017-2019 Implementation FIP Budget Tables

Table 5: Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners

OWEB Grant Category	2017-2019 Biennial OWEB Investment	2017-2019 Balance to be Obligated*	2019-2021 Biennial OWEB Request**
Partnership Capacity	$384,925	$0	$500,000
Stakeholder Engagement	$0	$0	$110,000
Technical Assistance	$567,067	$394,646	$125,000
Restoration	$923,920	$923,920	$1,655,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$94,088	$94,088	$2,500,000
TOTAL	**$1,970,000**	**$1,412,654**	**$2,500,000**

Table 6: Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse

OWEB Grant Category	2017-2019 Biennial OWEB Investment	2017-2019 Balance to be Obligated*	2019-2021 Biennial OWEB Request**
Partnership Capacity	$0	$0	$0
Stakeholder Engagement	$0	$0	$0
Technical Assistance	$122,228	$122,228	$0
Restoration	$2,190,985	$255,082	$473,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$42,037	$0	$0
TOTAL	**$2,355,250**	**$377,310**	**$473,000**

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: $700,000

Summary: The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) evaluates the dedicated FIP funding to help board, staff, and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

Program History: In January 2016, the board awarded its first six Implementation FIPs. Recognizing the need to understand how FIPs are achieving their intended ecological and programmatic impacts, the board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) in April 2016 to help OWEB establish a structure for evaluating progress towards ecological outcomes and program-level impacts. The resulting progress monitoring framework helps OWEB and local implementers evaluate progress toward outcomes for each of the board-identified ecological priorities. Key elements include a results chain and a cross-walk matrix. The framework is based on best practices for evaluating conservation outcomes and may also be useful to other funders, as well as the board. BEF then worked with each of the six Implementation FIP partnerships to develop, refine, and complete results chains and cross-walks for their program, overlaying existing monitoring efforts of the FIPs to determine what monitoring already is occurring or planned and what remains as a gap.

In April 2018, the board awarded supplemental funding to fill the top priority monitoring gaps identified by the six FIPs. Five applications have been submitted, and OWEB staff established a technical review process for evaluating these applications. Also in April 2018, additional funding was provided to support BEF's ongoing engagement in the FIP monitoring effort, including (but not limited to): creating 'generic' results chains for each board-approved FIP ecological priority to communicate with less-technical audiences; developing adaptive management guidance for each FIP; and working with newly selected Implementation FIPs to complete results chains and cross-walks.

Demand: In April 2016, the board awarded $200,000 to BEF to coordinate with OWEB on developing the FIP monitoring framework, in collaboration with each partnership. In April 2018, the board delegated $623,750 to be awarded to FIP partnerships to address their top priority monitoring need(s) identified through the results chain process. Additionally, $126,250 was awarded for continued work by BEF. During the 2019-21 biennium, funding is needed to help the five newly selected Implementation FIPs bridge from results chains to monitoring plans by continuing to fill gaps that may be identified. The new FIPs did not yet have the benefit of using a FIP strategic action plan template that incorporate results chain (or theory of change) concepts. Implementation FIPs awarded beyond the 2019-21 biennium will use theory of change approaches and reflect this in their monitoring funding requests to OWEB. In addition, a modest amount of funding is requested to continue BEF's involvement during this transition biennium.

Future Need: As supplemental funding is now being provided to each FIP to address top priority monitoring needs, there will be a continued need to evaluate interim results and adaptively manage their restoration and monitoring efforts where needed. As new FIPs are selected, demand to connect the results and outcomes of these investments to the ecological outcomes in a consistent way will continue. Staff will work with the board monitoring and focused investment subcommittees to track FIP monitoring needs, and ultimately may propose refinements to this spending plan line item in the future (e.g., supporting out-year tracking and reporting activities beyond the life of a six-year FIP). Over the

long term, the FIP monitoring results will help the board understand the outcomes and impacts of this investment approach and lessons learned from these partnerships.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium:

- Each existing partnership has worked with BEF and OWEB staff to identify top priorities for supplemental monitoring funding. Working within the context of the progress monitoring framework, each of the six FIPs identified a top priority for supplemental funding to enhance FIP monitoring efforts and/or their ability to track and report progress. Currently funded projects include: 1) a monitoring database for the Oregon All Counties Sage Grouse FIP; and 2) enhanced monitoring and analysis to support an updated results chain that connects social support and ecosystem services to restoration for the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative. Monitoring applications are under review to support the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative, Deschutes Partnership, and Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative. The application for the Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats partnership is pending.
- Generic results chains for the board's FIP ecological priorities are in development to fill a communication need for less technical audiences to understand how restoration results in near-term and longer-term ecological outcomes. These communication products demonstrate how strategies and actions yield near-term and longer-term ecological outcomes specific to each ecological priority in an attractive one-page graphic.
- OWEB staff are developing progress tracking reports for each of the six FIPs to provide a consistent approach to tracking outputs, outcomes and lessons learned over time. These reports will align strategies presented in the partnerships' results chains with work done towards implementing strategic action plans. They will show progress each partnership is making towards measuring and achieving ecological outcomes and share insights learned from implementing restoration.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.00	$0.00
2015-2017	$0.50	$0.30
2017-2019	$0.75	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Partnership Technical Assistance (formerly Development Focused Investment Partnership)

Recommended Amount: $1 million

Summary: Development Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants have supported existing partnerships working within an OWEB focused investment priority. The current Development FIP grant offering is intended for partnerships seeking to 1) build their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, 2) generate a new strategic action plan, 3) enhance an existing strategic action plan, and/or 4) develop a financial plan.

Program History: OWEB awarded the first grants under this program (known as 'Capacity-Building' FIPs at the time) in January 2016, with eight grants to partnerships totaling $937,369. In January 2017, staff solicited for 2017-2019 Capacity Building applications. At that time staff also expanded the eligible activities and recommended a name change for the program (from 'Capacity Building' to 'Development'). Developing a financial plan was included in the eligible activities and stakeholder engagement was made required activity. These changes were based on lessons learned from grantees and from the Partnership Learning Project associated with the FIP program.

Demand*:* During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB offered two Development FIP grant cycles and funded seven applications totaling $676,671.

Future Need: Oregon is a leader in collaborative approaches to restoration. After offering two biennia of grants to support partnership development and development of a strategic action plan, there is now a diversity of partnerships operating in Oregon working collaboratively on ecological outcomes. Some of those partnerships are a direct result of receiving a Capacity Building or Development FIP and are now high-performing partnerships with strategic action plans. Some are just forming and might be future applicants to the program.

As we enter into the third biennium of this program area OWEB staff recommend several changes to the program, as outlined below.

1. Change the name from 'Development FIP' to 'Partnership Technical Assistance'.
2. Add a new eligible action under this grant offering to allow existing, high-performing partnerships with a strategic action plan to apply for funding to support and maintain the high-performing partnership. We know from experience in working with our grantees and from the Partnership Learning Project that maintaining a high functioning partnership takes time, energy, and financial resources. This change also directly supports the outcomes listed under Strategic Plan Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.
3. Move the program out of the Focused Investment spending plan category into the Operating Capacity category, and no longer require partnerships to be directly addressing one of OWEB's identified ecological priorities.

These proposed changes would continue to make the program responsive to the evolving partnership needs on the landscape and open up the offering to additional eligible applicants. The bar would continue to be high for which types of applications are eventually funded, but staff believe a greater diversity of applicants to the program will have wide-ranging benefits.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The Development FIP program has encouraged communication and learning across partnerships. Staff host quarterly calls with all of the current grantees to discuss lessons learned, challenges, and questions. These calls continue to

be great opportunities for grantees to share information across partnerships and learn from each other. We will continue this approach in the future as we move forward with the program.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Partnership Technical Assistance		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.00	$0.00
2015-2017	$1.039	$0.00
2017-2019	$1.15	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Council Capacity

Recommended Amount: $7.129 million

Summary: Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds.

Program History: OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 15 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), "designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed."

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has statutory discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

In the 2015-2017 biennium, 59 councils submitted council capacity applications and 58 councils were funded. Staff used the merit criteria and evaluation process adopted by the board in July 2014 to determine funding levels, including full funding, reduced funding, and do not fund. All 58 councils that received funding submitted the required work plan update in June 2016.

In the 2017-2019 biennium, 60 councils submitted requests for eligibility determination by the November 2016, deadline. After the eligibility review, and when necessary an appeal process, all 60 were determined eligible to apply for a council capacity grant. All 60 councils applied by the March 2017, deadline. The board awarded 58 councils two year council capacity grants and one council a one year grant with the ability to reapply for the second year of funding. In June 2018 that watershed was able to demonstrate it met all five merit criteria and the board awarded the council a second year of council capacity grant funding.

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, of the 59 councils mentioned above, 53 received full funding, five received reduced funding, and one received one-year funding with an extension as referenced. One council did not receive funding.

Future Need: The council capacity grant program is seeking to include a 3.8% cost-of-living increase for councils in the 2019-2021 biennium. These funds will be distributed, based on the results of the merit evaluation, among 59 grant applications that were submitted by the application deadline.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: During the 2017-2019 biennium OWEB staff moved the council capacity grant application to OWEB's online grant application system. This transition allows watershed councils to manage most of their OWEB grant applications through one system. In addition, staff made several updates to the council capacity grant application guidance, including merging two merit criteria, effective governance and effective management into one criterion, effective governance and management.

The final development has been related to support for watershed councils that choose to merge into one watershed councils. After multiple discussions with the board's operating capacity subcommittee, staff recommend the board adopt the approach outlined in Attachment A of the Operating Capacity Subcommittee staff report, providing additional, ongoing support, to watershed councils that have

successfully merged. In the 2019-2021 biennium this additional merged funding will only be applicable to the successfully merged Rogue River Watershed Council.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$6.10	$0.00
2015-2017	$6.250	$0.00
2017-2019	$6.848	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: District Capacity

Recommended Amount: $7.129 million

Summary: Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

1) *Scope of Work* funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
2) *District Operations Fund* supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and provide assistance to landowners and partners.

Program History: SWCDs have an over 75-year history in Oregon. Established in 1939, South Tillamook became the first official Soil Conservation District. In 1963 the Oregon Legislature added the "and Water" to the name of Soil Conservation Districts. In 1997, the legislature added a budget note for SWCD funding as follows: *"The Subcommittee expects the grant funds to be available in the following amounts through the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board: $2,400,000 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Funding for positions in each of the eight existing areas and for watershed assessments and management plans; half of the funding would be distributed through an application process."*

SWCDs are political subdivisions of state government, but are not state agencies. SWCDs are considered municipal corporations. They are governed by specific enabling legislation under ORS 568. The members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials, to serve on either a five or seven member board.

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

1) ODA is responsible to develop, periodically modify, and implement Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans that are sufficient to meet water quality standards as described in statute.
2) SWCDs are the Local Management Agencies that assist ODA in implementing the Area Plans. SWCDs are to be involved in timely, effective implementation of Area Plans to the fullest extent practical.
3) Legislative budget notes (1997, 2007) provide direction to ODA on the use and purpose of funds allocated to SWCDs, as further refined in the Intergovernmental Agreement.
4) Legislative direction is to use these funds to implement the agricultural portion of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds as administered by ODA.
5) In June 2012, ODA began working with Oregon Association of Conservation Districts leadership, SWCD managers, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to develop a new annual work plan or (SOW) process. The new SOW process provides SWCDs more flexibility and responsibility. 75% of the SOW funds are used for district-wide tasks, while requiring 25% of the funds to be used for a specific geographic area (Focus Area). Focus Areas allow SWCDs to assess and measure change in land conditions over time. The SOW Focus Area process is a consistent approach to geographically

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

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, 40 SWCDs received full capacity grant funding. Four Baker County SWCDs split two full shares of capacity grant funds. One SWCD did not receive any capacity grant funding. Those unspent funds have been rolled over into the 2019-2021 spending plan to be redistributed to SWCDs during the 2019-2021 biennium.

Future Need: The district capacity grant program is seeking to include a 3.8% cost-of-living increase in the 2019-2021 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: SWCDs continue to work directly with ODA, watershed councils, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other partners in implementing Oregon's 38 Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans, and assist landowners in conducting conservation work on agricultural lands. SWCDs are also vital to assisting ODA in implementing the Strategic Implementation Area program, and capacity funding provides the means to allow SWCDs to engage in the program at the current levels.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for District Capacity		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$6.10	$0.00
2015-2017	$6.250	$0.00
2017-2019	$6.75	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Statewide Organizational Partnership Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: $.500 million

Summary: The Oregon Conservation Partnership (Partnership) includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders. For the 2019-2021 biennium, the partnership plans to continue to current level of increased services and offerings to their stakeholders.

Program History Since 2007, the board has approved grants to support the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-ground work. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables, including conferences, trainings, webinars, regional and local media assistance, and one-on-one work with local organizations.

In 2012, OWEB, NOWC and OACD began meeting to discuss ways to advance collaboration between the organizations. This resulted in NOWC and OACD taking steps to formalize a partnership that included shared office space and staff resources, allowing them to reduce overhead and expand capacity. In recent years, the organizations' work has expanded to include COLT and OCEAN. This expanded effort resulted in a Partnership request to the board for the 2015-2017 biennium that included funding for partnership focused deliverables in each of the four organizations. In July 2015 and again in July 2017, the board approved grants for joint programming that serves the collective and complementary missions of the councils, districts, and land trusts.

Demand: The demand for the services provided by the Partnership has continued to grow. For example, the Partnership has also seen greatly increased attendance at the CONNECT conference, which provides training for restoration practitioners, increased participation in bi-monthly webinars, as well as good turnout at both the NOWC and OACD annual meetings last year. In addition, communications staff shared amongst the partners have resulted in increased press coverage of local conservation projects.

Future Need: The increase in funding from $0.334 million in 2015-2017 to $0.500 million in the 2017-2019 biennium made a significant impact in the partnership's ability to deliver programs and provide support to their collective stakeholders. Receiving the same level of funding for the 2019-2021 biennium will enable the new level of service and delivery to be sustained among all four partners.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The Partnership continued to meet monthly to increase coordination and communication, and the boards of the four organizations are meeting annually. The Partnership has delivered 16 webinars to date reaching more than 400 stakeholders. The 2018 CONNECT conference in Seaside reached over 332 individuals representing councils, districts, and land trusts from around the state. The Partnership is currently working on the 2019 CONNECT conference, which is scheduled for April 9-11 in Sunriver.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Statewide Organizational Partnership Technical Assistance		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.415	$0.00
2015-2017	$0.334	$0.00
2017-2019	$0.500	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Organizational Collaboration

Recommended Amount: $0.200 million

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

Program History: OWEB announced this new grant offering in July 2013. Since its inception, seven grants have been awarded. This is the first biennium demand has exceeded the funds available, which demonstrates more stakeholders are beginning to think about how to operate differently to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

- In 2013, $83,824 was awarded for the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue basin. In both 2015 and 2017, a $200,000 merger transition grant was awarded to the successfully merged Rogue River Watershed Council.
- In 2013, $40,461 was awarded to Cascade Pacific RC&D for the expansion of fiscal sponsorship and employer of record services for local partners.
- In 2016, $42,964 was awarded to Marys River Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County SWCD, and Institute for Applied Ecology to explore co-locating and sharing of services.
- In 2017, $72,848 was awarded to Greenbelt Land Trust for phase II of the shared space concept.
- In 2017, $53,772 was awarded to Forest Park Conservancy to work with Verde Northwest and West Multnomah SWCD to work together to develop a partnership that will improve our restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color.
- In 2018, $72,848 was awarded to Rickreall and Glenn Gibson Watershed Councils to explore a new organizational structure.

Demand*:* As expected, staff have seen the interest in this grant offering grow over time. In the first two biennia of this offering there was limited interest and not all of the grant funds were awarded. In the 2017-2019 biennium OWEB awarded all of the available funds and received many additional inquiries from organizations that were interested in applying.

Future Need: While the interest is increasing, staff propose to reduce this category from $400,000 to $200,000 for two reasons. First, staff proposed that funding for the Rogue River Watershed Council merger transition grant out of this spending plan category will cease in its current form. See Attachment A of the council capacity spending plan staff report for additional details about this funding. In addition, staff believe the requested $200,000 will likely fill the need of those partnerships that have expressed interest and are ready to proceed with exploring new organizational structures.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: OWEB staff participated in the ground-breaking ceremony of the shared services center, called Confluence, in Corvallis in late 2018.

The vision for this center, project scoping, and MOU between the partners (Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton SWCD, Institute for Applied Ecology, Cascade Pacific RC&D, and Corvallis Environmental Center) has been supported through two Organizational Collaboration grants.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Organizational Collaboration		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.200	$0.00
2015-2017	$0.400	$0.00
2017-2019	$0.400	$0.00

April 2019 Spending Plan

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

Recommended Amount: $1.375 million (CREP Technical Assistance) & $0.750 million (CREP Cost-Shares)

Summary: The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency (FSA), with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state agencies, and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

Program History: In 1998, Oregon CREP was established to support implementation of approved conservation practices aimed at improving riparian function on private lands throughout Oregon. The State of Oregon contributes 25% of the eligible cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices, 75% of eligible cost-share (minus available federal cost-share) for certain water developments, and 100% of costs for heavy-duty tree protectors. FSA contributes federal cost-share, rental payments, incentive bonuses, and administrative oversight. NRCS and the Oregon Department of Forestry provide the majority of the necessary technical assistance, with Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others providing in-kind technical assistance. Since 1998, Oregon CREP has grown from a relatively small, experimental program into a robust statewide program that provides important, unique financial incentives and continues to be a leader in enrollments nationwide.

The board has supported CREP technical assistance with funding since 2001, beginning with SWCDs. In 2011, in consultation with CREP agency partners, funding eligibility expanded to include multi-county, multi-organization proposals. In that same year, OWEB and NRCS joined together to invest over $1 million in CREP TA grants independent from the funding for SWCD capacity and OWEB's regular technical assistance grant program. These two-year grants aimed to address critical technical assistance needs for Oregon CREP.

OWEB contributed approximately $2.125 million to the CREP program for the 2017-2019 biennium. This includes $750,000 in cost-share payments to farmers and $1.375 for OWEB's CREP TA grants (of which $250,000 was from NRCS).

Demand: In the 2017-2019 biennium, 62% of CREP cost-share funds have been spent to date. For the TA portion of the program, 12 organizations secured funding through CREP TA grants, utilizing the full funding available.

Future Need: The CREP cost-share program is seeking to make available $750,000 in the 2019-2021 biennium. Staff estimate 13 organizations will apply for CREP TA funding in the 2019-2021 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The CREP TA funding supported 12 programs in the 2017-2019. These programs provide critical technical assistance for Oregon CREP, covering 21 counties statewide.

In 2017, OWEB and NRCS entered into a new agreement between the State of Oregon and NRCS that awarded $250,000 of NRCS funds to OWEB for CREP TA.

In April 2018, OWEB hosted a training for CREP technicians and other riparian practitioners in Seaside. The training was open to all local, state, and federal partners in the program and was heavily attended. The training focused on program enhancement, capacity building, and technical topics to effectively deliver Oregon CREP.

OWEB and FSA continued the process of revising the CREP Agreement between the State of Oregon and FSA in the 2017-2019 biennium. The revision is intended to clarify incentives and payments for re-enrolled contracts and to clarify agency roles. It is expected that the agreement will be finalized in 2019.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for CREP Cost Share		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.500	$0.248
2015-2017	$0.500	$0.0
2017-2019	$0.750	$*
Investments by Biennium (in millions) for CREP TA		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.750	$0.00
2015-2017	$1.05	$0.00
2017-2019	$1.375	$0.0

*Full biennium data not available

April 2019 Spending Plan

Title: Strategic Plan Priorities

Recommended Amount: $0 (carryforward $465,500)

Summary: A number of priorities and strategies within OWEB's strategic plan will benefit from a broad partnership approach to their implementation. In June 2018, the board added a new line item to its spending plan to work with various partners to implement components of the newly adopted strategic plan, delegating authority to the director to enter into appropriate agreements.

As OWEB staff reviewed the strategic plan, a number of areas are ripe for partnership, either to gather more information, to develop and complete monitoring, or to begin to implement key plan elements. Oregon has many highly equipped organizations that are poised to assist in this effort. However, funding may be needed in some instances to support organizational work. Examples include:

- **Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.** Partnerships with the university system and experts in community capacity to design and implement monitoring for OWEB's capacity investments and analysis of current community capacity baseline, needs and gaps. This also supports the board's monitoring priority (6).
- **Priority 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.** Partnerships with Oregon agricultural and forestry organizations to implement strategies within this priority focused on community engagement and increasing access to technical assistance for landowners.

Program History: While staff hoped to move forward multiple grants in the first year of funding, only one grant has been finalized so far – funding to support Priority 3 as outlined above. In addition to grants, some areas of strategic plan implementation are better suited to direct contracts with vendors who provide training or other services. OWEB has a request to the legislature for increased contract funding to support this work, which would be provided in the 2019-2021 biennium if approved.

In addition, a grant was provided through the Governor's Priorities line item in the spending plan that also supports Strategic Plan Priority 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio. Work is focused on:

- Understanding the context for change, including what has been accomplished in other areas;
- Helping to better define and frame Oregon's water 'story' as it relates to community resiliency, economy, and health;
- Better understanding of who is working where, and why; and
- Developing a shared vision and path.

Demand*:* Only one grant has been funded through the line item to date.

Future Need*:* Because project funding has been slower to move forward than anticipated, there is no need for additional funding. Currently, $465,500 remains in the holding account.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: For the first funded grant in this spending plan line item, Willamette Partnership will complete an assessment of Oregon's current collaborative systems (e.g., watershed councils, forest collaboratives, coordinated care organizations, early learning hubs, and others) to understand the current state of collaborative capacities, lessons learned about what does or does not work around collaboration, and strategies for increasing the

collaborative capacity for communities across Oregon. From that assessment, the project will develop strategies to more strongly support collaboration in ways that A) increase sustainable water management, B) create healthy communities, and C) advance conservation. The grant is in process and expected to be complete later in 2019. One early product that has begun to take form is an Oregon Atlas of Collaboration. This document will include information on 250+ collaborative cases across 14 collaborative platforms addressing issues in health, natural resources, education, economic development, and public safety across Oregon.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) for Strategic Plan Priorities		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2013-2015	$0.00	$0.00
2015-2017	$0.00	$0.00
2017-2019	$0.500	$0.4655

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K– Land Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests board approval of proposed administrative rules for OWEB's Land Acquisition grant program (Division 45).

II. Background

At the June 2018 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for Land Acquisition grants. The rules were last updated in 2013. A rules advisory committee (RAC) was established to assist OWEB staff in developing Land Acquisition administrative rules. A list of RAC members is found in Attachment A.

The RAC met on four occasions between August and November 2018, reviewing each section of the current rule and recommending changes where there was consensus to do so.

III. Public Comment on Proposed Land Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules

OWEB released draft rule amendments for public comment on February 1, 2019. The public comment period was open from February 1 – March 1, 2019 with a public hearing in Salem on February 20. Two written comments were received during the public comment period. A summary of the comments, and OWEB staff response, are provided in Attachment B. There were no attendees at the public hearing. At its April meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rules that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

IV. Summary of Proposed Changes

In addition to technical changes and new definitions, the following changes are included in the proposed rules:

- Match will be calculated in the same manner as other OWEB grants (i.e., 25% of the OWEB request).
- Habitat restoration completed on a project parcel can be used as match.
- Site stabilization costs can be reimbursed after closing.
- Certain due diligence costs can be reimbursed prior to closing.
- Subsequent conveyances will be evaluated based on the applicable evaluation criteria in the rules.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve Land Acquisition grants administrative rules found in Attachment C.

Attachments

A. RAC members
B. Public Comments and Staff Response
C. Proposed Land Acquisition Rules

Land Acquisition RAC Members

Brad Nye	Deschutes Land Trust
Clair Fiegener	Greenbelt Land Trust
Daniel Dietz	McKenzie River Trust
Amanda Martino	Blue Mountain Land Trust
Dan Roix	Columbia Land Trust
Kelley Beamer	Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
Brad Paymar	Land Trust Alliance
Paul Belson	Southern Oregon Land Trust
Kathleen Ackley	Wallowa Land Trust
Larry Ojua	Yamhill SWCD
Jon Wickersham	North Coast Land Conservancy

Summary of Public Comments: Land Acquisition Grants Rules (Division 45)

Rules: 695-045-0206, Access			
Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau	Requests to ensure that for a conservation easement or other agreement where the landowner is still in control of the land, adequate notice must be provided of the inspection, the agency should have liability for any property damage or injury that occurs during the inspection, and the entry and inspection can only be used to enforce easement rights, not looking for or reporting any other conditions found on the property unrelated to the easement.	Terms dictating access to private property with a conservation easement are negotiated between the landowner and the conservation easement holder for each property. These terms include access for OWEB, its contractors, and cooperating agencies. Similarly, issues related to liability, and associated indemnification provisions, are negotiated between the landowner and conservation easement holder, so are not generalized in rule. As a state agency, OWEB liability is addressed in DOJ-approved boilerplate language in conservation easements, and is subject to applicable laws. As noted in OAR 695-045-0206, and in ORS 541.906(2)(c)(A), the purpose of accessing the property is for monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement.	No

Rule: General Comments			
Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
Douglas Powell	Appreciates land acquisition grant program as designed. Would like to see revenue from marijuana taxes be utilized to support the purchase of property interests for conservation.	OWEB appreciates the support for the land acquisition grant program and the proposed rule revisions. Funding sources for the purchase of property interests for conservation purposes are determined by the legislative process, which is beyond the control of OWEB.	No

DIVISION 45
LAND ACQUISITION GRANTS

695-045-0010
Definitions

(1) "Management Plan" is a description of the planned future management of a ~~property proposed for acquisition~~Property Interest that ~~addresses~~is consistent with guidance established by OWEB and includes, but is not limited to, actions such as species and habitat management practices, proposed restoration projects, ~~stewardship or~~Stewardship and monitoring, land uses, public access, and educational ~~or~~and research opportunities ~~on the property~~.

(2) "Profit" means ~~the~~a positive difference between the original purchase price for the ~~property interest~~Property Interest acquired with OWEB grant funds and a subsequent purchase price for the same ~~property interest~~Property Interest, minus the owner's property improvement costs that, from an accounting or tax perspective, are capitalized and not expensed.

(3) "Stewardship" means monitoring, maintaining, managing, and improving a Property Interest, including providing signage, controlling access, enforcing use restrictions and resolving violations.

(4) "Stewardship Fund" means a restricted fund that is used to pay a Property Interest holder's long-term costs for Stewardship of the Property Interest and taxes and insurance associated with that interest. If the source of the Stewardship Fund allows investment of the Stewardship Fund, the funds may be used for investment management costs.

(5) "Conservation Easement" means a nonpossessory interest of a holder in real property imposing limitations or affirmative obligations the purposes of which include protecting or restoring native fish or wildlife habitats.

(6) "Land Acquisition Grants" mean funds awarded by OWEB to purchase Property Interests.

(7) "Property Interest" means fee simple ownership or Conservation Easement.

(8) "Project" means the aggregate of eligible activities included in OAR 695-045-0170 and 0175 that comprise an application and are specific to parcels of land, all of which are essential to the protection of a specific priority habitat at a local scale.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-30-13

695-045-0020
Purpose

~~The~~ In accordance with Section 4(b)(2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose to acquire Property Interests in lands from willing sellers for the purpose of ~~this rule is to supplement~~maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitats for native fish or wildlife. This Chapter 695, Division 45 supplements the OWEB Grant Program rules under OAR Chapter 695~~-005~~, Division 5 and ~~to add~~provides specific ~~guidance regarding~~requirements for the OWEB land acquisition grant program. In the event of any conflict between the requirements in this Division 45 and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the requirements in this Division will take precedence.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-30-13

~~**695-045-0160**~~
~~**Nature of Application**~~

~~In accordance with Section 4(b)(4) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose the acquisition of interests in lands from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat(s) for native fish or wildlife. Applications must address the conservation needs of habitat(s) and species consistent with conservation priorities and principles identified by the Board. Interests in land include a lease, purchase of a conservation easement, or purchase of fee simple title.~~

~~Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906~~
~~Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)~~
~~Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13~~

695-045-0165
Application and Subsequent Grant Processing and Agreement Requirements

(1) Land acquisition grant applications must be submitted on the most current form ~~that conforms with the process prescribed by the Board~~provided by OWEB and comply with all application requirements.
(2) The Board may consider ~~proposals~~a proposal for a Property Interest that ~~are received for properties that were~~was acquired by the applicant after the previous application deadline.
~~(3) In the event of any conflict between these requirements and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the land acquisition requirements in this division will take precedence.~~

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0170
Use of Grant Funds

Land ~~acquisition grant funds~~Acquisition Grants may be applied towards costs related to the purchase of ~~the property~~a Property Interest, including:

(1) The purchase price and the purchase option fees associated with the ~~property or conservation easement~~Property Interest. The purchase price shall be based on an appraisal and review appraisal completed in accordance with applicable appraisal standards, including the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice, and if required, the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions~~.~~;
~~(2) The interest on loans.~~
(2) The interest on bridge loans needed to secure closure on the Property Interest prior to when funding will be available for distribution through the program;
(3) The staff costs incurred as part of the acquisition process related to the ~~property.~~Property Interest;
(4) The cost of due diligence activities, including appraisal, environmental site assessment, survey, title review, the applicant's legal fees incurred, and other customary due diligence activities~~.~~;
(5) The cost of baseline inventory preparation~~.~~;
(6) The cost of preparation of the initial ~~management plan~~Management Plan, including consideration of any restoration needs~~.~~;

~~(7) The legal fees incurred.~~
~~(8)~~(7) The closing fees, including, but not limited to, recording and title insurance costs~~.~~; or
~~(9)~~(8) The cost of securing and maintaining the conservation values associated with the ~~property~~Property Interest in accordance with the application or a Management Plan approved by the Director.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0175
Matching Contributions

(1) All applicants shall demonstrate that at least 25% ~~of the actual land acquisition project cost~~match is being sought ~~as match, with~~, based on the total OWEB grant ~~applicant required to provide matching funds and efforts necessary to complete the purchase.~~ request for the Project.
(2) Funds provided by OWEB shall not qualify as match.
~~(1)~~(3) The following costs and activities will qualify as match:
(a) ~~All~~A contribution to any costs listed under OAR 695-045-0170, including in-kind contributions of those costs~~.~~;
(b) Funding commitments made by others as a result of grant applicant efforts~~.~~;
(c) The donated portion of a bargain sale~~.~~; or
~~(d) Funds deposited in a stewardship endowment, before the time that OWEB funds are released for acquisition of the property.~~
~~(2) OWEB funds provided under OAR 695-045-0170 shall not qualify as matching contributions.~~
(d) Stewardship funds, provided that documentation demonstrates that the fund is dedicated to the Project.
(4) The Director retains the discretion to determine ~~that~~whether specific matching costs are ~~unreasonable~~reasonable in a particular grant context and will ~~not~~ be recognized as qualifying matching costs.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0180
Application Evaluation Process

~~(1) Land acquisition grant applications shall be evaluated in accordance with guidance adopted and periodically reviewed by the Board and made available to the public via the agency's website and Board meeting materials.~~
~~(2) The grant application evaluation process shall include reviews for:~~
OWEB shall evaluate grant applications for:

(1) The consistency of the ~~project~~Project with the Board's established priorities and principles and conservation priorities established in local, regional, or state conservation plans for land acquisitions~~.~~;
(2) The significance of the projected ecological outcomes~~.~~;

(3) The capacity of the grant applicant, or intended property manager, to complete the acquisition of the Property Interest and to achieve and sustain the proposed ecological outcomes over time.;
(4) The soundness of the legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction.;
(5) The community impacts or benefits resulting from the project, including those related to jobs, agricultural land use, local property taxes, public access and educationProject; and
(5)(6) Any other factors the Board determines are relevant.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0185
Board Approval and Delegation of Authority

The Board shall approve grants in accordance with guidance adopted by the Board and made available to the public.this OAR Chapter 695, Division 45. The Director is delegated the responsibility of ensuring that funding conditions required by the Board are fully satisfied by the grant applicant. Conditionally Except for disbursements authorized in OAR 695-045-0195(3), conditionally approved grant funds shall be encumbered for disbursement only after all conditions are fulfilled. The encumbered funds may be made available for other uses by OWEB if all conditions required by the Board, except for site stabilization and Management Plan activities, are not satisfied within 18 months of the conditional Board approval.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0190
Public Involvement

The public shall be provided with meaningful opportunities to comment on grant applications being considered by the Board. In a manner consistent with this requirement, the governing bodies of cities and counties with jurisdiction in the area of the proposed acquisition, as well as affected governmental agencies, will be provided with written notice of the Board's intent to consider:

(1) Written comments received at least 14 days before the Board meeting at which the application is to be considered by the Board.,
(2) Comments made at public hearings held and publicized in accordance with ORS 271.735.; and
(3) Comments made at the Board meeting at which the grant application is considered.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0195
Director Funding Approval and Distribution of Funds

(1) The Director may approve the distribution of grant funds when:

(a) The funding conditions, if any, imposed by the Board are satisfied to the full satisfaction of the Director~~.~~;
(b) The legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction are approved by the Director~~.~~;
(c) The title restrictions required under ORS 541.960 are approved by the Director~~.~~;
(d) A grant agreement is executed by the Director and the grant applicant~~.~~;
(e) The Director has reconciled conditionally approved funding with actual ~~project~~Project costs~~.~~; and
~~(f) The grant applicant has satisfied the match requirements under~~ OAR 695-045-0175~~.~~
~~(g) The Board is notified in writing of the Director's intent to distribute the grant funds or hold the grant funds pending Board consideration under 695-045-0200.~~

~~(f)~~ ~~Notwithstanding~~ and OAR 695-005-0060(~~1), for~~2); and

(2) For grants established under these rules the Director is authorized to reimburse the grant applicant for allowable costs identified in OAR 695-045-0170 and to recognize matching contributions under OAR 695-045-~~0175that~~0175 that were incurred no earlier than 18 months before the applicable grant application deadline.

(3) Notwithstanding OAR 695-045-0195(1)(a), funds may be distributed prior to transaction closing for due diligence activities specified in OAR 695-045-0170(4) and included in the application budget.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0200
Funding Decision Reconsideration by Board

In the event that the Director determines that an applicant has not met conditions imposed by the Board, the Director shall forward the determination in writing to the Board for its consideration~~. The~~ and to the applicant ~~will be provided a copy of the written determination~~. The conditionally encumbered grant funds will remain encumbered until the Board either affirms the Director's determination or authorizes the continued encumbrance of all or part of the funds in accordance with a modified decision of the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0205
Compliance and Enforcement

The ongoing use of the ~~property~~Property Interest acquired with OWEB ~~land acquisition grant~~Land Acquisition Grant funds shall be consistent with the purposes specified in section 4(b) Article XV of the Oregon Constitution. ~~If significant compliance issues cannot be resolved to the full satisfaction of the Director, the Director, after informing the Board and providing reasonable written notice to the recipient of the grant, may in his or her discretion~~OWEB may initiate any and all legal remedies available to OWEB to address compliance issues, including but not limited to recovery of the OWEB grant funds that were used to purchase the ~~property, and reasonable~~Property Interest, together with interest ~~and~~at the highest rate allowed under Oregon law, and other penalties at the option of the Director.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0206
Access

OWEB, its contractors and cooperating agencies will be provided legal and sufficient ~~legal~~ access to ~~property~~Property Interest acquired with OWEB grant funds, for the purpose of monitoring and enforcing OWEB's Conservation Easement rights and completing inspections and evaluations required under ORS 541.906(2)(c)(A).

~~Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906~~
~~Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)~~
~~Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13~~

695-045-0210
Subsequent Conveyances

(1) Subsequent conveyances of ~~property~~Property Interests acquired with OWEB grant funds must strictly comply with the requirements of ORS 541.960, including, but not limited to, the requirement that subsequent conveyances be made subject to Board approval and that subsequent conveyances shall not result in ~~profit~~a Profit.
(2) Subsequent conveyances shall be evaluated based on criteria established in OAR 695-045-0180 as applicable.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

695-045-0215
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may, but is not required to, in the exercise his or her sole discretion, waive the requirements of ~~division~~this Chapter 695, Division 45 for individual grant applications unless a requirement under this Division is also required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's land acquisition grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. The administrative rules for Land Acquisition Grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906
Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) Hist.: OWEB 1-2013, f. & cert. ef. 1-31-13

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – October 2018 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 2018 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Land Acquisitions – October 2018 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2018 grant offering is the second of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2017-2019 biennium. The land and water acquisition spending plan includes $10.5 million for the biennium, including $600,000 reserved for funding land acquisition technical assistance applications. After awarding $150,000 for a land acquisition technical assistance project in April 2018, no further applications have been received for this pilot funding program. The remaining spending plan balance for land and water acquisition is $3,720,000. Four land acquisition applications were received in October 2018, requesting $5,061,009. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 219-9900 and 219-9901 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition applications 219-9902 and 219-9903 are not recommended for funding.

B. Review Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with the process adopted by the board at its January 2013 meeting and refined by the board in 2015. The process utilizes technical experts to evaluate ecological outcomes, project soundness, organizational

capacity, and community benefits and impacts. It also includes a public hearing and submission of public comment by interested parties.

Site visits were conducted by staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from Regional Review Teams. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and the input of all ecological reviewers was summarized by staff.

Project soundness reviews were conducted by a team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice. The reviews included identifying project soundness concerns, and whether reviewers think concerns are resolvable in the 18-month timeframe allowed for closing transactions after the board awards funding.

Staff reviewed organizational capacity and community benefits and impacts. Public comment was solicited through notices and a public hearing held by staff for each of the applications received this cycle.

Staff summarized the review outcomes for each project. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

Using the revised review process approved by the board in 2015, the board land acquisition subcommittee met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2018 applications. The purpose of the meeting was for subcommittee members to understand the content of the applications and the information used for evaluation that was gathered up to the time of the meeting, and to ask clarifying questions about the applications.

III. Staff Funding Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C. The land acquisition grant funding recommendations total $3,179,542.

Attachments

A. Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2018 Grant Offering
B. Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
C. Project-specific Funding Conditions (to be provided at the April board meeting)

October 2018 Offering - Land Acquisition Applications and Staff Recommendations

Application #	Application Name	Applicant	$ Requested	$ Recommended
219-9901	Mt Hood Oaks	Columbia Land Trust	$2,638,377	$2,638,377
219-9900	Tillamook Head	North Coast Land Conservancy	$541,165	$541,165
219-9902	GSG Ranch Conservation Easement	Blue Mountain Land Trust	$613,776	$0
219-9903	Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation Project	Western Rivers Conservancy	1,267,691	$0

Total Recommended:	$3,179,542

FALL 2018 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	218-9900		
Project Name:	Tillamook Head		
Applicant:	North Coast Land Conservancy	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	Necanicum River	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	$541,165	**Total Cost:**	$720,965

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Located on the north face of the iconic headland, the Tillamook Head property presents a unique opportunity to link large existing conservation areas and steward a temperate rainforest habitat to maturity. The acquisition would link two Conservation Opportunity Areas, Tillamook Head and the Necanicum watershed, and build upon previous conservation investments made by OWEB and Oregon State Parks. Chances to protect 95 acres of forest, wetland, salmon-bearing stream and riparian corridor are infrequent, particularly in the Necanicum watershed, more than 90% of which is owned by industrial timber companies. NCLC is proposing to purchase the land in fee title with no rights reserved to the landowner.

REVIEW

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The proposed transaction appears to be relatively straightforward. Several matters should be promptly addressed to ensure the purchase is completed in a sound manner:

- *Lot line adjustment (LLA):* The LLA must occur before NCLC can purchase the property. Information about the LLA process, approving party, and likelihood of approval should be obtained to ensure the transaction can proceed as proposed.
- *NCLC estimate of the property's value:* NCLC does not have such an estimate and instead is relying on valuation information derived from a timber cruise obtained by the sellers. NCLC should obtain an independent preliminary opinion of value soon after a grant is awarded. This approach could help avoid a significant investment of NCLC and OWEB resources if circumstances regarding the LLA and property value are different than currently assumed and cause the sellers to abandon the transaction.
- *Stewardship needs:* NCLC should clarify its intentions regarding the amount of stewardship funds that will be dedicated to the property, and an evaluation of anticipated stewardship needs specific to the property. To ensure the long-term soundness of the project, the management plan for the property should include specific plans for addressing stewardship issues related to the property's close proximity to urban development, with actions including but not limited to minimizing trespass uses of the property and protecting the property against the spread of urban weeds.

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The acquisition will improve connectivity and support existing ecological networks between large intact conservation areas by linking Tillamook Head to the Necanicum River estuary. The project adopts a whole watershed protection approach in an area of coastal Clatsop County where such opportunities are uncommon, contributing to a 3,600 acre corridor of conserved land on Tillamook Head. Protection of the forest and wetland habitats found on the property would benefit numerous species including salmon, amphibians, and birds that thrive within forest and wetland mosaics.

The coastal habitats found within the property are relatively intact, diverse, and devoid of invasive species, ensuring a high likelihood of success for the project's approach of simple acquisition and protection. The Sitka spruce forest is in good condition, multi-aged, structurally diverse, and on a trajectory to develop into a late-successional plant community without active management. The 14-acre lowland wetland found on the property is dominated by native shrubs and forbs without the presence of invasive species. Pocket wetlands also in good condition can be found throughout the interior of the property, including a sphagnum wetland considered to be part of a regionally rare plant community. The lowland riparian woodlands along Little Muddy Creek are also well shaded by a diversity of conifer and hardwood species. Together, this complex of habitats creates a diverse ecological system that links headwater streams to lowland wetlands in close proximity to the Pacific Ocean.

Acquisition of this property would further the conservation goals stated in documents that guide conservation and restoration work on the North Coast, including the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan. As a priority conservation area, the Necanicum Watershed and Tillamook Head are also documented by the Nature Conservancy as an important anchor habitat for ecological resiliency and diversity. The project's approach would achieve three main ecological goals: 1) complementing existing ecological networks; 2) protecting large intact areas; and 3) improving connectivity.

Based on the excellent condition of the upland and wetland habitats on the property, the limited need for active management of the forest stands, and the opportunity to improve connectivity of existing conservation lands, this project is viewed as having the potential to achieve valuable ecological outcomes.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that the project will ensure that the property's streams will continue to provide healthy fish habitat working in partnership with Necanicum Watershed Council, Oregon State Parks, and adjoining residential landowners. Ecosystem service benefits will be enhanced by the connection of this 95-acre parcel to an adjoining network of 3,600 acres of conservation lands. Given the proximity of the property to the Cove neighborhood in the City of Seaside, the project provides an opportunity for increased understanding of habitat conservation issues in the north coast.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The NCLC has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transactions and reporting requirements and is currently managing other properties in the North Coast. The organization received its Land Trust accreditation in 2016. This property is adjacent to another property owned by the NCLC, aligns with the mission of the organization, and is consistent with its conservation strategy.

The acquisition project team has the necessary skills and experience to complete this uncomplicated transaction. To address prior concerns about NCLC submitting documents to OWEB that do not contain necessary information for a complete review, if this project is funded OWEB staff will work with NCLC staff to develop clear expectations around document review and submittal.

The applicant has sufficient staff and volunteers to develop the management plan and complete long-term management of the site; however, the application lacked details about how the applicant will apply its current principles and practices of conservation to this site or how it will take into account site specific considerations, including public access, invasive species, and proximity to an urban environment.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held at Seaside City Hall on December 19, 2019 with 9 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Benefits

- No development adjacent to neighborhood.
- Connects to other conservation properties, benefits the whole watershed.
- Will help clarify land use in this area.
- NCLC is a proven, competent land steward.
- Quiet, spiritual place close to town.
- NCLC understands forest ecology and management with respect to fire.
- No additional residential development.

Concerns

- Managing the impacts of transient populations, such as structures and debris.
- Large trees and brush in the urban interface could be a fire hazard for nearby structures.
- The area is zoned residential, not conservation.
- May preclude the possibility of connecting Rippott Road to the Cove.
- Need a vehicle for timely communication with NCLC.
- Precluding development on land outside the tsunami zone.

SUMMARY

The project will result in a key parcel of intact forest and wetland habitat within a complex of 3,600 acres of conservation land, benefitting key salmon and wetland species as well as Sitka spruce forest. The transaction is uncomplicated and the applicant has the appropriate skills and experience to complete the transaction and provide good stewardship in perpetuity. Concerns identified in the evaluation can easily be addressed through funding conditions.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award $541,165 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NCLC to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its April 2019 meeting.

FALL 2018 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	218-9901		
Project Name:	Mt. Hood Oaks		
Applicant:	Columbia Land Trust	**Region:**	Central Oregon
Basin:	Hood/Lower Deschutes Rivers	**County:**	Wasco
OWEB Request:	$2,638,377	**Total Cost:**	$3,488,377

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The 1,950-acre Mt. Hood Oaks conservation project lies on the border between OWEB's Hood and Deschutes Basins immediately east of the Mt. Hood National Forest and north of the State's White River Wildlife Area near the historic community of Friend, Wasco County. Located at the hub of intersecting ecological gradients and at a gap in an existing network of public lands, the property is positioned to host extraordinary biological diversity, function beyond its borders by connecting habitat between Mt. Hood and the Deschutes River, and provide resilience to a changing climate. The project will conserve through fee acquisition one of the largest remaining unprotected transitional pine-oak habitat properties in the East Cascades eco-region and ensure its intact habitat remains functional for OWEB priority species by enabling coordinated cross-boundary land management. Partners consider this property the highest conservation priority in the Wasco Oaks Conservation Opportunity Area due to its combination of intact habitat, adjacency to other conservation ownerships, and high threat of conversion due to low timber value and adjacency to rural-residential development. Habitat types to be conserved vary from dry mixed conifer forest to Oregon white oak woodlands to coniferous riparian forest and lowland riparian woodlands. The property hosts at least eight of the 18 priority plant communities for OWEB's Hood Basin and is likely to host all of the terrestrial OWEB priority wildlife species. The project meets Columbia Land Trust's Conservation Agenda objectives to conserve the most intact and functional habitats at a scale that allows natural processes to function and will meet objectives in many other agencies' and organizations' conservation plans. It will protect opportunities for local communities and visitors to engage with nature. Partners include ODFW, USFS, American Bird Conservancy, and the East Cascades Oak Partnership.

REVIEW

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

It is likely that the transaction and long-term management of the property can be completed in a sound manner provided that matters associated with a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) conservation easement that encumbers the majority of the property can be adequately addressed, and ODFW's desired public access for the property (in exchange for its contribution of $200,000 for the property purchase) can be aligned with CLT's property management objectives and OWEB's conservation easement.

CLT should agree to work with RMEF to reach an agreement to either extinguish the RMEF easement, or, alternatively, amend the RMEF conservation easement so that it does not conflict with the conservation easement that will be granted to OWEB. This will ensure that CLT can manage the property for the protection of its conservation values, including temporarily or permanently closing certain portions of the property to public access if needed to restore or conserve vegetative communities and wildlife.

There is a higher than average likelihood of unauthorized uses of the property due to historical uses of the property, plans for future open public uses, and adjacent land uses including livestock grazing and a public road. The management plan for the property should include actions for minimizing unauthorized uses. The management plan should also include closures of the property when necessary to restore and protect the conservation values, and coordination with other parties that have an interest in the property or its use.

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The 1,950 acre property is strategically located for conservation protection; it is directly adjacent to both state and federal protected lands and serves as a transitional habitat zone from coniferous forests to mixed oak, grasslands, and shrub steppe. The property is primarily mixed oak/pine/conifer woodlands with relatively good understory condition and some intact stream and riparian corridors, offering a wide variety of productive habitat types for numerous wildlife species. The property is a key area for ungulate winter range and an East Cascades migratory corridor for many species including neo-tropical birds.

Given the property's limited timber and grazing value, residential development, which is occurring adjacent to the property, is a potential threat to habitat values. Long-term protection of the ecological values of the property is identified in local and state plans. The application accurately identified and addressed OWEB's basin-specific priority species that could benefit from protecting this property, specifically ash-throated flycatcher, Lewis's woodpecker, western gray squirrel, and Townsend's big-eared bat.

The prospect for a non-profit organization to protect a large acreage of mosaic habitats benefiting wildlife and connectivity directly adjacent to public lands opens up partnership opportunities to realize landscape scale protection and restoration of these habitats. ODF, ODFW, and USFS have already been working on this model with success in different parts of the state. While the majority of the acreage is in good ecological condition, future management (prescribed fire, thinning, revegetation) will be needed. Columbia Land Trust ownership of the parcel and the desire to partner with land management agencies offers a high likelihood of success in planning and implementing large scale restoration projects across the Oak and Dry Mixed Conifer Ecotype.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

In addition to the habitat benefits provided by connectivity with adjacent public lands, connectivity provides human benefits for recreational opportunities, fire management, and water availability. Three large fires in 2018 consumed over 133,000 acres and resulted in loss of life. Habitat management envisioned by this project will reduce tree density in favor of older, larger trees, which will reduce the severity of wildfire.

The project has potential to provide benefits for tribal use within ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Mule deer is an important First Foods species for tribal members. CLT plans to work with tribal representatives to facilitate positive project outcomes for this priority.

CLT plan to provide non-motorized public access from April 1 – November 30 each year, and will dedicate staff to engage with neighbors and the public.

Payment of property taxes is an important issue in Wasco County. CLT currently has a mix of properties in its portfolio where some pay property taxes and some do not. At the public hearing, CLT expressed its intent to raise funds sufficient to endow property tax payments annually, but cannot commit to that at this time.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

CLT is the applicant and will be the long-term holder of the property. CLT is accredited by the National Land Trust Alliance, has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transaction and reporting requirements, and is well suited to complete this transaction. This property complements other property owned by CLT, aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy and the East Cascades Oak Development FIP the organization is currently working on with other partners.

The acquisition project team has the necessary skills and experience to complete the transaction. The stewardship and long-term management team also has the necessary skills, experience, and financial resources to develop the management plan and complete long-term management of the site. CLT has the necessary funds in place for long-term management and is committed to fundraising to support any additional needs.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held January 10, 2019 at the Dufur School with 18 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- Protect large intact property that has been identified as a conservation priority.
- Provides connectivity to adjacent protected lands (ODFW White River wildlife area, USFS).
- Managed to reduce fire hazard.
- Columbia Land Trust has demonstrated good invasive species management.
- The intent of continuing to pay property taxes (at a conservation rate).
- Provide public access.
- Property provides big game (ungulates) winter rage habitat.
- Columbia Land Trust is a good neighbor (Mill Creek ridge property, Wasco County) particularly with respect to managing access and marking boundaries and managing fire risk.

Project Concerns

- Maintenance of fences.
- The need for boundary markers for public access to prevent access onto adjacent private property.
- Trespass patrol.
- Parking for public visitors.
- Road maintenance needs – in particular Shell Rock Rd.
- Property tax payment is not guaranteed at this time.
- If appraisal comes in at the suggested $1,750 per acre, there is concern that:
    - It may be higher than current value; and
    - It may result in increased property assessments.

- Regarding the current Larch Creek cow hunt (which is open year round), if this closes, it may impact neighboring landowners from hunting pressure.
- Application mentions current fencing on northern boundaries are in disrepair, but no detail on how this will be addressed or managed.
- Public ownership in Wasco County is already high.

SUMMARY

The proposed project will result in permanent protection of high value habitat that has connectivity with significant conservation parcels with pine-oak transitional habitat in the East Cascades eco-region. The applicant has substantial expertise in closing similar properties and an excellent track record of long-term stewardship. CLT also has staff expertise in neighborhood and community engagement, which will be important for long-term management given the relatively high public use expected on the property. A critical component of the transaction will be to ensure that the RMEF easement does not conflict with the required OWEB easement of the property.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award $2,638,377 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with CLT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2019 meeting.

FALL 2018 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	218-9902		
Project Name:	GSG Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Blue Mountain Land Trust	**Region:**	Mid-Columbia
Basin:	John Day	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	$613,776	**Total Cost:**	$1,113,776

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Blue Mountain Land Trust proposes to acquire and monitor a Conservation Easement on GSG Ranch, a privately owned 1,642-acre cattle ranch in Grant County, Oregon. The GSG Ranch Conservation Easement is located in the Upper John Day Basin, approximately 5 miles southeast of Prairie City in the Reynolds Creek Watershed, adjacent to Malheur National Forest and in close proximity to the Strawberry Wilderness. This working land conservation easement will protect 1,642 acres of upland, wetland, and riparian lands. The ranch provides large landscape connectivity for upland species, as well as priority steelhead and salmon spawning habitat of 1.2 miles of the John Day River and 0.5 miles of Reynolds Creek, an important cold water tributary. Continued restoration of Reynolds Creek and the John Day River on the ranch, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, will begin in 2020-2021.

With support from conservation partners, the landowners have worked to improve and restore agricultural lands and fish and wildlife habitat on the ranch. As a working lands easement, farming and ranching will continue under management plans designed to balance agricultural uses and protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat. The landowners are partnering with Blue Mountain Land Trust to preserve the improvements and investments they've made on the property in perpetuity.

REVIEW

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The application and review process identified soundness challenges that make it unlikely that the transaction can be completed in an efficient, sound manner in the near term, and create uncertainty with regard to the long-term outcomes of the proposed investment. These efforts identified project soundness challenges that make it unlikely that the transaction can be completed in an efficient, sound manner in the near term, and create uncertainty with regard to the long-term outcomes of the proposed investment.

The project's soundness challenges include: (i) valid mineral claims held by existent third parties who may choose to explore for, and develop, mineral resources on the property; (ii) uncertainty about whether the restoration described in the application and proposed for protection under the easement will be completed, given that concurrence needed from another landowner has not been obtained and title encumbrances are not well understood; (iii) uncertainty about whether the conservation easement

template being developed by OWEB, NRCS, and BMLT will be acceptable to the property owner, including language that requires that agricultural activities contribute to intended ecological outcomes and that protection of the property's conservation values be prioritized over agricultural activities in the event of a conflict between the two; and (iv) uncertainty about whether the property's uplands, proposed for inclusion in the easement, will be protected under the easement in a manner that clearly advances the priorities of OWEB's land acquisition program.

Any revised application should consider: (i) a request for additional funds needed to purchase the reserved mineral estate; (ii) assurances that the proposed restoration will be completed; and (iii) the property owner's concurrence with the easement template currently under development, including ecological goals appropriate for a Measure 76 Lottery-funded working lands easement.

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

There are high ecological values associated with the riverine, floodplain and wetland habitat, particularly if planned restoration is implemented along the main stem John Day River and Reynolds Creek. ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, as well as Chinook would all benefit from the cold-water habitats those systems provide. Permanent protection that enhances the ability to address stream temperature impacts provides climate change resiliency. The application would have been stronger if it had provided more specific details on how the easement would protect the ecological values in the riparian and floodplain zones, specifically how or if grazing would be allowed. There were also concerns about the property boundary following the centerline of the river and how that could be impacted by re-meandering or any channel reconfiguration. Plans to complete the intended restoration have the potential to impact the cross-river landowner, so will require, at minimum, agreement with the landowner. The ecological values would be higher if the property on the opposite side of the river channel was included in restoration plans. Depending on how those issues are resolved and/or agreements reached with adjoining landowners, the outcomes of this easement could be muted or greatly improved.

The upland ecological benefits were not as well described in the application and the site visit revealed the annual grass infestation to be of extreme magnitude. Restoring the uplands will require significant and continued efforts; however, the extensive shrub component observed on the site visit would serve as an important winter food source for deer and elk. There are ecological benefits to maintaining connectivity between this large timber and grassland property with the other private and public holdings on either side.

The landowners have been active in restoration since the 1980s, and appear to be interested in protecting restoration investments and improving fish and wildlife habitat on the ranch into the future. The views from this property are magnificent and appealing for residential development; however, the application did not address the likelihood of subdivision with respect to development pressure and zoning requirements.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The GSG is a working ranch that contributes to the local agricultural economy, provides open and scenic areas, and supports fish and wildlife populations. The ranch is committed to remaining economically and environmentally viable through continued sustainable agricultural use of the land. The slope and aspect of the property make it an integral component of the viewshed in proximity to the Strawberry Wilderness.

The landowners have actively engaged with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs on irrigation efficiency and stream restoration projects. The tribe is working on protecting important strongholds for wild Chinook salmon in the basin, and is currently developing a riparian management plan for the streams on the property.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

BMLT is a relatively new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. It is a growing organization that has recently expanded into Grant County to fulfill a local need. The proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization.

BMLT project team includes a diversity of staff with most of the legal backgrounds necessary to successfully complete the transactional aspects of the propose project. However, it is likely that BMLT will need additional assistance and expertise to handle the complicated mineral estate issues associated with the property. The stewardship and long-term management team also has the necessary skills and experience. The organization has some financial resources dedicated to the long-term stewardship of the site, but it is unclear is the resources will be sufficient in consideration of the organization's growing portfolio, all of which have monitoring components.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held January 9, 2019 at the Prairie City City Hall with 17 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Benefits

- Keep elk off the haystacks and clover.
- Reynolds Creek is a significant cold water habitat stream for steelhead rearing, bullhead habitat, and one of the only Chinook spawning tributaries.
- Provides west slope cutthroat trout habitat.
- Protects highly functioning ecological processes.
- Protects agriculture.
- Remeandering/reconnecting the floodplain generally helps irrigators.
- Potential to slow down flow during high flow events.

Concerns

- There are too many elk now and not enough elk management.
- How will stream restoration impact downstream irrigators?
- Unknown impacts of restoration on stream temperature; there is potential to blame agricultural operators.
- Unknown impacts on stream flow; there is potential for increased high water events.
- Potential for restoration to change "property boundaries" that are tied to the streambank.
- Potential damage to diversion structures.

SUMMARY

The application proposes permanent protection of significant habitat through a conservation easement on a working ranch. The concerns regarding title, particularly 3rd party ownership of significant mineral rights, likelihood of achieving restoration, both in the riparian areas and the uplands, and primacy of conservation in an OWEB-funded conservation easement, limit the likelihood of success at this time. Given the potential benefits of the project, the applicant is encouraged to address the concerns if a future application is submitted.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the GSG Ranch conservation easement.

FALL 2018 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	218-9903		
Project Name:	Hood River Forest and Fish Conservation Project		
Applicant:	Western Rivers Conservancy	**Region:**	Central Oregon
Basin:	Hood River	**County:**	Hood River
OWEB Request:	$1,267,691	**Total Cost:**	$5,210,356

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Western Rivers Conservancy seeks funding to acquire a conservation easement over 5,041 acres of the 19,983 acre Mid-Columbia Tree Farm (MCTF) located in Hood River County, OR. This acquisition is the first of four phases to encumber the entire property with a conservation easement using Forest Legacy Program (FLP) funding and non-federal match dollars. The MCTF, now owned by Weyerhaeuser Company, has historically provided raw logs, recreation, jobs, and other resources to region. It is surrounded on three sides by National Forest lands and makes up roughly a third of the middle segment of the West and Middle Forks of the Hood River, a significant tributary of the lower Columbia River. Because of the Hood River's tremendous resource values, it was designated as a priority basin by the Whole Watershed Initiative. The primary goal of this phased project is to aid in the recovery of at-risk fish and wildlife by preventing home-site development and increasing stream buffers.

The Hood River supports the most diverse salmonid community in the lower Columbia River, with five of the basin's six anadromous fish populations, as well as one resident species, listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The West Fork alone is the only stronghold for lower Columbia summer steelhead. Middle Fork winter steelhead are a considered a "genetic legacy" as they retain the most intact genetic composition of all Columbia steelhead. In total, there are 30 miles of fish-bearing streams on the MCTF (including 8 on Phase I) amounting to approximately 1090 acres of riparian habitat. Maintaining the property as an intact, forested landscape will secure a vital ecological linkage for fish and wildlife in the Hood River basin and advance these OWEB conservation principles:

- protect environmentally sensitive lands
- complement existing ecological networks
- improve connectivity
- protect a large intact area
- protect sites with exceptional biodiversity values; and
- secure transition

REVIEW

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The review process identified soundness challenges that make it unlikely that the transaction can be completed in an efficient, sound manner in the near term, and create uncertainty with regard to the long-term outcomes of the proposed investment.

The project's soundness challenges include: (i) significant transaction framework and easement document revisions required in order to use OWEB and Forest Legacy Program (U.S. Forest Service) funding in a manner that meets the requirements of both funders; (ii) uncertainty about whether the property owner, USFS, and ODF are willing to agree to conservation easement terms and conditions that incorporate OWEB's easement requirements; (iii) uncertainty about partner roles; (iv) a project budget that appears to lack funds necessary for WRC to lead due diligence as OWEB's grantee; (v) an unclear basis for estimating the easement purchase price; (vi) uncertainty about WRC's ability to secure bridge funding to purchase the easement; (vii) lack of clarity about funding available to steward the property since the easement will ultimately be held by a state agency rather than by a land trust with a dedicated stewardship fund; and (viii) uncertain title circumstances, with numerous title encumbrances likely affecting the property.

The draft conservation easement submitted with the application would require significant revisions to meet OWEB's requirements, including but not limited to: (i) WRC must be granted the conservation easement in exchange for using OWEB's funds for the purchase of the easement; (ii) the conservation values of the property must be specifically described; (iii) the easement must contain specific protections for the riparian buffers such as widths and use restrictions that are sufficient to achieve fish and wildlife habitat benefits; (iv) provisions that are incompatible with the purpose of OWEB's land acquisition program, such as subdivision, clearcutting timber, oil and gas development, and mining must be revised; (v) the easement holder must have the ability to close portions of the property to public access, if needed, to protect sensitive resources; and (vi) the easement holder's right to complete certain riparian and instream restoration work should be clearly established in the easement in order to ensure that such work can be completed free of incompatibilities with ongoing industrial timber operations. The revisions are likely to change the property owner's rights, which in turn could change the easement's value and the willingness of the parties to proceed.

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

This easement could provide riparian protections over a large swath of industrial timber land that encompasses portions of the West Fork of the Hood River, which supports high quality aquatic habitat for several ESA listed salmonid species. It appears that the project partners intend for the easement's riparian management zones to be more restrictive than the current Oregon Forest Practices Act, although the project's riparian provisions are in flux. Effective long-term protection of the riparian corridors would allow for more large wood recruitment, shade, and set the stage for long term diverse riparian forest characteristics to mature. These benefits would have a direct impact in improving instream habitat and complexity in this cold water refugia stream corridor, as well as increasing wildlife connectivity corridors with adjacent public land. The protection of these riparian habitats is identified in many local planning and ESA species recovery documents; an increase in riparian buffer widths would greatly contribute to the goals of these plans.

Much of the property has been aggressively managed for timber production in recent years, which suggests that conservation protection within the project area will not have immediate benefits, but benefits will increase over time if the easement is adequately written, monitored, and enforced. The application noted future development within the area as a key threat to the ecological integrity. While there is some evidence of the owner divesting other lands in the basin, the application failed to articulate the potential threat of home site development, The lack of clarity about riparian management zone specifications raised

concerns about whether the buffer zones for each stream classification would provide long-term wood recruitment.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

In addition to potential habitat benefits, the project would ensure that the property remains in working forest management, providing raw materials, jobs, and public recreational access for Hood River County. Common recreational uses of the property include hunting, hiking, wildlife-viewing, gathering/foraging, mountain biking, water sports, and fishing. The applicant plans to continue public access for these uses.

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs operates a fish hatchery on 10 acres of the property, which will be excluded from the conservation easement to allow them to continue to pursue salmonid recovery on the West Fork Hood River.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

WRC is a large organization and this acquisition aligns well with its focus on river conservation. WRC was awarded one OWEB land acquisition grant in 2007 for a project where ownership was transferred to a land trust. Based on the application materials it appears that the organization has not fully considered OWEB's acquisition program requirements when developing the application, specifically that OWEB cannot grant funds to other state agencies and OWEB's easement requirements.

The acquisition project team as proposed in the application seems small for this complicated transaction and may not have all the necessary skills and experience to complete the transaction. In addition, there does not seem to be enough resources allocated to contracted services to fill the WRC staffing shortfall. As an agency, ODF has sufficient expertise to develop the management plan and complete long-term management of the site. However, the application does not include information on the qualifications of the specific ODF staff that will be responsible for the development of the long-term management plan and on-going stewardship. In addition, state budget fluctuations could make stewardship of the easement challenging.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held January 10, 2019 at the Parkdale Fire Station with 15 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- The project's riparian protections have the ability to recruit future large wood for fish habitat (currently, partners purchase wood to install).
- Maintaining public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation uses.
- Proposed riparian buffers would improve water quality conditions for downstream users (primarily irrigation withdraws). The buffers could reduce the river's ability to be flashy and flush sediment downstream.
- Prevent subdivision.
- Reduces fire risk.
- Improve public access without user fees.
- Timing is important because harvest in buffer zones is ongoing.
- There is potential of replicating something of this nature on other Weyerhaeuser owned lands.
- Land is within the public water supply for Hood River residents.
- Protect and promote wildlife connectivity

Project Concerns

- The perception that tax dollars funding Weyerhaeuser for something they should be doing anyway.

SUMMARY

The application is premature given that the structural problems inherent in the transaction regarding the transaction mechanics and lack of incorporation of OWEB conservation easement requirements will require significant negotiations and agreements among the applicant, the landowner, and the long-term holder. The current application has a low likelihood that these issues could be resolved within the required 18-month timeframe in a manner that would secure conservation values in perpetuity.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the Hood River Forest application.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – OWEB Monitoring Grant Rulemaking
April 16- 17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks board authorization to initiate rulemaking for OWEB monitoring grants (Division 25).

II. Background

Monitoring grants are an integral OWEB grant offering, providing important resources that assist grantees in gathering baseline data on current conditions in a watershed, evaluating the specific efforts of management actions, or comparing similar watershed components before and after a restoration project. Administrative rules for the program were adopted in 2005, so were not subject to later statutory requirements that rules adopted after 2006 be reviewed every five years.

While the rules are not required to be reviewed, given the board's direction regarding monitoring in its new strategic plan, staff propose to work with a rules advisory committee (RAC) to review the long-standing monitoring grant administrative rules and determine how these rules should be updated to reflect the current intent of, and need for, supporting watershed monitoring activities in Oregon.

III. Proposed Rulemaking Process

Staff will convene a RAC for the monitoring grant rulemaking process. The RAC will be composed of a diversity of stakeholders, ranging from monitoring grantees and review team members to agency partners and OWEB staff. Staff propose to develop the Monitoring grant rules according to the draft schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	OS Monitoring Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	April 2019
RAC Meetings to Review Current Rules, Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	August-December 2019
Draft Rules Revisions Based on RAC Feedback	January 1, 2020
Public Comment Materials posted online	February 1, 2020
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	February 1, 2020
Noticed Published in Secretary of State's Bulletin	February 1, 2020
Public Comment Period	February 1-29, 2020
Public Hearing(s)	February 2020
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	Early March 2020
Board Adoption of Rules	April 2020

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB monitoring grants.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item N supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's programmatic effectiveness monitoring evaluates specific types of restoration actions at broad geographic and/or temporal scales through targeted investments. This staff report requests funding from the board's Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan for a tidal wetland effectiveness monitoring project. The project was initially submitted through OWEB's Open Solicitation program and addresses programmatic information gaps identified in a recently commissioned literature review of tide gate and estuarine restoration effects.

II. Background

Periodically, grant applications submitted through Open Solicitation grant offerings are, in reality, a more appropriate fit for other OWEB programs. This situation last occurred in April 2014, with the *Assessing Salmon Use of Off-Channel Wetlands along the Multnomah Channel* project (OWEB grant #214-3040). The board reviewed a request from staff to fund this grant through the then-titled Effectiveness Monitoring spending plan line item.

Another example of this situation was the *Bandon Marsh NWR, Ni-les'tun Unit - Effectiveness Monitoring* project (OWEB grant #210-2032), awarded in March 2012. Monitoring associated with the project gathered data to document the effects of the largest tidal wetland restoration project in Oregon at that time, which included tide gate and dike removal, restored channel meandering and connectivity, and re-established historical tidal flows. This monitoring project in the Coquille River estuary had excellent potential to quantify the effects of tidal wetland restoration and inform future projects. As such, it was funded as programmatic effectiveness monitoring.

III. Proposed Shift of Monitoring Project from Open Solicitation to Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring

OWEB Application Number 219-2048, *Ni-les'tun Tidal Wetland Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring*, has been identified as meeting programmatic effectiveness monitoring goals. The project is similar in nature to the previous Ni-les'tun monitoring project. It has broad implications for restoration practitioners well beyond the specific project location. The Ni-les'tun restoration project remains one of the largest tidal restoration projects completed in Oregon. The applicant and project partners note their dual intent of providing "accountability for OWEB's prior investments in this project, and through outreach, will help advance restoration practices and guide similar restoration projects in Oregon."

The application as submitted under the Open Solicitation offering proposes that the project will conduct extensive monitoring of: hydrology; plant communities; soil conditions; aquatic habitat availability, quality, and utilization by fish; and climate-change adaptation potential (e.g., carbon sequestration). The applicants and partners plan to disseminate monitoring results through several media, including a synthesis report, publicly understandable data summaries, and outreach via presentations to restoration practitioners and monitoring experts. Outreach efforts will articulate key findings and lessons learned that are relevant to future estuarine restoration efforts.

Work proposed under the application helps address priority next steps that emerged following completion of an OWEB funded literature review by Oregon State University (OSU) that focused on tide gate and estuarine restoration. At the October 2018 board meeting, staff outlined several next steps, including: 1) Developing lessons learned/considerations documents, based on findings from past investments and informed by the OSU literature review, for restoration practitioners and review teams; and 2) In coordination with agency and local partners, continue to explore opportunities to invest in the monitoring of tide gate and estuarine restoration projects.

For these reasons, staff propose removing this application from the November 2018 Open Solicitation grant awards to the board's Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the spending plan. This application had favorable reviews from both the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team and the Region 2 Review Team. Staff will work with the applicant to review and, as needed, refine the scope of the proposed monitoring project to be funded from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award up to $253,000 for this grant application with funds from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item of the OWEB spending plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 17, 2019.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item O supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment C to the staff report, including funding for 46 restoration grants, 21 technical assistance grants, 13 monitoring grants, and 6 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Fall 2018 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

A total of 146 applications were received requesting $19 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, three applications (219-1013, 219-2048, and 219-4027) were withdrawn by the applicant.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant applications 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, including the board's new TA rules adopted in 2018. Monitoring applications were also reviewed by the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team to assess benefit to the Oregon Plan and likelihood of success prior to the RRT meeting. 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. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 meeting, the board adopted a policy to make available at least $10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve greater sage-grouse habitat. For the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are four projects (219-5029, 219-5034, 219-5039, and 219-5040) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting $240,057. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is $6,995,302. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new four-year total will be $7,235,359, including investments through the Focused Investment Partnership Program.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1.

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	$24,031,715	$7,968,285	$7,760,592	$207,693
Technical Assistance	$4,000,000	$2,635,064	$1,364,936	$1,229,307	$135,629
Monitoring	$3,100,000	$1,783,942	$1,316,058	$1,324,817	($8,759)
Stakeholder Engagement	$700,000	$632,336	$67,664	$240,015	($172,351)
TOTAL	$39,800,000	$29,083,057	$10,716,943	$10,554,731	$162,212

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

In order to fund staff recommended applications, staff recommend the board make the adjustments to the 2017-19 Spending Plan shown in Table 2. If the spending adjustments are approved, staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachment C.

Table 1: Recommended 2017-19 Spending Plan Adjustments

Spending Plan Line Item	Adopted Amount ($ millions)	Recommended Change	New Spending Plan Amount ($ millions)
Open Solicitation: Restoration	33.000	-0.175	32.825
Open Solicitation: Technical Assistance	4.000	-0.130	3.870
Open Solicitation: Monitoring	3.100	+0.010	3.110
Open Solicitation: Stakeholder Engagement	0.700	+0.175	0.875
Land and Water Acquisition	9.900	+0.580	10.580
Land and Water Acquisition TA	0.600	-0.450	0.150

Attachments

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

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
October 29, 2018 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	7	1	8	12	28
Region 2	7	1	9	15	32
Region 3	2	4	2	13	21
Region 4	4	1	6	7	18
Region 5	4	1	6	13	24
Region 6	3	2	3	15	23
Totals	27	10	34	75	146

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	287,770	24,690	459,800	2,562,796	$3,335,056
Region 2	830,147	55,087	580,001	3,524,983	$4,990,218
Region 3	96,530	251,218	149,929	2,548,336	$3,046,013
Region 4	541,408	55,167	338,891	2,201,573	$3,137,039
Region 5	359,787	42,609	274,793	1,302,139	$1,979,328
Region 6	413,856	64,496	138,610	1,893,555	$2,510,517
Totals	$2,529,498	$493,267	$1,942,024	$14,033,382	$18,998,171

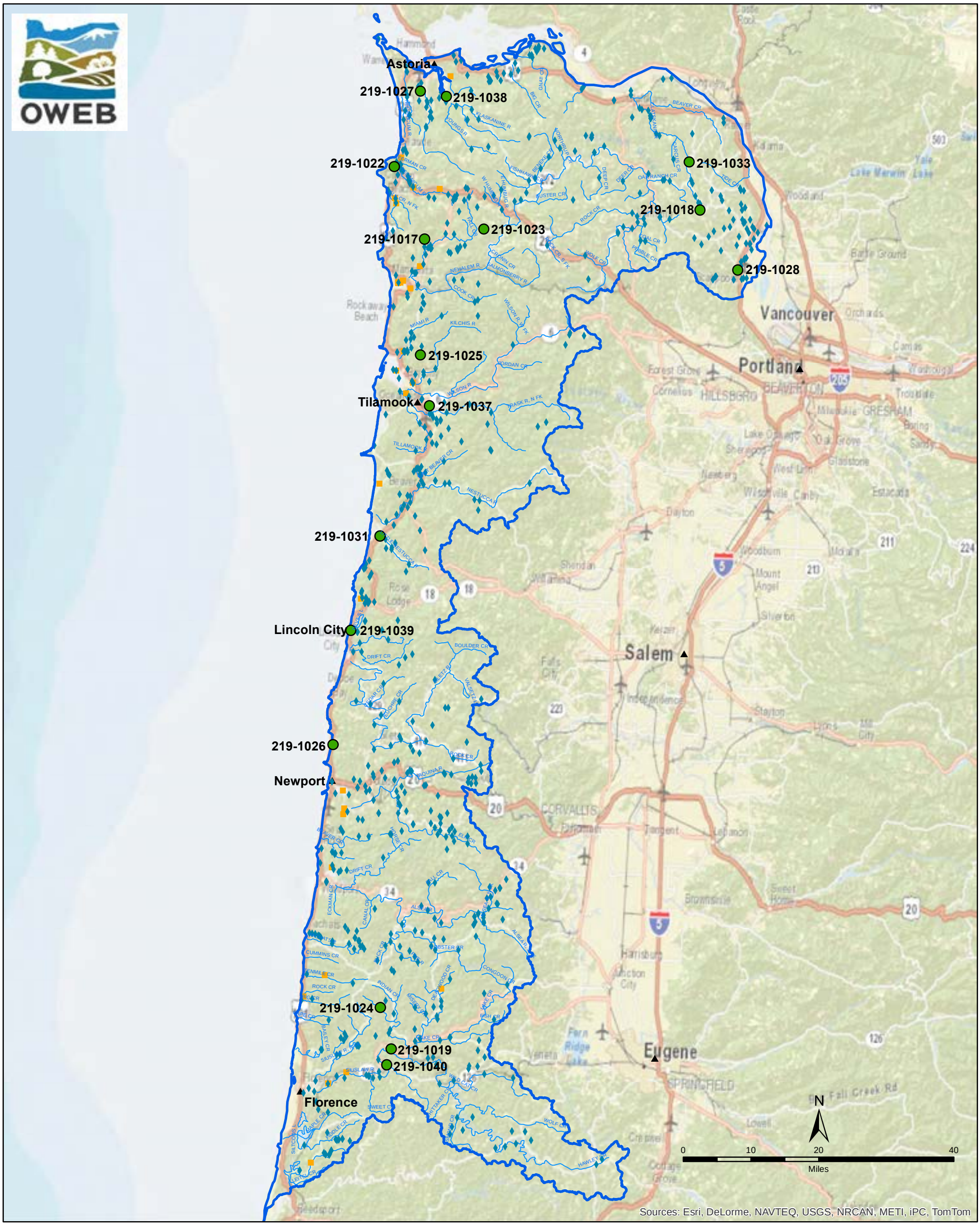
ATTACHMENT B

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

Region	Restoration			Technical Assistance			Monitoring			Stakeholder Engagement		
	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%
Region 1	6	6	100%	5	5	100%	4	4	100%	1	1	100%
Region 2	11	6	55%	8	5	63%	4	2	50%	0	0	-
Region 3	9	6	67%	2	2	100%	1	1	100%	2	2	100%
Region 4	5	5	100%	5	4	80%	2	1	50%	1	1	100%
Region 5	11	11	100%	5	4	80%	3	3	100%	1	1	100%
Region 6	12	12	100%	2	1	50%	2	2	100%	1	1	100%
Total	**53**	**46**	**87%**	**27**	**21**	**78%**	**16**	**13**	**81%**	**6**	**6**	**100%**

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
Region 1	$890,991	$333,217	$100,828	$24,690
Region 2	$1,571,123	$311,698	$308,626	$0
Region 3	$1,376,667	$149,929	$48,152	$90,027
Region 4	$1,573,089	$218,045	$195,483	$55,167
Region 5	$1,100,410	$171,308	$339,552	$42,609
Region 6	$1,248,312	$45,110	$332,176	$27,522
Total	**$7,760,592**	**$1,229,307**	**$1,324,817**	**$240,015**

North Coast - Region 1 Fall 2018 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6 NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20190314

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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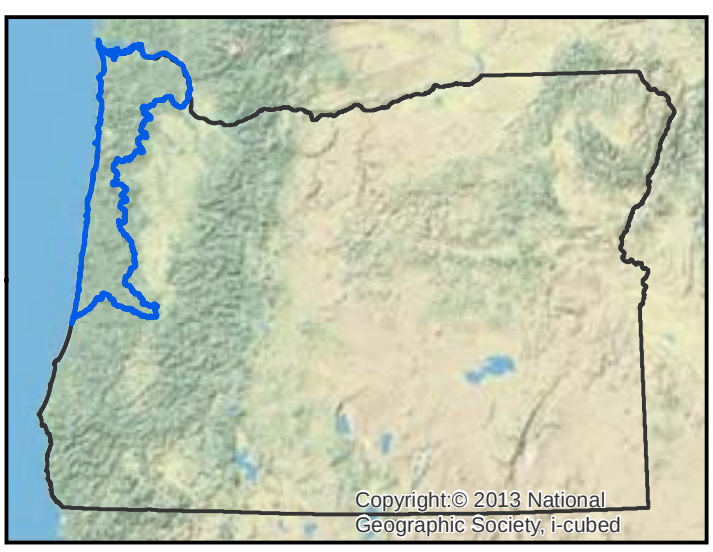

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-1024	Siuslaw WC	Upper Indian Creek Helicopter Large Wood Placement, Phase 1	Large wood will be added to 10 miles of stream in the Upper Indian Creek area of the Siuslaw watershed with the goal of improving habitat complexity for aquatic species, including Oregon coast coho salmon.	236,455	Lane
219-1019	Siuslaw WC	Cleveland Creek Highway 36 Culvert Replacement	A barrier culvert under Highway 36 will be replaced and fish passage will restored to 1.5 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat in Cleveland Creek, a tributary of the Siuslaw River.	295,483	Lane
219-1022	North Coast Land Conservancy	Boneyard Ridge Forest Restoration	Forest health thinning on a conservation property on Tillamook Head will increase spatial diversity, improve biodiversity, and work to restore late-seral forest conditions with adaptive long term management.	108,829	Clatsop
219-1023	Lower Nehalem WC	Punchbowl Creek Large Wood Enhancement Project	Large wood will be placed within a one mile reach of Punchbowl Creek in the Lower Nehalem watershed, improving habitat complexity for aquatic species.	73,319	Clatsop
219-1018	Columbia SWCD	Clatskanie Headwater Stream Fish Passage Restoration	This project will replace the last barrier in the headwater streams of the Clatskanie River, restoring access for migration of native fish species to 1.7 miles of spawning and rearing habitat.	152,047	Columbia
219-1017	Lower Nehalem WC	Grassy Lake Creek Tributary Culvert Replacements and Habitat Enhancement	Critical habitat and passage needs will be addressed to benefit an isolated population of indigenous Coastal Cutthroat trout. Two undersized culverts will be replaced and large wood installed over a one mile reach.	24,858	Clatsop
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**890,991**	

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

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				**890,991**	
Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-1014	Siuslaw SWCD	Bessey's North Fork Siuslaw & McLeod Creek Floodplain Restoration		527,393	Lane
219-1015	The Nature Conservancy	Kilchis Porter Tidal Wetland Restoration Project		396,935	Tillamook
219-1016	MidCoast WC	Bummer Creek Tributary Fish Passage and Wetland Restoration		46,410	Benton
219-1021	North Coast WS Assn	Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning		188,073	Clatsop

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

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-1027	CREST	Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project	Final designs will be completed for a 29-acre estuary restoration project on the Lewis and Clark River in Clatsop County.	74,028	Clatsop
219-1026	Institute for Applied Ecology	Coastal Native Seed Partnership	This project will bring partners involved in coastal restoration together with native plant materials producers to increase the availability and affordability of native seed to restore Oregon coastal habitats.	74,602	Lincoln
219-1031	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Nestucca NWR-Bay Unit Restoration and Infrastructure- Design Project	A technical design will be developed that upgrades a tidegate to meet fish passage criteria, enhances interior aquatic habitat, and develops agricultural setbacks and riparian restoration plans on the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge.	75,000	Tillamook
219-1025	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance	A coalition of North Coast watershed councils will share the resources of a highly qualified consultant for pre-project field work, project design solicitation, proposal drafting, and contract preparation.	70,990	Tillamook
219-1028	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Creek, Reach F Design	Surveys, hydrologic modeling, and permit level designs will be produced for a floodplain reconnection and riparian project on South Scappoose Creek, a tributary to Scappoose Bay.	38,597	Columbia
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**333,217**	

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				**333,217**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-1029	Lower Nehalem Community Trust	Alder Creek Restoration Enhancement Project	54,208	Tillamook
219-1030	Sustainable Northwest	Arch Cape Community Forest: Water and Sediment Assessment and Action Plan	30,575	Clatsop
219-1032	Columbia SWCD	Page Creek, Final Fish Passage	41,800	Columbia

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

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-1040	Siuslaw WC	Siuslaw Coho Partnership Story Map for Stakeholder Engagement	An interactive story map will be created to engage stakeholders in the restoration projects identified in the Siuslaw River Coho Recovery Strategic Action Plan.	24,690	Lane
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**24,690**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**24,690**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
None					

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

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-1037	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	TEP Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	This ongoing monitoring effort evaluates the status and trends for bacteria levels in the streams, sloughs, and bays throughout Tillamook County.	34,919	Tillamook
219-1038	North Coast WA Assn	NCWA Monitoring Network 2019	Temperature monitoring will be conducted in 4 watersheds in Clatsop county: Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wickiup, and Ecola Creek.	5,665	Clatsop
219-1033	Columbia SWCD	Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program	The project will build on existing data and collect new data in locations throughout the Lower Columbia watershed to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, and water depth.	25,012	Columbia
219-1039	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Agnes, Baldy, & Logan Creeks and Ocean Outfalls Baseline Data Acquisition ~ 2019 -2020	Baseline water quality data will be collected in smaller, understudied ocean tributaries in Lincoln City. Flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity data will be collected in urbanized streams and ocean outfalls.	35,232	Lincoln
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**100,828**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**100,828**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-1034	Lincoln SWCD	Mid Coast Monitoring Project Oct 2018	69,574	Lincoln
219-1035	Columbia SWCD	Lower Columbia Watershed Rapid BioAssessments	66,550	Columbia
219-1036	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Siletz & Salmon River Estuaries, Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Baseline Data Acquisition 2019/21	50,818	Lincoln

Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,349,726**	**13%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**10,554,731**	

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

Application Number: 219-1013-16610

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Brush Creek Large Wood Enhancement

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $153,204

Total Cost: $196,614

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in Brush Creek, a tributary to North Scappoose Creek in the southern third of Columbia County. North Scappoose flows into Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and the lower Columbia River. The project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan (ODFW, 2011) and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including low quantity of instream large wood and loss of pools and refuge habitat, and loss of floodplain connectivity; 2) low numbers of riparian conifers for future wood recruitment and poor riparian vegetation; and 3) temperature limitations in mainstem North Scappoose. This project also stems directly from the Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Action Plan (SBWC, 2018), which identified restoration actions that address areas with high potential for ecological benefits. The project will install 180 log pieces along 1.5 miles of creek in summer 2019, and plant 5000 native confers, small trees and shrubs during winter 2019-2020. Project is supported by ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, and Scappoose Bay Native Plant Nursery.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

Application was withdrawn by applicant prior to review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Withdrawn

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
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1014-16613

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bessey's North Fork Siuslaw & McLeod Creek Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Siuslaw SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $527,393

Total Cost: $842,248

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project area is located at the confluence of the North Fork (NF) Siuslaw River and McLeod Creek, extending into each of the Upper and Lower NF Siuslaw 6th Field HUC's, both of which are identified as priority watersheds for restoration in the Siuslaw Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The Siuslaw SAP (Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP), 2018) identifies the major stresses limiting Coho production in the Lower NF Siuslaw 6th Field HUC as decreased lateral connectivity, altered riparian function, and increased water temperatures. The Siuslaw SAP also identifies the major stresses in the Upper NF Siuslaw 6th Field HUC as decreased lateral connectivity and lack of in-stream complexity. The Federal Recovery Plan For Oregon Coast Coho (NOAA, 2016) recognized the primary habitat related limiting factors as lost habitat (especially floodplain habitat), reduced complexity, and degraded water quality. Stream complexity and water quality were also determined to be the primary and secondary limiting factors in Oregon's Coastal Coho Assessment (ODFW, 2005). The NF Siuslaw River is listed under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as being water quality limited by temperature and sedimentation. This effort will address each of the major stresses and limiting factors for Oregon Coastal (OC) Coho identified in each of the fore mentioned local, state, and federal plans; which is why it was ranked #3 overall out of the hundreds of proposed projects identified within the Siuslaw SAP. Measurable objectives:• Hydrologically reconnecting ~15 acres of floodplain.• Establishing ~15 acres of native riparian vegetation.• Developing ~ .5 mile of anastomosing off-channel habitat.• Increasing in-stream complexity to .5 stream mile.Partners: • Siuslaw National Forest and their Regional Assistance Team (RAT's) • NOAA• Wild Salmon Center (WSC)• Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program (SCWRP) • McKenzie River Trust (MRT)• Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a top-ranked project in the Siuslaw Strategic Action Plan and addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon.
- The project will build upon other nearby work in the basin.
- This restoration application is the result of a previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant, and the applicant followed earlier recommendations by the review team to consider watershed processes more broadly when developing a design.

- The application has the appropriate level of detail describing the importance of this reach for anchor habitat for all life stages of coho.
- The project approach is innovative and focused on restoring system processes rather than solely addressing symptoms.
- In the long term, the project could reduce sediment in the system with its design encouraging deposition within the reach. The stage 8 design methodology could increase the pace of elevational evolution.
- The partners involved have an excellent track record for implementing restoration projects in the Siuslaw basin.

Concerns

- The design approach is new and limited monitoring data is available to determine the potential ecological benefits. The lack of monitoring occurring with similar projects has resulted in a lack of clarity on effectiveness of this technique.
- Projects of this nature have typically been implemented on larger parcels with landscape-level benefits, and there is potential for reduced ecological benefit on a smaller site such as the proposed project location. The application would benefit from more information addressing the spatial scale of this type of work and resulting expected benefits.
- The design work only included 3 cross sections, which seemed minimal considering the amount of heavy earthwork proposed on site along with the adjacent infrastructure of the county road.
- The cost estimates for some of the budget items are questionable; the application would benefit from more detail as to how costs were arrived at within the budget.
- The Siuslaw River is 303d limited for sediment, and the proposed method and implementation timing results in a large area of the site being bare going into the winter. Rebuilding a fluvial plain could take many years, and it is unclear what the risks of increased sedimentation are to the system in the interim.
- The application would benefit from some additional clarity; parts of the narrative were repetitive and lacked clear information about the stage 8 approach.

Concluding Analysis

The design approach constructs an inset floodplain within a heavily incised reach of the river and was partially funded by a previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant. The innovative design looks beyond traditional bank stabilization techniques and effectively addresses the dynamic nature of this site, where McLeod Creek enters the North Fork Siuslaw River. This project could be a great opportunity to employ the stream evolution-based stage 8 restoration technique on private landownership, but there may be risks to this method that are unknown due to lack of monitoring for similar projects. The application proposes limited effectiveness monitoring and would be strengthened by a detailed and thorough monitoring plan which could benefit not only this project but provide valuable lessons for other similar projects.

The project design team is highly qualified and respected and has implemented other successful projects; however, the submitted designs were lacking in engineering detail for the level of earthwork and project scale involved. The applicant is encouraged to consider resubmitting the project with an

effectiveness monitoring plan, more detail on design calculations, and more information addressing the potential for temporary impacts with regards to water quality.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1015-16616

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kilchis Porter Tidal Wetland Restoration Project

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $396,935

Total Cost: $1,288,584

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will restore and enhance 60 acres of estuarine habitat, a high priority in the north coast basin.
- The applicant has a good track record of success having implemented a similar restoration project on the adjacent property.
- The project builds on adjacent restoration work in the Kilchis, expanding the habitat connectivity and ecological benefits in the basin.

Concerns

- The planting densities are high and increase the cost of the project. Dense planting on a similar project required thinning to ensure success.
- The site preparation and plant establishment techniques rely on a heavy application of herbicide for success. On the site visit, it was confirmed that native wetland plant communities are also treated with herbicide in order to establish shrub species.
- The planting plan is heavy on shrub species while the Tidal Wetland Prioritization for the Tillamook Bay Estuary (2012) identifies marsh habitat as a target for this area.
- The need to establish an artificial connection between the two sloughs was not clear.
- At the time of grant submittal, only a draft design report was available for review. Review of the final analysis would have been preferable.
- The project includes a timber bridge to be constructed for site access, and large wood is proposed immediately near the bridge. There is the potential for the wood to rot and undermine the abutments.

Concluding Analysis

The project represents a good opportunity to create and enhance 60 acres of both existing and new estuarine habitat, a high priority for the north coast basin. The adjacent Kilchis project designed and implemented by the same applicant appears to be functioning well, and this project would increase the landscape-level benefits provided to the watershed. The proposed planting plan for this project however, raised some concerns as it seemed not to have considered the lessons learned on the adjacent property. It is recommended that the next submission of this application include the final analysis from the technical assistance grant, some cost-mitigating measures, as well as a better focus that includes lessons learned from the previously completed 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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1016-16626

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bummer Creek Tributary Fish Passage and Wetland Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $46,410

Total Cost: $93,610

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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. The 2016 coho recovery plan notes that for the Alsea independent population, the primary limiting factor for the population is listed as stream complexity, with water quality (excessive summer temperatures) identified as a secondary limiting factor. This project addresses these temperature factors by restoring fish passage by installing a box culvert and placement of large wood and stream bed material to arrest headcutting and to improve access to 0.85 tributary miles with cold water refugia and extensive rearing habitat in a perennial wetland complex. Additionally, the 4.4-acre seasonal wetland restoration (to be funded with matching grants) will allow storage of seasonal runoff and provide for cooler water temperatures through hyporheic flow, and restore habitat for native amphibians and migratory birds. This work compliments past and on-going work in the sub-basin. Project partners are the landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service (North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant) and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project supports a unique life history of resident cutthroat trout and if implemented could enhance the resiliency of this population in the lower Nehalem. Brook lamprey are also present in the system above the falls.
- The project appeared straightforward and well-planned.
- Timing of the project is opportune with the landowner planning forest operations that can be timed with the restoration work to maximize cost efficiency.
- The project presents a good opportunity to work with a major landowner.
- The project partners have a successful track record implementing similar types of projects.

- The stream can benefit from some additional habitat complexity. The proposed large wood placements are well-described and appropriate for accomplishing this goal.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail about the proposed aquatic organism passage design features appropriate for resident cutthroat trout. Limited information was provided on the stream simulation and weirs.
- Objectives are unclear and some are not measurable.
- The discussion on alternatives within the application is limited and it was unclear whether there might be a more cost-effective approach available.
- The designs appeared unchanged from the previous submittal with little additional information provided regarding justification for sizing.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal. Previous concerns included the lack of design features related to Aquatic Organism Passage. Grassy Lake Creek is a resident cutthroat stream. While design features necessary for other anadromous fish may not be appropriate, it is still important to design projects considering the specifications of the target species. The previous review expressed concern regarding the design standard and the sizing proposed for the structures, and this application had only limited additions with regards to the culvert replacement components of the project.

The large wood project components, however, are valuable and necessary for the health of the fish population in the creek. The large wood components of the application provide the appropriate amount of detail and articulate the expected ecological benefits and geomorphological goals of the proposed work. The addition of instream habitat complexity will address limiting factors for this population of resident cutthroat trout, and the review team recommended funding the habitat component of the 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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1017-16632

Project Type: Restoration

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

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $52,776

Total Cost: $125,704

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

LOCATION:Grassy Lake Creek encompasses 5.53 square miles with 39 stream miles, located in the North Fork Nehalem watershed north of the city of Nehalem off of North Fork Road. The crossings being addressed in this proposal are on an unnamed fish bearing tributary to Grassy Lake Creek. There are two undersized culverts both located on Weyerhaeuser property. During the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's 2015 culvert inventory, these two pipes were identified as "medium" priority candidates for replacement. PROJECT NEEDThis project addresses critical habitat and passage needs essential for the long-term maintenance and survival of an isolated population of indigenous Coastal Cutthroat trout. This summer (2017) Lower Nehalem Watershed Council reached out to Weyerhaeuser to determine whether any culverts that were identified as candidates for replacement in the culvert inventory lined up with any near-term harvest actions. Weyerhaeuser has a harvest scheduled for Grassy Lake Creek in 2018. Both of these culverts proposed for replacement are on Soapstone Mainline which will be used during harvest actions. PROPOSED WORKThis project proposes to remove the existing undersized pipes with fish passage issues and replace them with appropriately sized culverts. The project also proposes to install large wood in the stream to enhance habitat conditions for these same fish. PROJECT PARTNERS/ROLES1. Lower Nehalem Watershed Council providing project management, photo documentation, project permitting and grant reporting2. Weyerhaeuser providing engineering survey and designs, permitting assistance, construction contracting and construction management 3. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife providing large wood layout and project construction oversight

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

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

- The project partners have a successful track record implementing similar types of projects.
- The stream can benefit from some additional habitat complexity. The proposed large wood placements are well-described and appropriate for accomplishing this goal.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail about the proposed aquatic organism passage design features appropriate for resident cutthroat trout. Limited information was provided on the stream simulation and weirs.
- Objectives are unclear and some are not measurable.
- The discussion on alternatives within the application is limited and it was unclear whether there might be a more cost-effective approach available.
- The designs appeared unchanged from the previous submittal with little additional information provided regarding justification for sizing.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmittal. Previous concerns included the lack of design features related to Aquatic Organism Passage. Grassy Lake Creek is a resident cutthroat stream. While design features necessary for other anadromous fish may not be appropriate, it is still important to design projects considering the specifications of the target species. The previous review expressed concern regarding the design standard and the sizing proposed for the structures, and this application had only limited additions with regards to the culvert replacement components of the project.

The large wood project components, however, are valuable and necessary for the health of the fish population in the creek. The large wood components of the application provide the appropriate amount of detail and articulate the expected ecological benefits and geomorphological goals of the proposed work. The addition of instream habitat complexity will address limiting factors for this population of resident cutthroat trout, and the review team recommended funding the habitat component of the project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,858

Review Team Conditions

Remove culvert replacement from budget and scope of services.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$24,858

Staff Conditions

Remove culvert replacement from budget and scope of services.

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

Application Number: 219-1018-16638

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Clatskanie Headwater Stream Fish Passage Restoration

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $152,047

Total Cost: $192,117

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located on an unnamed tributary of the Clatskanie River, in Columbia county, OR. It is one of two headwater streams that join near Pittsburg Road to form the mainstream Clatskanie River. The culvert was identified by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW, Dave Stewart) as a fish passage barrier several years ago but as there were culverts downstream that prevented passage, this culvert replacement was delayed. Now, those culverts have been replaced and provide year- round fish passage and the focus can be moved to this tributary. The current culvert is undersized and perched, and acts as a fish passage barrier at low and high flow discharges throughout the year. It blocks access to spawning habitat to Endangered Species Act listed Coho salmon as well as steelhead. It is also a barrier to migration for resident Coastal Cutthroat and Western Brook Lamprey. The culvert is on Hancock Forest Management, Inc. (HFM) property. HFM is systematically replacing all problem culverts on their land holdings in Oregon. HFM began partnering with the Columbia SWCD and ODFW to tackle problem culverts in 2016. This culvert replacement will be the second project undertaken. The proposed work would replace the old culvert, (a 60-inch corrugated metal pipe), with a bridge, spanning 55 feet. A bridge of this size would allow for the creek, which has an average bankfull width of 15.5ft, to pass unencumbered through the road crossing and allow for up and downstream migration of native fish species. It would also restore hydraulic connectivity providing natural downstream movement of water and sediment. The project is a collaboration between HFM, ODFW, and the Columbia SWCD. Engineers at HFM will be designing the bridge crossing and the implementation of the project will be supported by the Columbia SWCD and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie watershed is a priority location for restoration supporting ESA-listed salmon and steelhead.
- There is a strong partnership between the landowner and the Columbia SWCD. The site visit clearly demonstrated that the project team had given significant consideration to the site's challenges and designed the project accordingly.
- The design carefully considers the value of the adjacent wetland and endeavors to retain this function.

- Fish passage is a limiting factor for the Clatskanie River and this project will remove the final barrier.
- The project's team has successfully implemented similar projects, including the Dribble Creek project which the team toured after the site visit.

Concerns

- The new crossing was not designed to meet federal fish passage standards. There was limited detail provided on the aquatic organism passage design specifications that would be incorporated in the project.

Concluding Analysis

Implementation of this project will restore fish access through the last barrier on the Upper Clatskanie, addressing a key limiting factor for salmonids in this basin. The project's partners have developed a thoroughly planned and well-designed fish passage project that addresses site-specific challenges.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$152,047

Review Team Conditions

Bridge design to achieve 1.5:1 ACW (active channel width) and conduct pebble counts to inform stream simulation design.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$152,047

Staff Conditions

Bridge design to achieve 1.5:1 ACW (active channel width) and conduct pebble counts to inform stream simulation design.

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

Application Number: 219-1019-16652

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cleveland Creek Highway 36 Culvert Replacement

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $295,483

Total Cost: $1,327,354

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Cleveland Creek is a salmon bearing tributary of the Siuslaw River in the Lower Siuslaw 5th Field Watershed. The creek passes through a culvert under Highway 36 in the community of Tide between Swisshome and Mapleton in Lane County, Oregon. Project partners include Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC), Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), and OBEC Consulting Engineers, Inc. (OBEC). The Highway 36 culvert on Cleveland Creek is undersized and a complete barrier to juvenile aquatic species passage, including ESA threatened Oregon Coast ESU Coho Salmon, Oregon Coast DPS steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. The culvert restricts natural stream processes, limiting stream complexity and potentially affecting fish habitat and water quality. The Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC), working with the landowner (ODOT), will replace the existing, undersized barrier culvert with a bridge that will allow fish passage, reduce water velocity during high-flow events, and allow for natural simulation of the stream bed. A 70 foot span bridge meeting ODOT design requirements will be constructed in place of the current culvert. The new bridge will restore access for anadromous species to about 1.5 miles of high quality spawning and rearing habitat and provide cool water refugia from the mainstem Siuslaw River. The proposed project will address the identified limiting factors of temperature, dissolved oxygen, stream complexity, and water quality within the Siuslaw watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project replaces the last barrier on Cleveland Creek restoring access for all life stages of aquatic species to 1.5 miles of habitat.
- The project complements previous work implemented in Cleveland Creek with the design funded by an OWEB-funded technical assistance grant.
- Replacing the culvert provides access to critical cold water refugia habitat in the temperature-limited Siuslaw River.
- The upper Cleveland Creek watershed is in USFS-managed Late-Successional Reserve.
- Project partners have successfully implemented similar projects in the watershed.
- This is a cost-effective fish passage project considering its location on a state highway.

Concerns

- The budget lacks essential detail for some line items and as a result it is unclear what OWEB's contribution will be.
- The plan for addressing Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) standards was not well-defined.
- The downstream boulder weirs were not analyzed as part of the design.

Concluding Analysis

Cleveland Creek provides important cold water refugia habitat in this priority reach of the Siuslaw River. Access to the stream is currently limited by a perched culvert under Highway 126. Addressing this issue has been a priority of the applicant who previously implemented an OWEB-funded project upstream to repair a crossing under a railroad. This project is the result of a technical assistance grant that has produced a comprehensive and straightforward application. More detail in the designs regarding the plan for AOP would have strengthened the application, but it is understood from conversations on the site visit that the final designs will address this omission and develop appropriate specifications.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$295,483

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$295,483

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1020-16653

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $331,872

Total Cost: $919,815

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project encompasses two sites located between River Mile 18 and 19 of the Columbia River Estuary (CRE) in Clatsop County, just east of Astoria. At The Mill Creek site, a historic logging road is slated for removal to improve access to foraging, rearing, and spawning habitat for ESA listed salmonids, while improving tidal inundation at the mouth for species utilizing the CRE. The second site, along John Day River Road, is designed to replace a pair of undersized culverts acting as a hydrologic and fish passage barrier to the upstream wetland complex. The culverts will be replaced with a bridge, improving access to foraging and rearing habitat for CRE salmonids, while benefiting the community by reducing severe seasonal flooding, an existing safety issue for residents near the project area. At Mill Creek, 1.9 miles of road will be decommissioned in both the fluvial and tidal reaches of the subbasin. 23 road crossings will be restored to natural hydrology, 12 of which are on identified ESA listed salmonid streams. Fish passage barriers to upstream spawning habitat will be removed, floodplains will be reconnected, and wetlands will be restored. At John Day, this project removes barriers to 22 acres of tidal wetlands for ESA listed salmonids utilizing the Lower Columbia River Estuary. Post-project, salmonids will have unrestricted access to high quality tidal wetlands and local residents will have year-round safe passage to their homes.When implemented, these projects will increase watershed resiliency to existing and predicted increases in storm events and build on the cumulative effort in and around Cathlamet Bay to restore natural watershed, wetland, and tidal processes that benefit ESA listed salmonids. This project is a partnership between NCWA, CREST, Clatsop County, and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) applying for the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has the potential to improve both fish passage and water quality in the Cathlamet Bay watershed.
- Decommissioning the road along Mill Creek will result in an improved forest management approach.
- The project will improve habitat connectivity in both Mill Creek and the lower John Day.
- The fish passage project is designed with climate resiliency in mind.

- The partnership team has essential capacity to implement the projects including an appropriate mix of local partners.
- The Mill Creek basin contains opportunities for educational outreach.

Concerns

- Road-decommissioning alternatives do not consider re-routing the road around the wetland entirely.
- The linkage between the two projects is unclear. Additional detail regarding the strategic approach to restoration in Cathlamet Bay would strengthen the application.
- The fish passage component has increased in cost since the previous OWEB restoration grant was awarded, thus reducing the overall cost-benefit of the project.

Concluding Analysis

Both projects that comprise this application, the John Day Crossing and the Mill Creek Road decommissioning, were awarded funding by OWEB in April 2018.. Since that time, both projects experienced unexpected cost increases and partners decided to pursue a Coastal Wetlands grant to compensate for the funding shortfall.

The projects continue to have a high potential for ecological benefit. They are technically sound with the partners having the capacity to successfully implement this project. It is recommended that OWEB pursue a Coastal Wetlands grant on behalf of the applicants to achieve the necessary funding levels to complete implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

Proceed with Coastal Wetlands Grant application.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

Proceed with Coastal Wetlands Grant application.

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

Application Number: 219-1021-16655

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $188,073

Total Cost: $272,682

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Camp 7 Spur is a 1.2 mile stretch of legacy logging road adjacent to Big Creek that encroaches on the floodplain and needs to be abandoned. The project is located on Hampton Lumber forest land upstream of the Big Creek Fish Hatchery and the town of Knappa, 15 miles east of Astoria. This legacy haul-route roadbed constricts Big Creek's width, confining it to a much narrower floodplain and the basin's logging history has left the channel largely devoid of complexity and structure. Big Creek upstream from the ODFW fish hatchery is a priority stream for ESA listed species in the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed because it is the only location in the watershed inaccessible to competition from hatchery fish. This project proposes to implement restoration actions to improve fish habitat and channel processes including: 1) obliterate sections of road that are in the stream floodplain including removing road fill, 2) remove existing cross drains and restore natural drainage, 3) remove tributary culverts and associated road fill, 4) plant conifer along road bed, 5) remove two bridges and abutments, saving one for re-use 6) install large wood placements to improve spawning and rearing habitat, promote floodplain connectivity, and increase off-channel refugia. This project has been identified by local residents and the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed Council as the number one priority for implementation. This project is top priority for NCWA because there is strong community support to see it through, we need to take advantage of the landowner's willingness to move forward on the project, bringing in OWEB funds will allow us to install large wood structures along this vital stretch of spawning habitat that will no longer be accessible by road after abandonment, and this project will have downstream effects and multi-species benefit.Project partners include the private landowner, Hampton Resources and the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a result of a previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant. The design effort capitalized on existing expertise from the landowner and supplemented it with a consultant to design habitat features.
- This is a high priority area to improve habitat for ESA-listed species in the Nikolai-Wikiup watershed.
- The project will remove and alter sections of a road from a riparian area, decreasing its impact on fish and wildlife and reducing the amount of sediment that enters the stream.

- A planned timber harvest in the basin will provide the necessary material for the large wood placements.

Concerns

- The fish in the affected reach do not have natural access to the project site and are trucked upstream of the fish hatchery facilities. ODFW's ability to safely transport fish in a timely manner could be a greater limiting factor than habitat complexity.
- Project designs provide limited detail, even though a technical assistance grant was previously awarded. There are no calculations or drawings provided for either the road fill removal or the large wood project components.
- The project's cost is high relative to the amount of proposed work.
- It is necessary to rebuild the road to bring wood in to the site. At the site visit the plan to rebuild the road and at what location was unclear.
- Portions of the project location are within a significant landslide area. It is unclear if the design process thoroughly addressed the potential of the project to destabilize the slope. Additional technical expertise might be needed when working within the landslide area.
- Detail regarding the plan for road decommissioning was lacking in the application. Maps or designs related to the road sections slated for removal would improve the application's clarity.

Concluding Analysis

The project site on Upper Big Creek is an appropriate area to improve habitat for wild fish populations in the Lower Columbia since hatchery fish do not have access to the project reach. ODFW is aware and engaged in the issue of passage for wild fish at the hatchery location with discussions regarding potential alternatives for trucking the wild fish. The forest road proposed for decommissioning restricts floodplain access and likely contributes sediment to the stream. It was not possible to adequately review this application without seeing the design details that were funded by a previous OWEB grant. The necessity of rebuilding the road prior to dismantling it to facilitate the wood structures increases the already high cost to benefit ratio.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1022-16682
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Boneyard Ridge Forest Restoration
Applicant: North Coast Land Conservancy
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $108,829
Total Cost: $137,334

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. Project Location: Boneyard Ridge Habitat Reserve, Seaside, Oregon.In 2016 NCLC acquired 340 acres of young forestland on Tillamook Head with a plan to restore the property to late seral forest habitat through long-term adaptive management. 2. Project Need: There is a 70-acre management unit on the property that is young, densely planted, even-aged, and ready for thinning. The stand contains a mix of 20-year-old spruce and hemlock, with 630 trees per acre. 3. Proposed Restoration Action: Local forest ecologists recommend we use hand crews to thin the stand to 280-350 trees per acre, favoring the healthiest trees and creating variable spacing. This prescription will allow dominant trees to grow larger quickly, increase spatial diversity, and improve forest health. Some of the resulting slash will be used to construct habitat piles that will create an immediate benefit to amphibians and songbirds. Cut trees will be installed into stretches of stream that fall within the unit to benefit fish habitat. Following the thinning treatment, western red cedar and bigleaf maple will be planted into some of the created gaps to restore species diversity that would have historically been at this site. 4. Project Partners: NCLC is working with other neighboring forest managers on Tillamook Head to share resources including Oregon State Parks and Recreation District (Ecola State Park and Elmer Feldenheimer State Natural Area) and Tareen Filgas Foundation (Ecola Ridge). NCLC will also work with the Necanicum Watershed Council to do community outreach through volunteer events and public tours. Numerous foresters and wildlife biologists have been consulted for project design and provide ongoing support to NCLC, including Northwest Natural Resource Group, Springboard Forestry, Lewis and Clark Natural Historical Park, OSU Extension Services, Celata Reseach Associates, Willapa National Wildlife Refuge, Oregon State Parks, and Integrated Resource Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed approach provides relevant detail and is well-considered. The applicant sought guidance from other foresters implementing similar types of work.
- Due to the current overstocked nature of the stand, the site cannot reach late-successional seral stage without reducing current stand density.
- The project has a sense of urgency -- conducting this type of work is possible and practicable at the current stage of forest development but will become increasingly more challenging as the forest ages.

- Manual hand-thinning as proposed will result in a minimal impact.
- The Boneyard property is contiguous with other conservation properties on Tillamook Head. The potential ecological benefit is high for wildlife corridors that can be expanded with the availability of more late-successional forest habitat.
- The project represents a good opportunity to demonstrate conservation forestry techniques on a publicly accessible site.
- The landscape will benefit from the restoration of a more diverse plant community proposed in the application.

Concerns

- Thinning will result in heavy accumulations of slash.
- The size of the habitat piles will be substantial, and the benefits not well described in the application.
- The project would benefit from leveraging available fish and wildlife agencies for technical support.
- The applicant does not have experience conducting this type of restoration work.

Concluding Analysis

Boneyard Ridge, an OWEB-funded acquisition, is located in a key location connecting conservation lands on Tillamook Head. The property itself suffers from poor forest conditions with many young stands at over 600 trees per acre. This project proposes to conduct ecological forestry in the young stands with the most dire stand conditions with the intent of getting the forests on a trajectory toward late successional habitat. The proposed habitat piles and associated monitoring will broaden the expected ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$108,829

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$108,829

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1023-16683

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Punchbowl Creek Large Wood Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $73,319

Total Cost: $139,669

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Punchbowl Creek, tributary to the North Fork Nehalem River, is located southeast of the rural community of Hamlet off Hwy 53 in Clatsop County. The stream is home to ESA listed coho salmon and also supports winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, cottid species and lamprey. The project proposes to leverage a planned industrial timber harvest on Weyerhaeuser land to place large wood in the stream. The road is too far from the channel and the terrain too steep to allow access for ground based equipment. The large wood will be placed using a grapple and cable logging operation to build the structures. The project proposes to place 15 complex large wood structures along a one-mile channel reach. Each structure will be comprised of 7-9 logs with a minimum of four of the logs having rootwads attached. A total of 105-135 logs are anticipated for the overall project. Weyerhaeuser will provide construction contracting and some of the wood (30 whole trees). Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) will supply the majority of the wood (up to 45 whole trees). Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will implement the project on the ground. Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will provide project management. OWEB funds will be used toward: project management, contracted services to tip and haul the wood and towards purchasing wood from ODF.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a strong partnership between Weyerhaeuser, ODFW, and the applicant. Partners have the necessary expertise and successfully implemented similar projects.
- The project is cost-effective, leveraging an adjacent timber harvest to provide the material and contracting efficiency.
- Punchbowl Creek has beneficial coho and winter steelhead habitat with the proposed work addressing limiting factors. The stream is identified as a priority in the draft Nehalem Strategic Action Plan initiated by the Coho Business Planning process.
- This reach is an optimal location for habitat structures since there is no downstream infrastructure that can be potentially impacted by large wood movement.

Concerns

- The proposed method of placing logs by cable does not allow for a lot of flexibility with regards to placement locations.
- The benefit of the accompanying alder conversion work from an ecological standpoint is debatable. Many streams in the coast range are naturally hardwood-dominated.

Concluding Analysis

This project will increase habitat complexity in a priority stream, addressing limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon and winter steelhead. While the chosen method of log delivery has its limitations when it comes to site selection, the project team is experienced and capable and there is confidence a successful project will be implemented. The project is recommended for funding with the removal of the alder conversion components from the scope of services.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$73,319

Review Team Conditions

Remove alder conversion from scope of services

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$73,319

Staff Conditions

Remove alder conversion from scope of services

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

Application Number: 219-1024-16710

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Indian Creek Helicopter Large Wood Placement, Phase 1

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $236,455

Total Cost: $986,655

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Indian Creek Helicopter Large Wood Placement Project, Phase 1 (Project) plans to utilize a helicopter to add large wood to federally owned stream reaches (up to 10 total miles) of the following streams in the Upper Indian Creek 6th-field HUC: West Fork Indian Creek, Rogers Creek, Maria Creek, Herman Creek, Pyle Creek, Long Creek, and Upper Indian Creek. The project area is located 14 air miles northeast of Florence, Oregon (Map 1).Land use practices over the last 150 years have disrupted natural habitat-forming processes that support healthy populations of salmonids, including the delivery and retention of large wood in streams. Sufficient large wood in streams has been identified as a key component of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for Oregon Coast coho. The Upper Indian Creek 6th-field sub-watershed has been identified as a high priority for restoration to support recovery of Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (Oncorhynchus kisutch) by local, state and federal entities, based on high habitat intrinsic potential and existing anchor habitat characteristics. Streams proposed in this project have been prioritized for restoration actions by the USFS (Draft Indian Creek LMP, 2017) and the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (Siuslaw Coho SAP, 2018). Stream surveys in project reaches identified a lack of sufficient wood needed to create and maintain pools, retain and sort sediments, and generate connectivity with the floodplain, key components of high quality winter rearing habitat. Proposed work to address the lack of large wood includes tipping and cutting of 540 trees, from source locations and transporting them by helicopter and placing them into up to 10 miles of streams in Upper Indian Creek stream reaches, in structures that are placed and configured to mimic log jams resulting from natural processes.Project partners include the USFS - Siuslaw National Forest and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon by improving habitat complexity within 10 miles of the Indian Creek basin, a sub-watershed identified as a high priority within the Siuslaw Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- Project implementation will achieve NOAA’s benchmarks for large wood within the treatment reaches.
- The project is located on USFS lands managed as Late-Successional Reserves, ensuring future large wood recruitment to the streams.

- The application provides appropriate detail regarding expected habitat benefits as well as the location and selection process for the trees proposed for utilization in the project.
- The Siuslaw Watershed Council and the USFS have a strong partnership. The project team has a successful track record implementing similar projects in the watershed.
- The scope of the project is landscape-level and potential ecological benefits are high.
- The budget has good detail. The project is cost-effective for both the type of work proposed and the geographic scope of the treatment reaches.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The treated reaches are within forests managed for late-seral characteristics. It is expected that this effort will be the last augmentation of large wood needed in the system. The surrounding riparian areas are expected to be able to deliver large wood to the stream by the time the project matures. The project team is highly capable and experienced with the implementation of similar projects, having recently implemented a successful companion effort within the North Fork Siuslaw watershed in 2018.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$236,455

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$236,455

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1025-16588

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $70,990

Total Cost: $86,740

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project effectively leverages the capacity of watershed councils on the North Coast.
- The ability to hire a consultant to assist with project development is instrumental in submitting improved applications and getting projects on the ground.
- The project provides for consistency through periods of organizational transition.
- With the continued reduction in ODFW's staffing budget, there is increased demand for needed expertise among these watershed councils.

- The project has fostered collaboration and prioritization among the councils in the region.

Concerns

- The project's continuation over the years has possibly led to a reliance on the consultant by watershed councils.

Concluding Analysis

This ongoing project provided needed expertise and fostered collaboration among watershed councils in the north coast basin. The ability to help councils through transition times is an ancillary benefit with application quality remaining high and projects moving forward as scheduled. There is a concern that the unique skills of coordinators are not being utilized to their full potential. It would be beneficial to see council coordinators growing into a role of grant writing and project development to leverage the technical assistance provided by this project to a greater degree. A mentoring and coaching role that allows coordinators to foster new skills would add to the project's existing benefits and help build capacity among the organizations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$70,990

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$70,990

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1026-16597
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Coastal Native Seed Partnership
Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology
Region: North Coast
County: Lincoln
OWEB Request: $74,602
Total Cost: $233,453

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Coastal ecosystems are among the most rare and impacted ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. As a result, threatened species like the Oregon silverspot butterfly, coho salmon, western snowy plover, streaked horned lark, and other plant and animal species that make their home in these habitats are greatly imperiled. A diverse group of partners, including land managers, restoration practitioners, tribes, conservationists and private landowners, are working together to restore coastal grasslands, estuaries, and other habitats, and to recover the listed species that depend upon them. One barrier to successful restoration in this ecoregion is a lack of diverse, genetically appropriate, native plant materials available in sufficient quantities to implement large-scale restoration projects. This project will bring partners involved in coastal restoration together with native plant materials producers to increase the availability and affordability of native seed to restore Pacific Northwest coastal habitat. The group will develop a seed strategy that will establish a dependable and sustainable supply of native seed that is genetically and ecologically appropriate in sufficient quantities needed to accomplish restoration goals on a landscape scale and to provide a stable marketplace for both growers and land managers. As a starting point, the group will assess the wild seed already collected by partners, and if sufficient seed is available, move forward with establishing several high-priority species seed production fields.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The insufficient availability of genetically appropriate seed sources for the Oregon coastal area is a known limiting factor for restoration, particularly with the coastal prairie habitat.
- There is a sense of urgency to the effort, with Oregon Silverspot Butterfly populations on a steady decline.
- A similar ongoing effort in the Willamette Valley is now on track to becoming self-sustaining after a five-year time period.
- The previous concerns regarding the partnership's interaction with the existing native plant partnership (NORP) in the region have been addressed in this proposal. A letter of support from NORP is provided with this application.
- The project partners have an appropriate level of regional expertise and applicable experience with this type of effort.

- The project plans to bring growers into the partnership and establish production fields within the near future.
- The application is well-written, clear, and addresses previous review team comments.

Concerns

- Much of the seed may be produced in the Willamette Valley, and there is no discussion in the proposal about the potential impacts of growing seed in a different climate from which it will be planted.
- Coastal growers are not identified in the proposal and doing so would have strengthened the application.
- The application lacks a long-term funding plan and details regarding how the partnership will become self-sustaining.
- The budget includes match funding pre-dating the project and may not be valid.

Concluding Analysis

This resubmitted application successfully addressed previous concerns raised by the review team, particularly regarding the interactions of the new seed partnership with the existing regional native plant partnership. The need for genetically appropriate seed for the coastal region is well described in the application. Restoring coastal prairie due to the current trajectory of the Oregon Silverspot Butterfly and other species dependent on that habitat type is crucial. Availability of native seed could provide important contributions to biodiversity and the ecological health of the coastal landscape. The partnership should strongly consider utilizing coastal growers, when feasible, to ensure optimal biological benefits of growing seed in the climate where planted and to benefit local restoration economies.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,602

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,602

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1027-16598

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Lewis and Clark Tidal Restoration Project

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $74,028

Total Cost: $241,346

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a priority area and will restore 29 acres of critical estuarine habitat to the Lewis and Clark River, a habitat type that is imperiled with an estimated 95% lost over the last century.
- There are limited opportunities to restore tidally influenced habitat within the Lewis and Clark watershed.

- A future restoration project has the potential to improve water quality, especially dissolved oxygen, with the reconnection of tidal slough habitat.
- The project works cooperatively with an adjacent agricultural landowner and could be a showcase project in the north coast region, particularly with regards to the proposed tidegate replacement.
- Project partners have capacity to implement this type of work and prior experience with similar types of restoration. The application demonstrates effective leveraging of available resources within the partnership.

Concerns

- The site history of dredging and spoil placement and its relationship to the current restoration design is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

This application was previously submitted and recommended for funding, but fell below the staff-recommended funding line. This iteration demonstrated the strong project partnership and improved clarity describing the project's technical design specifications, particularly regarding tidegate replacement. This project, once implemented, could serve as a regional pilot project with regards to the interface of estuarine restoration and agricultural landscapes. Achieving 29 acres of new tidally influenced habitat along this stretch of the Lewis and Clark River is a significant opportunity with high ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,028

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$74,028

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1028-16599

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Scappoose Creek, Reach F Design

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $38,597

Total Cost: $48,964

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This 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, where 2018 construction completed stream layback, floodplain benches and additional side-channel reconnections. Partners include City of Scappoose, a private landowner, CSWCD, ODFW and BPA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed technical assistance will lead to restoration addressing key production limiting factors for ESA-listed fish species.
- The project complements recently completed adjacent stream channel restoration work.
- The highly visible location offers outreach opportunities to raise public awareness regarding stream restoration. The site provides a unique opportunity to showcase restoration in the urban-natural interface.
- The applicant has capacity to implement future restoration and recently completed the successful adjacent project.
- The proposed work on the private ownership has wide buffers, adding to the overall ecological benefits of the work.

Concerns

- Given the constraints of an urbanized setting, resulting restoration work could have a high cost to benefit ratio.

Concluding Analysis

This project was previously submitted and recommended but fell below the staff-recommended funding line. This technical assistance will lead to a unique opportunity to continue restoration addressing limiting factors in a highly visible urban location in Scappoose. On the site visit, the review team viewed the recently completed adjacent project which was functioning well. The project team has the capacity and experience to implement a successful project, and the community is engaged and committed to the effort.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$38,597

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$38,597

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1029-16618

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Alder Creek Restoration and Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lower Nehalem Community Trust

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $54,208

Total Cost: $74,408

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Project location:The project is located on Alder Creek - a direct tributary to Nehalem Bay in the town of Nehalem, Oregon. The majority of the project area is located on Lower Nehalem Community Trust owned lands. The project area is defined as Alder Creek and the associated floodplain from the culvert at Highway 101 - south to the mouth of Alder Creek at Nehalem Bay.2) Project needThe project is needed to enhance and expand rearing habitat for Oregon Coast coho salmon within the Nehalem estuary and watershed. This habitat type is a limiting factor for recovery of the species and is in short supply within the basin. 3) Proposed Work:The proposed work is to develop a project design that will restore and enhance Alder Creek, the riparian corridor within the project area, and habitats within the adjoining floodplain.4. Proposed Partners:Tillamook Estuaries PartnershipLower Nehalem Watershed Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The site location provides excellent potential for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement in the lower Nehalem. Engaging the right technical expertise will help develop a sound project.
- Alder Creek Farm was purchased in part with an OWEB acquisition grant. This project will build on prior conservation investments.
- The application demonstrates a more active initiative to managing the natural areas of the site for ecological benefits. The passive restoration techniques that have been utilized on the site to date have had limited effectiveness.
- The project’s location is highly visible and a restoration effort could provide outreach benefits.
- The property will benefit from increased stewardship guidance and partnerships that a restoration project may provide.

Concerns

- The application would have been strengthened by more communication with state and federal wildlife agencies regarding site potential and opportunities.

- NRCS holds a conservation easement and any proposed work needs to adhere to the terms of their easement; however, NRCS has not been apprised of this effort at the time of application.
- The farm has a significant amount of existing infrastructure directly adjacent to the stream which was not addressed in the application.
- The goals and objectives of the resulting technical designs are unclear. The proposed requirement that the designs “create” new habitat raises concerns about the project’s viability.
- The applicant and landowner may not currently have the capacity to implement or manage a restoration project since the project manager is a volunteer with the organization.

Concluding Analysis

Alder Creek Farm in the Lower Nehalem watershed is an excellent place to implement restoration for fish and wildlife habitat. The site’s location is directly on the Nehalem Bay. The application lacked clarity on the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the project, including what type and scale of restoration will be achieved and where it would be located. The infrastructure constraints around the farm area and upstream along neighboring properties are not adequately addressed. More clarity defining desired future conditions in the natural areas will result in a stronger application. Additional feedback from local partners to provide technical expertise about the site’s potential and expanding the partnership will enhance a future application.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1030-16690

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Arch Cape Community Forest: Water and Sediment Assessment and Action Plan

Applicant: Sustainable Northwest

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $30,575

Total Cost: $38,251

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District ('the District') manages a drinking water treatment plant and storage facility for the benefit of 200 permanent and more than 1,000 seasonal residents of this rural beachfront community in Clatsop County. The District's drinking water source area lies within the Necanicum sub-basin and its 1,250 acres feeds two creeks - Asbury and Shark. 2) In the past, the District faced water quality problems as a result of upstream forest management and is now exploring land acquisition for watershed protection. The watershed is now owned by a conservation bridge buyer, Ecotrust Forest Management (EFM), and half of the property is under option to the North Coast Land Conservancy for permanent protection in its Rainforest Reserve. The lower half of the EFM property encompasses the entirety of the Arch Cape drinking water source area and the District is engaging the public in a dialogue around the creation of a Community Forest. However, there is still uncertainty about the link between forest cover loss and watershed functioning - specifically with regards to water and sediment yield following clearcut logging. 3) Sustainable Northwest is requesting support from OWEB to fund the Arch Cape Community Forest: Water and Sediment Yield Assessment and Action Plan. This technical assistance will include performing a detailed watershed analysis, collecting data about current watershed conditions and identifying erosion and sedimentation hot-spots. The resulting plan will inform stakeholder planning efforts and set an ecological baseline for future forest management. 4) Project partners include the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District, the landowner Ecotrust Forest Management, the campaign project partner North Coast Land Conservancy, the neighboring Ecola Creek Watershed Council, and other technical assistance providers such as Ecotrust's Knowledge Systems team, the Pinchot Institute and Springboard Forestry.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The partnership implementing the project has good capacity to accomplish the work and has been effective with other similar projects.
- The proposed modeling work is a standard, technically sound tool. The model will identify potential sources of sediment as well as predict the sediment load.
- The resulting data could be an effective tool for building stakeholder engagement with the Community Forest concept.

Concerns

- The data collected may be duplicative of other similar efforts. There may not be a need to build a new model with new techniques, given the wide availability of other similar types of tools.
- The goals of the resulting forest landscape and whether or not harvest will be a component of management are currently unclear. As a result, it is unknown if this data collection and modeling effort is appropriate for OWEB's technical assistance program.
- It is unclear what will be done with the data/models after collection. The application would benefit from more detail about the resulting restoration or land management changes, if any.

Concluding Analysis

The data collection and analysis proposed could benefit future land management of the Arch Cape Community Forest; however, questions exist about the need for this type of work and what type of restoration work will occur as a result. The plans for forest management on the property are unclear at this time. The application would have benefitted from more information about the need and the proposed uses for the data.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1031-16696

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Nestucca NWR-Bay Unit Restoration and Infrastructure- Design Project

Applicant: Ducks Unlimited Inc

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $75,000

Total Cost: $132,574

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. This project area is approximately 104 acres, located in the Bay Unit of Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, 2.75 miles southeast of Pacific City. This site is bounded by the Little Nestucca River to the west, Nestucca Bay to the north, and Highway 101 to the east. 2. The project need is to improve habitat conditions and water quality for wintering geese and other migratory birds; aquatic species, including anadromous fish including the federally and state threatened Oregon Coast Coho salmon; and other wildlife utilizing the Bay Unit. Technical assistance funds would be used to design and evaluate alternatives for: (1) Replacement of the current water management system (i.e. tidegate) with a modern muted tidal regulator (MTR) to improve fish access and prevent entrapment, (2) interior enhancements to drainage ditches, swales, and depressional wetlands to improve off-channel / juvenile rearing habitat to salmonids, particularly Coho, and 3) develop agricultural setbacks and riparian restoration plans. The technical design would address features that improve natural hydrology and water quality, and restore historic channels.3. A.Collect data on fish and amphibian use, habitat availability, water quality, and fish habitat conditions on site. B.Develop aquatic species habitat improvement alternatives for project area. C.Collect and disseminate hydrologic and topographic data and develop a hydrologic model for project design to include culvert sizing, tide gate configuration, tidal channel construction, LWD structures, and riparian planting.D.Work with ODFW to develop fish passage plan.E.Develop conceptual project design alternatives for review by Technical Committee. F. Initiate Joint (COE/DSL) permitting requirements/application, and consultation with NOAA fisheries Biological Opinion.G.Prepare final engineering drawings and construction level contracting documents for project implementation. 4. USFWS, NNWC, DU, CTSI, ODFW, NOAA, OWEB

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The technical assistance work will result in a restoration project that improves tidal exchange, fish access, and water quality at the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge.
- The resulting restoration work will address limiting factors for anadromous fish species while upholding the Refuge’s management goals for geese.
- Project planning shows foresight for considering future conditions as a result of climate change.

- Implementation of a tide gate replacement at this location and with this landowner may lead to a potential monitoring project that could yield much needed information regarding the effectiveness of tide gate restoration.
- The applicant and project team have good capacity and experience to successfully implement a project resulting from the proposed technical assistance work.

Concerns

- Given that this is a federally managed wildlife refuge, fully restored conditions that maximize the ecological benefit and potential of the site would be preferable.
- The application suffers from poor clarity. The attached maps are limited in detail and there are typographical errors throughout.
- The cost-effectiveness of the resulting restoration project may be low given the expected ecological benefit. In particular, water quality benefits of the proposed tide gate replacement work may be overstated.

Concluding Analysis

The restoration project resulting from this technical assistance work could provide new habitat opportunities at the Refuge for aquatic species, particularly Oregon coast coho salmon. While fully restored tidal hydrology at the site would be optimal, the management constraints surrounding the property are understood. The proposed work is a good compromise that meets the needs of geese populations and local producers while improving conditions for fish. The resulting project should include a sound monitoring program, including collection of baseline data.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$75,000

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1032-16656
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Page Creek, Final Fish Passage
Applicant: Columbia SWCD
Region: North Coast
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $41,800
Total Cost: $57,200

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Page Creek watershed has undergone a number of restoration treatments to expand amount of available habitat for needs local salmon populations. Proposal provides resources to expound upon success of previous restoration efforts to maximize the ecological potential of the Page Creek subwatershed in the Clatskanie Basin (RM 8.8). Currently deteriorating culvert and road crossings impede access to over 9 miles of upstream habitat and contributing to excessive velocities for migrating juveniles. Funds will be used for technical services related to replacing perched, degraded culvert structure with a bridge that will span entirety of channel corridor and allow for 100% access for spawning and rearing needs of salmonid species. This includes pre-design support in the form of topographic and geotechnical services necessary for understanding existing condition as well as informing design needs. Funds will also be used to solicit proposals from established engineering firms, and overall project management to ensure regulatory and local community needs are met. Scope of engineering services include but not limited to 30% design sets, hydrologic and hydraulic analysis relevant to fish passage, flood hazard management, and climate change resiliency experience. Selected firm will work collaboratively with watershed council and partners to incorporate baseline information and local knowledge into design process. Firm will also be responsible for assisting watershed council in vetting design concepts with regulatory community and provide input to necessary permitting applications. Project also represents a unique project management structure that partnering with ODFW expertise as well as timber companies local knowledge, equipment, and materials to maximize restoration effort and project cost-effectiveness.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie basin is a high priority for ODFW in which to work to restore habitat for Lower Columbia fish.
- The technical assistance work will lead to the replacement of the last remaining barrier on Page Creek and complement previous investments downstream.
- The landowner is willing and engaged in the project.

Concerns

- This is a challenging site with a steep gradient and a headcut associated with the existing structure on the downstream side.
- The design work will require a geotechnical investigation, which is noted in the application but not differentiated in the budget. The proposed budget may be low for the necessary work involved.
- The budget included only one lump sum amount and it was not clear what deliverables would be accomplished or how the applicant arrived at the estimate.
- The proposed deliverables are conceptual designs, and it is unclear how the applicant will proceed to final designs and restoration funding.
- The application is lacking in proposal clarity and was not written in complete sentences.
- It is unclear whether this site is eligible for support and technical design under the NRCS RCPP program, which covers this area.

Concluding Analysis

The Clatskanie watershed is a high priority for Lower Columbia anadromous fish species in addition to cutthroat trout and lamprey. There are key partners that could leverage additional technical expertise who may not be engaged. More communication with other local partners is encouraged in a resubmittal, along with an explanation of how the project fits in with a larger regional prioritization of fish passage projects.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1040-16631

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Siuslaw Coho Partnership Story Map for Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $24,690

Total Cost: $37,923

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Through this project, SWC and its partners in the Siuslaw Coho Partnership will create a Story Map that: (1) illustrates past examples of restoration projects; (2) explains how restoration efforts benefit the health of ecosystems, local communities, and local economies; and (3) creates opportunities for SWC to work with local landowners and other stakeholders on future restoration.This project will harness the knowledge, skills, and expertise of our partners at Ecotrust, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District. Together, we will create an interactive story map to both elevate awareness about our work and engage our stakeholders in restoration projects identified in the Siuslaw River Coho Recovery Strategic Action Plan (Siuslaw SAP) 15 priority 6-field HUC watersheds within the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes watersheds.This project is needed so that SWC and its partners can more effectively communicate with others about the Siuslaw SAP's priority restoration projects. If we are to advance our work and complete future restoration projects, we must better communicate exactly why these projects are necessary, including sharing information about the positive economic, ecological, and social potential that these projects bring.This project is linked to the Siuslaw SAP, funded in part by OWEB. The products created by this project will strengthen the SAP and supports the goals of creating a Strategic Action Plan in order to more effectively and efficiently carry out restoration projects in targeted sub-basins. With the additional investment in this project by OWEB we believe we can better complete the goals within the SAP and more effectively involve restoration project stakeholders and recruit additional landowner and community support of Coho Salmon restoration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is the result of a recently completed Outreach Plan for the Siuslaw Coho Partnership and addresses an identified knowledge gap. The approach is basin-wide and broad in scope.
- The StoryMap format can be a good communication tool, and combine the information that developed the prioritization in the Strategic Action Planning process in an understandable format for landowners and other stakeholders.
- Specific outcomes and identified numbers of engaged landowners will make this effort successful.

- The applicant has skill with social media and using digital formats as tools, ensuring that the StoryMaps will be effectively utilized.
- There is a strong partnership and the outside expertise of EcoTrust provides a high benefit.

Concerns

- The application did not clarify the approach to maintaining and managing the StoryMap long-term.
- Relying on this digital format may not be an effective engagement tool for all landowners.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmittal from a previous round where the proposal was not recommended for funding. This iteration presents a more focused and improved project, with a focus solely on compiling existing data and developing StoryMaps as an engagement tool. The effort is a part of a larger engagement strategy designed by the Siuslaw Coho Partnership. There is some concern about relying on web-based methods given the importance of face-to-face contact with landowners; however, StoryMap is only one of a suite of methods that will be employed in the engagement strategy. There is high confidence that the project team will implement a successful project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,690

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$24,690

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1033-16645

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $25,012

Total Cost: $50,162

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Columbia SWCD and partners seek funding to continue and expand the level of water quality monitoring in four key subbasins in Columbia County. These include: Clatskanie River and Beaver Creek which drain to the lower Columbia River (LCR) and Scappoose and Milton Creeks which drain into the Multnomah Channel and then to the LCR. These important watersheds provide spawning, rearing and refugia habitat for state and federally listed threatened species of salmon and steelhead. The LCR Conservation and Recovery Plan lists degraded water quality- elevated temperatures and excessive fine sediments- as limiting factors to Coho, Chinook, steelhead and Chum species using these watersheds. This project will collect and analyze comprehensive and scientifically sound water quality data that will complement the limited existing data, fill data gaps and improve watershed conditions by addressing these limiting factors. This project will build on existing data from 2008-2011 (Scappoose/Milton) and 2017-2018 (all subbasins) and collect continuous data and/or monthly grab samples in discrete upper, middle and lower watershed locations to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, and water depth. The project will also collect and analyze macroinvertebrate samples and evaluate riparian land cover. Results will be used to analyze watershed status and trends, detect changes, identify water quality issues and potential sources, and determine priority stream reaches for restoration. A water quality report will be produced, and information will be included in the CSWCD's Annual Report, distributed to the community to educate and engage in conservation, restoration and best management practices. Local partners and municipality stakeholders will be engaged in a presentation highlighting water quality results and issues. Project partners include: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and Oregon DEQ. The Columbia SWCD and partners seek funding to continue and expand the level of water quality monitoring in four key subbasins in Columbia County. These include: Clatskanie River and Beaver Creek which drain to the lower Columbia River (LCR) and Scappoose and Milton Creeks which drain into the Multnomah Channel and then to the LCR. These important watersheds provide spawning, rearing and refugia habitat for state and federally listed threatened species of salmon and steelhead. The LCR Conservation and Recovery Plan lists degraded water quality- elevated temperatures and excessive fine sediments- as limiting factors to Coho, Chinook, steelhead and Chum species using these watersheds. This project will collect and analyze comprehensive and scientifically sound water quality data that will complement the limited existing data, fill data gaps and improve watershed conditions by addressing these limiting factors. This project will build on existing data from 2008-2011 (Scappoose/Milton) and 2017-2018 (all subbasins) and

collect continuous data and/or monthly grab samples in discrete upper, middle and lower watershed locations to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, and water depth. The project will also collect and analyze macroinvertebrate samples and evaluate riparian land cover. Results will be used to analyze watershed status and trends, detect changes, identify water quality issues and potential sources, and determine priority stream reaches for restoration. A water quality report will be produced, and information will be included in the CSWCD's Annual Report, distributed to the community to educate and engage in conservation, restoration and best management practices. Local partners and municipality stakeholders will be engaged in a presentation highlighting water quality results and issues. Project partners include: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership and Oregon DEQ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This is a straight-forward, well-written proposal to collect basic water quality data.
- The applicant has a successful track record and a DEQ-approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP).
- This application builds off of previous water quality monitoring efforts and an example of the data summary was provided as an upload.
- The application has a good description of the selected monitoring sites, sampling methods, and data analyses.
- The applicant is working closely with the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership to review results and create final report.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Macroinvertebrate sampling locations in low gradient channels may not match well with the PREDATOR model given those were developed from samples collected in riffle habitats.
- The macroinvertebrate data may not be the best fit to identify watershed issues, pollution sources, and potential restoration actions.
- It is unclear who will be performing the lab bacteria analysis; in addition, the budget line item for this appears high.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written with detailed descriptions of monitoring locations and protocols to be used.

- There is a high likelihood of success and the applicant has a successful track record of implementing monitoring work in the region.
- This work complements previous water quality monitoring efforts. All of the chosen monitoring locations were previously monitored.
- Data collection for five years is a reasonable target indicating an appropriate level of planning for the monitoring proposal.
- The riparian cover analysis proposed will prove useful in evaluating priority restoration areas.

Concerns

- The plan to collect macroinvertebrate data is not cost-effective and does not propose sampling in riffles. The resulting data may be of minimal use in meeting the project's goals and objectives.
- The monitoring plan would benefit from sampling bacteria year-round.
- Objective #4, which refers to using the results to identify watershed issues, sources, and prioritize restoration actions, needs clarification. The sampling network may not be of a fine enough scale to get to the project prioritization level.

Concluding Analysis

This project will build on past monitoring efforts in the lower Columbia by collecting status and trend data with the goal of a five-year data collection period. The project will help fill data gaps in the region. As an alternative to collecting macroinvertebrate data, there is value in collecting bacteria data in the subject watersheds at a larger scale than is currently in the application. The application is recommended for funding at the requested budget amount without the macroinvertebrate survey work, shifting those resources to increasing the level of bacteria monitoring.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$25,012

Review Team Conditions

Remove macroinvertebrate sampling from scope of services and shift resources to collection of additional bacteria data.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$25,012

Staff Conditions

Remove macroinvertebrate sampling from scope of services and shift resources to collection of additional bacteria data.

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

Application Number: 219-1034-16651

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Mid Coast Monitoring Project Oct 2018

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $69,574

Total Cost: $90,149

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Mid Coast region is an important area for salmonid production, but the future status of these populations is uncertain as climate change and changing land use patterns continue to alter conditions for salmonid life history. Consequently, many ongoing and proposed Watershed Enhancement and Restoration Projects within the Mid Coast focus on improving the status of coho and other salmonids. These projects seek to improve environmental conditions in freshwater spawning and rearing habitats, and they depend on monitoring data to identify restoration sites and evaluate effectiveness of restoration goals after projects are completed. The Mid Coast Monitoring Project (MCMP) is a long-term data collection program in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River Basins of Lincoln County, along with many ocean outfall creeks. Partners of the program include ODFW, the Confederate Tribe of Siletz Indians, Mid Coast Watersheds Council, USDA-NRCS, Salmon-Drift Watershed Council, Siletz Watershed Council, Lincoln SWCD, and private landowners. MCMP activities focus on 1) supplementing ODFW efforts to track salmonid population dynamics, and 2) monitoring habitat conditions, such as pre- and post-project Aquatic Habitat Inventory (AQI). Spawning data collected by MCMP is used to set recommended harvest levels and deadlines for local streams. Also, roughly 20 of 28 spawning survey segments surveyed routinely by MCMP have been enhanced (e.g. LWD, culvert replacement, riparian plantings), and these data can be used to monitor effectiveness of restoration work. The 20-year compilation of data provides a unique and valuable dataset that can be used evaluate population trends on a local and regional level. Habitat data collected by the MCMP crew is used as an effectiveness monitoring tool and determine utility of sites and identify priority areas. MCMP will continue to work closely with partners in filling information gaps and explore collaborative efforts in the region.The Mid Coast region is an important area for salmonid production, but the future status of these populations is uncertain as climate change and changing land use patterns continue to alter conditions for salmonid life history. Consequently, many ongoing and proposed Watershed Enhancement and Restoration Projects within the Mid Coast focus on improving the status of coho and other salmonids. These projects seek to improve environmental conditions in freshwater spawning and rearing habitats, and they depend on monitoring data to identify restoration sites and evaluate effectiveness of restoration goals after projects are completed. The Mid Coast Monitoring Project (MCMP) is a long-term data collection program in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River Basins of Lincoln County, along with many ocean outfall creeks. Partners of the program include ODFW, the Confederate Tribe of Siletz Indians, Mid Coast Watersheds Council, USDA-NRCS, Salmon-Drift Watershed Council, Siletz Watershed Council, Lincoln

SWCD, and private landowners. MCMP activities focus on 1) supplementing ODFW efforts to track salmonid population dynamics, and 2) monitoring habitat conditions, such as pre- and post-project Aquatic Habitat Inventory (AQI). Spawning data collected by MCMP is used to set recommended harvest levels and deadlines for local streams. Also, roughly 20 of 28 spawning survey segments surveyed routinely by MCMP have been enhanced (e.g. LWD, culvert replacement, riparian plantings), and these data can be used to monitor effectiveness of restoration work. The 20-year compilation of data provides a unique and valuable dataset that can be used evaluate population trends on a local and regional level. Habitat data collected by the MCMP crew is used as an effectiveness monitoring tool and determine utility of sites and identify priority areas. MCMP will continue to work closely with partners in filling information gaps and explore collaborative efforts in the region.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The project supplements some of ODFW's key fish datasets and in some cases (e.g., early-run Chinook) has provided for continuation of long-term datasets that have been used to guide management in plans like the Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan.
- Since the end of effectiveness monitoring associated with the Western Oregon Stream Restoration Program, this is some of the only programmatic project-scale habitat restoration effectiveness monitoring left on the coast.
- The project has been a good and long-term local/state agency partnership.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The proposal contains some discussion about how ODFW makes use of the data, but it is less clear about how the applicant uses the data to inform restoration strategies or methods.
- The application notes tribal participation, but was not clear what exactly the information was being collected for meeting tribal goals and objectives.
- The project may overstate the utility of using the individual spawning ground surveys as a means to evaluate restoration effectiveness.
- The application didn't list all of the previously funded monitoring grants that are related to this monitoring effort.
- The application schedule does not account for data analysis or data management, and does not describe how the data will be analyzed or utilized in consultation with ODFW.

Monitoring Team Comments

Recommendation:

• Describe how the data will be analyzed to evaluate effectiveness of restoration in near- and long-term, and include this analysis and information in a final report.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a successful track record with many years of continuous status and trend monitoring.
- Collected data is beneficial for fishery management.
- The Aquatic Habitat Inventory data collected is an important indicator of watershed health and effectiveness of restoration projects.
- The project is the product of a strong partnership between the applicant, ODFW, and the watershed councils.

Concerns

- After 20 years of monitoring, it is unclear how the cooperating organizations utilize the data beyond anecdotal reports of site conditions leading to opportunistic restoration projects.
- Effectiveness monitoring results from previously implemented restoration projects have not been distributed or made available to practitioners.
- The program seems to be without a driving strategy or a long-term plan.
- Project coordination and communication with partners could be improved.
- The project has increased its staffing level and associated cost, but the amount of work completed has not increased.
- The work is prioritized for the Mid-Coast watersheds only, and the type of data collected would be valuable on a broader regional scale.

Concluding Analysis

Notwithstanding many years of successful monitoring, the project appears to lack a long-term vision. It is unclear how the effectiveness monitoring data is being used by partners prioritizing and implementing restoration projects. Currently, project partners are summarizing data collected over the 20 years as a funding condition in a previous grant agreement; however, that report is not complete and is unavailable for review. An OWEB grant awarded in April 2018 for the same project has not yet been utilized.

While the current request is less than previous awards, the application covers a shorter time period than previous grants and overall project costs have gone up with the increase in staffing. The project should be reassessed to ascertain how the program can best fulfill regional monitoring needs. The review team recommends the formation of a workgroup to guide the project into the future and improve communication between partners involved, and to consider expanding the effectiveness monitoring to other parts of the North Coast region.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1035-16654

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Lower Columbia Watershed Rapid BioAssessments

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $66,550

Total Cost: $92,170

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Recently the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council is pivoting toward a more strategic approach to developing restoration projects. Draft technical goals have been drafted to provide more direction to project opportunities and partnerships with local community groups. This proposal along with emerging water quality data will bolster spatial resolution of selecting project types and their location in the context of the broader watershed scale. Funding will provide resources to identify existing gaps in stream survey information and target areas for additional field investigations. The Council will form and facilitate technical group that will develop a solicitation package to established consulting firms to assess their qualifications to develop an approach to prioritize areas to address uncertainties about fish distribution patterns in selected reaches of the Lower Columbia watersheds. Technical group will meet regularly with consultant team to review data summaries and how it gets translated into information for needs of emerging Strategic Action Plan (SAP). Spatially-explicit products from this effort will overlaid with existing basemaps and emerging monitoring information to refine existing Limiting factors as well as identify salmonid habitat previously not documented. These include anchor habitats, side channel-confluences, and groundwater seeps. Scope of field investigations will also include inventorying additional constraintsOutreach priorities have also been identified in an outreach plan and new partnerships have emerged from that effort. Elements of the Rapid-BioAssessment will also be sput off into experiential learning opportunities with local schools. Lesson plans will be developed that work toward exposing students to watershed health topics in their community. Recently the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council is pivoting toward a more strategic approach to developing restoration projects. Draft technical goals have been drafted to provide more direction to project opportunities and partnerships with local community groups. This proposal along with emerging water quality data will bolster spatial resolution of selecting project types and their location in the context of the broader watershed scale. Funding will provide resources to identify existing gaps in stream survey information and target areas for additional field investigations. The Council will form and facilitate technical group that will develop a solicitation package to established consulting firms to assess their qualifications to develop an approach to prioritize areas to address uncertainties about fish distribution patterns in selected reaches of the Lower Columbia watersheds. Technical group will meet regularly with consultant team to review data summaries and how it gets translated into information for needs of emerging Strategic Action Plan (SAP). Spatially-explicit products from this effort will overlaid with existing basemaps and emerging monitoring information to refine existing Limiting factors as well as identify salmonid habitat previously not documented. These

include anchor habitats, side channel-confluences, and groundwater seeps. Scope of field investigations will also include inventorying additional constraintsOutreach priorities have also been identified in an outreach plan and new partnerships have emerged from that effort. Elements of the Rapid-BioAssessment will also be sput off into experiential learning opportunities with local schools. Lesson plans will be developed that work toward exposing students to watershed health topics in their community.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application proposes to collect data to inform the development of a strategic action plan.
- The applicant is transitioning from opportunistic to strategic restoration prioritization.
- RBA data can be used to identify where juvenile fish are distributed and can be used for informing restoration prioritization and future monitoring efforts.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant's information need is not clear, and it is not clear that RBAs are the solution. The application proposes to use funds to develop a solicitation package for a consulting firm that would develop the approach to prioritizing areas for addressing uncertainties about fish distribution.
- The applicant seems to be unclear what information RBA surveys can provide. It was unclear how "productivity" will be determined from juvenile densities without collecting additional information.
- It is difficult to assess the budget without more information about the specific questions the consultant will be required to address, the geographic scope of the monitoring, and details of the RBAs.
- This application may be premature based on information contained in the application. The applicant should perform more planning work to complete an initial assessment of existing data. This can inform a monitoring approach that may or may not include a RBA. This work should be done prior to releasing a RFP.
- The timing of the final product for this monitoring grant may not be soon enough to inform the development of the strategic action plan.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Rapid BioAssessment (RBA) surveys can have utility in planning future restoration activities.
- The Clatskanie High School teachers are engaged in the project and provide a unique applied learning opportunity to the community.

Concerns

- Proposed survey locations are not identified as part of the proposed work and it is unclear how the consultant would be tasked with identifying locations. There is no clear justification why the monitoring reaches were not previously identified nor how the applicant determined the suggestion that 4-6 areas will be selected by the consultant.
- School lesson plan development is not eligible for a monitoring grant.
- The application is challenging to read and poorly written.
- Given the early stage of work on a strategic action plan, the project may be premature. It is unclear whether RBA surveys are the best tool to provide the council with the information needed.

Concluding Analysis

RBA surveys can be a useful tool for strategic action planning, but it is unclear whether that survey method is the most appropriate to meet the applicant's needs. More targeted location information and a greater level of detail is needed to evaluate whether RBA surveys are an appropriate methodology for achieving the council's goals and objectives.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1036-16664

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Siletz & Salmon River Estuaries, Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Baseline Data Acquisition 2019/21

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $50,818

Total Cost: $96,593

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) are growing global concerns, which due to ocean circulation patterns are expected to have particular impact on the waters along the Oregon Coast. These waters include estuaries which are the nursing grounds for many fish species. Estuaries are also home to many invertebrates, mollusks, and a myriad of other flora and fauna. Ocean acidification and the exacerbating impacts of hypoxia put much of these species at risk. Given that a paucity of data exists on the estuaries of the Siletz and Salmon Rivers that can be used to assess potential changes in these systems as they relate to OAH, the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes a study establishing a baseline dataset.Specifically, SDCWC proposes collecting continuous Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH, and Conductivity (as a surrogate for Salinity) at three spots in the Salmon River Estuary and a fourth in the Siletz River Estuary over the initial course of two years. Additionally, we propose collecting and analyzing grab samples for Alkalinity, which collectively with our other parameters will enable us to confine the carbonate system, exposing any changes to the carbon chemistry over time. These estuaries are of particular interest due to their proximity to one of Oregon's premier Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas ~ Cascade Head. Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the City of Lincoln City, Oregon DEQ, and Robertson Environmental. Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia (OAH) are growing global concerns, which due to ocean circulation patterns are expected to have particular impact on the waters along the Oregon Coast. These waters include estuaries which are the nursing grounds for many fish species. Estuaries are also home to many invertebrates, mollusks, and a myriad of other flora and fauna. Ocean acidification and the exacerbating impacts of hypoxia put much of these species at risk. Given that a paucity of data exists on the estuaries of the Siletz and Salmon Rivers that can be used to assess potential changes in these systems as they relate to OAH, the Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes a study establishing a baseline dataset.Specifically, SDCWC proposes collecting continuous Dissolved Oxygen, Temperature, pH, and Conductivity (as a surrogate for Salinity) at three spots in the Salmon River Estuary and a fourth in the Siletz River Estuary over the initial course of two years. Additionally, we propose collecting and analyzing grab samples for Alkalinity, which collectively with our other parameters will enable us to confine the carbonate system, exposing any changes to the carbon chemistry over time. These estuaries are of particular interest due to their proximity to one of Oregon's premier Marine Reserves and Marine Protected Areas ~ Cascade Head. Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the City of Lincoln City, Oregon

DEQ, and Robertson Environmental.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has an effective working relationship with DEQ, tribes, the local municipality, and landowners.
- Monitoring close to Cascade Head Preserve could provide valuable information for management, and could inform the dissolved oxygen TMDL over time.
- The applicant has a successful track record with similar data collection efforts to manage and report the data in a meaningful manner.
- The applicant is working with a reputable lab to collect the parameters of interest for ocean acidification.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was difficult to understand if this was an ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring project or just a continuation of the dissolved oxygen work they performed to inform the development of the TMDL.
- It is unclear why the Salmon and Siletz rivers were chosen; there was not a compelling reason articulated for choosing this area for continued monitoring.
- It is unclear how the site selection lined up with the applicant's monitoring objectives.
- It is unclear why only one sampling site was chosen in the Siletz River. It appears that the majority of the sites are located in areas that do not characterize the broader estuaries.
- It is unclear that continuous year-round data collection of pH and dissolved oxygen was necessary. It will be challenging to operate continuous loggers during the winter period.
- The applicant proposes to sample continuous pH using equipment that does not prevent bio-fouling. The OPMT had concerns about the plan to service this equipment once a month. This could impact the quality of the data.
- The alkalinity preservative method described in the application is not preferred. This is a very toxic chemical and should not be used in the field.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a successful track record with monitoring projects.
- The project employs creative thinking around an emerging topic of concern to our estuaries. The applicant has researched and is prepared to implement the project.
- The importance of this type of monitoring is understood and is well-described in the application.

- Cascade Head is the only marine reserve with an associated major river. Having data on ocean acidification and hypoxia could be helpful for management.

Concerns

- This type of monitoring is extremely new and just beginning to occur in pilot form in several estuaries along the coast. The application may be premature.
- The project lacks coordination with the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Working Group (OAHWG), who oversees the monitoring effort for coastal estuaries. Their expertise would be essential to a successful project.
- OAHWG has not selected the Salmon and Siletz Rivers as priority locations to conduct monitoring. There are other priority areas that would be more important to establish this type of monitoring, in particular the Yaquina.
- Since the type of pH equipment chosen can have an effect on carbonate chemistry, marine-based pH meters are needed since mixing fresh and salt-water is challenging to monitor.

Concluding Analysis

The application is well-researched and detailed and there may be benefit to establishing baseline monitoring for ocean acidification and hypoxia (OAH) in conjunction with the Cascade Head Marine Reserve. This type of monitoring in Oregon is only just beginning in a pilot form and coordinated by the team of scientists on the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Working Group, who are not a part of this project. The OAHWG was formed to prioritize monitoring locations, manage data collection methodologies, and coordinate resources statewide. The OAHWG's pilot efforts in Tillamook and Coos Bay are in preliminary stages and lessons are being learned as the projects are implemented. The timing may be premature to launch similar projects.

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 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 219-1037-16674

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: TEP Bacteria Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $34,919

Total Cost: $44,919

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Bacteria concentrations in many streams, bays, and beaches in Tillamook County are at levels that exceed the State standards for recreational contact and shellfish harvest. These waterbodies usually occur lower in the watersheds and are associated with urban and agricultural landscapes. DEQ developed three Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the north coast of Oregon: the North Coast Subbasins, Tillamook Bay Watershed, and Nestucca Bay Watershed to address this problem.Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) monitors E. coli and enterococcus bacteria concentrations in Tillamook County as a part of its Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP). The goal of the VWQMP is to evaluate the status and trends for bacteria levels in the streams, sloughs and bays throughout Tillamook County. The ongoing monitoring effort includes 73 sites throughout Tillamook County.TEP uses citizen scientist volunteers to collect water sample at established monitoring locations throughout Tillamook County. Approximately eight volunteers collect water samples for TEP twice a month on a year-round basis. VQWMP water samples are brought to the TEP office where they are processed and analyzed for bacteria using IDEXX equipment and methods.Sample results are recorded by TEP staff and entered into an online database. Recent results are available to the public through an interactive map on TEP's website. Every two years, TEP compiles, formats, and rates all data per DEQ protocols for accuracy. Bacteria data are forwarded to DEQ, which compares the most recent two years' of data to the appropriate State water quality standards to determine the status of the streams, sloughs, and bays. DEQ also performs regression analysis for each site to determine if statistically significant changes (trends) in bacteria concentrations are present. TEP and DEQ use this information to inform partners and the general public about water quality improvements.Bacteria concentrations in many streams, bays, and beaches in Tillamook County are at levels that exceed the State standards for recreational contact and shellfish harvest. These waterbodies usually occur lower in the watersheds and are associated with urban and agricultural landscapes. DEQ developed three Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) in the north coast of Oregon: the North Coast Subbasins, Tillamook Bay Watershed, and Nestucca Bay Watershed to address this problem.Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) monitors E. coli and enterococcus bacteria concentrations in Tillamook County as a part of its Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP). The goal of the VWQMP is to evaluate the status and trends for bacteria levels in the streams, sloughs and bays throughout Tillamook County. The ongoing monitoring effort includes 73 sites throughout Tillamook County.TEP uses citizen scientist volunteers to collect water sample at established monitoring locations throughout Tillamook County. Approximately eight volunteers

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has a successful track record collecting the same data and managing and reporting it in a meaningful manner.
- This monitoring project makes good use of volunteer efforts to collect the data over a broad area to help keep the costs to a minimum.
- The applicant responded to past review comments, including providing a description of volunteer activities and QA/QC measures to ensure the data they are collecting is done correctly.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear how each site's data set has been reviewed to ensure long-term data collection is needed at every site. This information should be provided in subsequent applications.
- The application lacked letters of support and was unclear about the reasoning behind that.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The collected data effectively informs status and trends in the Tillamook basin. The applicant has been proactive sharing the results of the data and has engaged stakeholders in the watershed as a result.
- The website hosting the data is user-friendly and informative.
- The project is able to track the effectiveness of restoration projects over time.
- Incorporating volunteers in data collection engages the community in local water quality issues.

- Local partners including the Tillamook SWCD utilize the data to monitor the effectiveness of nutrient management systems.
- The application is extremely well-written and the methods proposed technically sound.

Concerns

- No significant concerns are identified.

Concluding Analysis

This is a highly successful monitoring program in the Tillamook basin that collects bacteria data in high-priority locations where the land use is a good fit for an ongoing project. The project is highly regarded and continuously delivers products used in the Tillamook Bay region for planning new restoration projects and tracking the effectiveness of restoration in each monitored watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$34,919

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$34,919

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1038-16679
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: NCWA Monitoring Network 2019
Applicant: North Coast WS Assn
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $5,665
Total Cost: $10,765

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project continues temperature monitoring in 4 watersheds in Clatsop County, namely: Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wikiup, and Ecola Creek watersheds. This is the third year of monitoring in Youngs Bay and Skipanon and the second year in Ecola and Nicolai-Wikiup. Oregon DEQ has major data gaps in these watersheds and our continuous temperature monitoring assists DEQ in establishing TMDL data. NCWA uses the data to help inform restoration and support outreach where temperature limitation is a threat to salmon. Temperature is a limiting factor for salmonid survival and it doubles as an indicator of dissolved oxygen, another important parameter. This Project will:1. Collect time-series temperature data from 4 identified watersheds during the summertime months2. Deploy loggers at 22+ established sites (additional sites if access becomes available) in late spring (May/June)3. Follow DEQ approved Sample & Analysis Plan4. Audit data loggers in the office pre- and post- deployment 5. Conduct field audits with a NIST-certified thermometer approved by DEQ at least 2x/season (at deployment and retrieval)6. Retrieve loggers between Sept 15-Oct 157. Upload data and maintain organized file system on NCWA computer, backed up to iCloud8. Submit data to DEQ for processing and uploading to AWQMS9. Make data publicly available on NCWA website once processed/vetted by DEQ and promote its availability to partners and community members10. Incorporate data results into restoration planning (e.g. provide temp data to the Chum SAP, use in Chum Landowner Outreach conversations)This project is a collaboration between NCWA, Oregon DEQ, ODFW, and council volunteers. This project continues temperature monitoring in 4 watersheds in Clatsop County, namely: Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wikiup, and Ecola Creek watersheds. This is the third year of monitoring in Youngs Bay and Skipanon and the second year in Ecola and Nicolai-Wikiup. Oregon DEQ has major data gaps in these watersheds and our continuous temperature monitoring assists DEQ in establishing TMDL data. NCWA uses the data to help inform restoration and support outreach where temperature limitation is a threat to salmon. Temperature is a limiting factor for salmonid survival and it doubles as an indicator of dissolved oxygen, another important parameter. This Project will:1. Collect time-series temperature data from 4 identified watersheds during the summertime months2. Deploy loggers at 22+ established sites (additional sites if access becomes available) in late spring (May/June)3. Follow DEQ approved Sample & Analysis Plan4. Audit data loggers in the office pre- and post- deployment 5. Conduct field audits with a NIST-certified thermometer approved by DEQ at least 2x/season (at deployment and retrieval)6. Retrieve loggers between Sept 15-Oct 157. Upload data and maintain organized file system on NCWA computer, backed up to iCloud8. Submit data to DEQ for processing and uploading to AWQMS9. Make data publicly available on NCWA website once processed/vetted by DEQ and promote its availability to

partners and community members10. Incorporate data results into restoration planning (e.g. provide temp data to the Chum SAP, use in Chum Landowner Outreach conversations)This project is a collaboration between NCWA, Oregon DEQ, ODFW, and council volunteers.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has a successful track record and a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP).
- The application is well-written and addressed past reviewer comments.
- This project will continue to collect continuous water temperature data and contribute to generating a 10-year data set. These data will allow DEQ to perform adequate trend analyses to determine TMDL implementation and evaluate for delisting temperature impaired water bodies.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear if there were adequate resources for the applicant to use the data for outreach to plan and implement restoration actions in the future.

Monitoring Team Comments

• The OPMT encourages the applicant to consider monitoring water temperature year-round (at least at a subset of sites) to adequately document thermal dynamics.

• In future applications consider requesting funds to collect data for more than one year.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a continuation of previous monitoring work that has been successful. The project has a positive track record of collecting high quality data and engaging volunteers.
- The project is the result of a successful partnership with oversight and participation from DEQ.
- The volunteers working on the project are knowledgeable about monitoring and have the necessary technical skillsets.
- The project recently expanded and now monitors all priority watersheds.

Concerns

- The project only focuses on temperature.
- The objectives stated in the proposal are challenging to interpret.

Concluding Analysis

The ongoing success of this relatively young volunteer monitoring program on the North Coast is acknowledged. This cost-effective project continually delivers high quality data collected by adept volunteers, working closely with DEQ to guide the project's sampling density and ensure a Sample Analysis Plan is followed. Given the cost-effectiveness and the continual low budget amounts, the review team recommends that the applicant will consider the efficiencies of scale and submit a request that covers more than one year of funding in the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$5,665

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$5,665

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-1039-16635

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Agnes, Baldy, & Logan Creeks and Ocean Outfalls Baseline Data Acquisition ~ 2019 - 2020

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $35,232

Total Cost: $77,694

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes collecting baseline data of the smaller, understudied ocean tributaries and outfalls in our boundary. Project will focus on urbanized watersheds in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current water quality of these systems as it relates to federal and state water quality standards, including those directly related to salmonid life cycles. Watersheds previously not studied include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the seven miles of beaches of Lincoln City. Given the proximity, of particular interest are the systems which discharge directly into the Cascade Head Marine Reserve and/or Protected Areas which are coincidentally also within the recently redesignated United Nations Cascade Head Bioreserve. Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity along with biological parameters of bacteria as indicators of fecal contamination. Sampling will be primarily in the freshwater, however, marine samples will be taken from the nearshore for a comparative bacteria study. Data acquisition will include both routine and storm sampling to best characterize these lesser understood and potentially ecologically under-valued watersheds. Data will be used to determine impairments, prioritize future restorations for anadromous fish migration, and be of value to recreational users of area beaches and harvesters of shellfish (clams and mussels). Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Neighbors for Kids, Surfrider Foundation, and the City of Lincoln City. Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes collecting baseline data of the smaller, understudied ocean tributaries and outfalls in our boundary. Project will focus on urbanized watersheds in Lincoln City. Project addresses the need to better understand current water quality of these systems as it relates to federal and state water quality standards, including those directly related to salmonid life cycles. Watersheds previously not studied include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the seven miles of beaches of Lincoln City. Given the proximity, of particular interest are the systems which discharge directly into the Cascade Head Marine Reserve and/or Protected Areas which are coincidentally also within the recently redesignated United Nations Cascade Head Bioreserve. Water quality data to be collected will include physical parameters of flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, conductivity, temperature, and turbidity along with biological parameters of bacteria as indicators of fecal contamination. Sampling will be primarily in the freshwater, however, marine samples will be taken from the nearshore for a comparative bacteria study. Data acquisition will

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant addressed most previous application review comments.
- The applicant has a good track record with similar data collection efforts to manage and report the data in a meaningful manner.
- This project can provide important information to the Mid-Coast TMDL in urban areas.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Despite the improvements to the application, it remains unclear how important these streams are to anadromous fish. It was unclear if the data are not available or if it was just not provided. Is there suitable habitat for spawning? Is there presence of juvenile salmonids?
- The application cites an incorrect internet link for the flow measurement method that should be followed.
- The application lacks a clear description of monitoring methods.
- The current SAP cited does not include flow monitoring and should be revised to include the correct methodology.
- The application includes volunteers as match, but the narrative doesn't describe what the volunteers will be doing to contribute to this project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application demonstrates a stronger link to salmon habitat then the previous submittal.
- The proposed data collection will fill a gap in previous state monitoring and the data will have other benefits in addition to fisheries.
- This type of monitoring is recommended by the Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Working Group (OAHWG).
- The proposed streams to monitor have a direct impact to human and marine health.

- The project benefits recreational users of the ocean shore.

Concerns

- The project emphasizes fish use, but is more likely to inform urban water quality issues. The project has greater human health benefits than it does ecological benefits.
- The streams proposed for monitoring have fish passage issues limiting habitat availability. It may not be cost-effective to provide fish passage given the size of the streams involved and extent of upstream habitat.
- Focusing on turbidity may not be useful in these streams. Examining metals or nutrients affecting aquatic organisms may be more valuable.
- The application lacks a clear description of monitoring methods. The grab samples proposed may have limited value.

Concluding Analysis

Monitoring work in ocean outfalls is lacking along the Oregon coast, and this proposed work will fill data gaps in state monitoring efforts. There is value in monitoring overlooked streams in the urban environment and the project may provide benefits to human and marine health. The applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the Lincoln SWCD to be more cost-effective and efficient in getting the samples to the lab in a timely manner.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$35,232

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$35,232

Staff Conditions

N/A

Southwest - Region 2 Fall 2018 Funding Recommendations

219-2019
219-2026
Reedsport
219-2029
219-2043
219-2041
219-2022
219-2049
Coos Bay
219-2040
219-2035
219-2037
219-2025
219-2047
219-2045
Roseburg
Diamond Lake
219-2038
219-2027
219-2033
219-2021
219-2039
Gold Beach
219-2036
Medford
219-2032
Cave Junction
219-2034
219-2028
219-2020
Ashland
Brookings

Eugene
Springfield
Florence
Veneta
Fern Ridge Lake
Creswell
Cottage Grove
Oakridge
Lowell
Big Fall Creek Rd
Waldo Lake
Crater Lake
Rogue R.
Umpqua R.
Coquille R.
Smith R.
Illinois R.
Applegate R.
Indigo R.
Elk R.
Sixes R.
Chetco R.

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Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom

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ESRI ArcMap 10.6 NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20190320

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/

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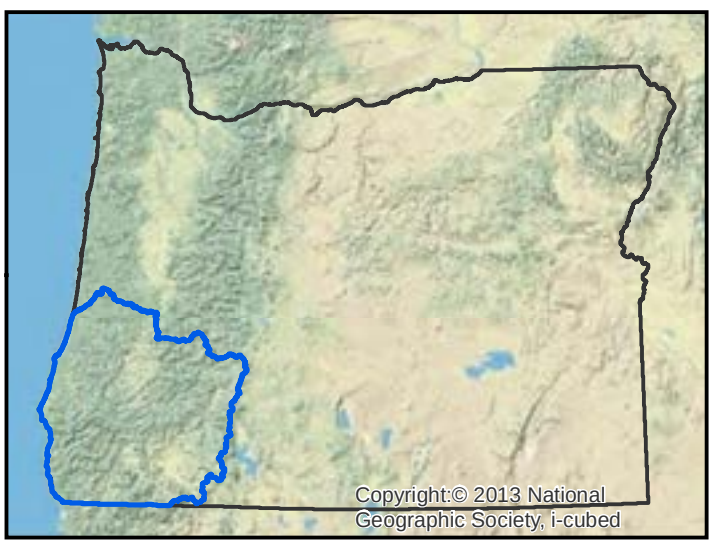

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-2033	Curry SWCD	Cedar Creek Enhancement	Natural functioning stream condition will be restored on Cedar Creek, a tributary of Elk River near Port Orford, by establishing a meandering stream channel with a connected floodplain, adjacent wetland areas, and restored native plant community.	89,787	Curry
219-2027	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Cattle Creek Instream Restoration	Instream habitat will be improved for salmonids by placing instream large wood habitat structures on Cattle Creek, a tributary to Cow Creek near Riddle.	74,561	Douglas
219-2021	Rogue River WC	Elk Creek RM 5.6 Floodplain and Side Channel Enhancements	Stream habitat conditions for rearing juvenile salmon will be improved on Elk Creek, a tributary to the Rogue River near Shady Cove. Breaching berms and placing instream large wood habitat structures will reconnect historic side-channels and the floodplain with the stream to restore natural river processes.	173,400	Jackson
219-2020	Rogue River WC	Ashland Creek Fish Passage Improvement	Fish passage will be improved for Coho Salmon on Ashland Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in Ashland. A concrete irrigation diversion dam will be removed and replaced with a new irrigation withdrawal system designed to allow fish access to an additional two miles of stream habitat.	117,527	Jackson
219-2029	Elk Creek WC	Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration	Streamside and instream conditions will be improved on over four miles of Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks, tributaries of Elk Creek in the Umpqua Basin, near Drain. Replacing culverts blocking fish passage to stream habitat, restoring the streamside native plant community, and placing instream large wood habitat structures will support populations of coho salmon.	342,703	Douglas
219-2032	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	West Fork Evans Creek Large Woody Debris Project	Instream habitat will be improved on the West Fork Evans Creek, a tributary of the Rogue River near Wimer. Placing instream large wood habitat structures and constructing blockades to exclude off road vehicle use from the creek and adjacent riparian area will increase the quality and quantity of native fish habitat over 11 stream miles.	773,145	Jackson
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,571,123**	

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

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-2028	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Upper Phillips Dam Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project	Native salmonid fish will be provided access to 49 miles of stream habitat in the Litte Applegate River by constructing a by-pass channel and improving the water withdrawal system for irrigators at the Upper Phillips Dam located near Ruch.	270,234	Jackson
219-2022	Coos Watershed Association	Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration	Instream habitat will be improved on 4 miles of Marlowe Creek, a tributary to the Millicoma River located near Coos Bay. Placing instream large wood habitat structures, replacing failing culverts, and improving a road surface located adjacent to the stream will reduce chronic sediment input into the stream, which will improve stream habitat conditions for native fish.	421,967	Coos
219-2019	Smith River WC	Railroad Creek Fish Passage Improvement and Instream Restoration	Fish passage and instream habitat will be improved on Railroad Creek, a tributary of the Lower Smith River located near Reedsport. Replacing an undersized culvert with a bridge will enable fish to access an additional 3 miles of stream habitat, and placing large wood instream will improve habitat conditions for native fish.	120,711	Douglas
219-2026	Smith River WC	Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration	Streamside habitat will be restored on a 17.7 acre section of Wasson Creek, a tributary to the Smith River near Reedsport. Invasive blackberries will be controlled and replaced with native trees to restore functions and services provided by streamside vegetation communties, including bank stability, erosion control, and shade to the stream.	76,505	Douglas
219-2025	Coos Watershed Association	Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement	Natural stream channel conditions will be restored at the Williams River quarry, located in the Coos basin. A major fish passage barrier listed on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority List will be addressed, which will result in improved fish access to 21 miles of stream habitat. In-stream habitat complexity and streamside riparian vegetation will also be restored to support native fish and aquatic species.	394,340	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**2,854,880**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-2023	Smith River WC	Spencer Creek Instream Restoration	130,975	Douglas
219-2024	Jackson SWCD	Quarter Creek Water Quality Improvement Project	36,019	Jackson
219-2030	The Freshwater Trust	Little Butte Creek River Mile 13 Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	357,866	Jackson
219-2031	Illinois Valley WC	Page Creek Aquatic Restoration Activities Phase 1	145,243	Josephine

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

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-2035	Coquille Watershed Association	Coaledo Drainage District Tidegate Replacement and Fish Passage	Alternatives will be developed for the replacement of a failing tide gate to restore fish passage, as well as providing improved pasture conditions and water management for the Coaledo Drainage District located near Coquille.	74,816	Coos
219-2034	Illinois Valley SWCD	White Ditch Sucker Creek Flow Restoration & Fish Passage Study	The White Ditch irrigation conveyance system will be examined to determine the quantity of water that could be conserved, and design alternatives for infrastructure improvements will be developed to address low stream flow and fish passage concerns on Sucker Creek, located near Cave Junction.	68,145	Josephine
219-2039	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Sykes Creek Fish Passage Project	Designs will be developed to remove 7 fish passage barriers and provide fish access to over 1.7 miles of habitat on Sykes Creek, a tributary of Evans Creek near Rogue River.	67,580	Jackson
219-2041	Coos Watershed Association	Goose Point, Haynes Inlet Project Development	A restoration plan will be developed for an approximately 80-acre wetland habitat area located on working lands at Goose Point in Haynes Inlet, north of Coos Bay. Site plans will lead to restoration projects that increase and enhance salmonid habitat, improve water quality, and create a resilient and diverse tidal marsh system.	74,749	Coos
219-2038	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Design	Engineered designs will be created to replace two deteriorating culverts and improve instream habitat conditions on Olalla Creek and associated tributaries in Douglas County, which will enhance habitat conditions for native salmon.	26,408	Douglas
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**311,698**	

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

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-2037	Coos SWCD	Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design	Engineered designs will be created to replace multiple undersized culverts and install swale-type grass channels in two agricultural sections of the Beaver Slough Drainage District within the newly completed China Camp Tidegate replacement project, which will build on recently completed habitat restoration benefiting Oregon coastal coho.	74,659	Coos
219-2040	Coos Watershed Association	South Fork Coos River Road Assessment and Project Development	Approximately 240 miles of roads that can negatively affect the South Fork Coos River and its tributary network will be inventoried and evauated to identify road conditions that contribute sediments to the stream or disconnect stream corridors. The inventory will result in an action plan that identifies the top 10 sediment reduction actions and all of the fish passage issues in the project area.	68,942	Coos
219-2036	Rogue Basin Partnership	Rogue Basin Partners Collaboration for Engineering & Technical Services	Technical assistance work will result in engineering designs, alternatives, water rights investigation, and irrigation system designs for up to six priority dam removal projects in three priority Rogue Basin geographies.	74,800	Jackson
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**530,099**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-2042	Elk Creek WC	Elk Creek Watershed Limiting Factors Assessment and Restoration Action Plan	49,902	Douglas

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

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None			None		
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**0**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None			None		
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**0**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-2050	Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	SOLC Upper Bear Creek Ashland Watershed Engagement		55,087	Jackson

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

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-2047	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2019-2021	Monthly water quality data will continue to be collected in the Umpqua Basin to identify stream-specific limiting factors for planning restoration in areas with the greatest need for preservation.	220,356	Douglas
219-2049	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2019-2021	Five long-running stream gaging and weather stations in the Coos River watershed will be upgraded to improve and expand data collection efforts providing real-time hydrological and meteorological information. This will provide a dataset large enough to perform meaningful statistical analysis for monitoring, assessment, research, and project effectiveness needs.	88,270	Coos
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**308,626**	
Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount**	**County**
219-2043	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Ramp Effectiveness Monitoring 2019	Pacific lamprey use of a passage ramp will be monitored to evaluate the functionality and usability of the ramp. Lamprey movement, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use within the Eel Lake Basin near Reedsport will also be monitored to provide stakeholders with valuable information about Oregon Coast Pacific Lamprey.	69,492	Coos
219-2045	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2019	Continued monitoring of summer stream flow and stream temperature at sites across the Umpqua Basin will inform regulation of instream water rights, model water supply and demand, and provide water quantity and quality data.	31,958	Douglas
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**410,076**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
219-2044	Smith River WC	Smith River ARIS/DIDSON Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring		62,511	Douglas
219-2046	Klamath Bird Observatory	Bird Monitoring to Evaluate Effectiveness of Riparian Restoration in the Rogue Basin		33,607	Jackson
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**2,191,447**	**21%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**10,554,731**	

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

Application Number: 219-2019-16601

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Railroad Creek Fish Passage Improvement and Instream Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $120,711

Total Cost: $265,285

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Railroad Creek is a tributary of the Lower Smith River located 25 miles east of Reedsport, Oregon. Currently, fish passage on Railroad Creek is restricted by an undersized culvert at a riparian road crossing. The current culvert is 7’ in diameter, constraining the 18’ active channel width, and perched at its downstream end. The constriction of the channel has altered hydrological processes, posing a migration barrier to fish and impeding substrate transport. Substrates above the culvert are directing summer flows subsurface under the riparian road bed, leaving the channel dry and impeding upstream access to juveniles in the summer. This project will replace the culvert with a bridge allowing a 27' stream channel at the crossing, designed in accordance with ARBO II and exceeding the required state and federally average active channel width requirements. The bridge will free the channel from constriction, allowing for fish to access to an additional 3 miles of spawning and rearing habitat, wildlife passage, and the restoration of hydrological processes. 15 instream log and boulder placements will be implemented below the current crossing in order to trap the large amount of material that has accumulated above the culvert, as these are expected to move after the culverts replacement. Photo point monitoring will take place for three years post-project. Smith River Watershed Council will work with the US Forest Service Siuslaw Nation Forest Biologist and Hydrologist, ODFW biologists, Roseburg Resources Engineers, and Rayonier Timber Company. Roseburg Resources have agreed to check the bridge after high flows and remove debris if needed, though no regular maintenance is expected for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- ESA-listed coho, Chinook and steelhead would benefit from the proposed habitat restoration conditions.
- Project partners have substantial experience with instream habitat restoration and coordinate well on projects.
- The project objectives are clearly articulated. The large wood structure placement design and material size is appropriate for the stream.
- The budget is detailed and reasonable for the project location and the activities proposed.
- The replacement of the culvert with a bridge would allow for adult Chinook passage as well as juvenile salmonids.

Concerns

- The application did not identify or describe if there would be a low flow channel designed under the bridge. Without such a consideration, there could be a barrier during those flow conditions.
- As designed, the inside wall along the stream channel could have a short lifespan.
- Coordination with NOAA on Fish Passage has not yet occurred. It is likely that designs could change during NOAA review which could increase the costs of the structure.The rationale for boulder and log placements was unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The project components would benefit a diverse number of salmonid species including ESA-listed coho. The large wood component is sound and designed appropriately for the site. There were several concerns identified related to the proposed bridge which could impact the design approach, as well as the cost. The applicant needs to work closely with NOAA to make sure the approach meets fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$120,711

Review Team Conditions

The Applicant must coordinate with NOAA on bridge designs.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2020-16602

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ashland Creek Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $117,527

Total Cost: $200,248

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed fish passage project is on Ashland Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in the upper Rogue Basin in Jackson County, OR. Ashland Creek's perennial flow and relatively cold water is both unique and considerably important to the Bear Creek watershed. The creek provides habitat for Coho Salmon, steelhead trout, and other native aquatic organisms. Near rivermile 1.2 on Ashland Creek is an actively used irrigation structure called the Smith-Myer-Roper Diversion. This channel spanning, concrete dam is approximately 2.5 feet in height and impairs access to approximately 2 miles of valuable Coho Salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. The dam is also considered a near complete barrier to upstream migrating juveniles that seek cold water refuge in summer and high flow refuge in winter. This proposal requests funding to remove the dam, reprofile the channel, install an irrigation water collection box, remove 0.25 acre of blackberry and replace with native riparian plant species, and install interpretive signs. Project partners include the City of Ashland, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC), Cascade Stream Solutions, and private landowners and water users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is straightforward with sound design information presented in the application. The project engineer is experienced working on passage issues at diversion structures with similar approaches.
- The barrier is the top fish passage priority in the Bear Creek system.
- The project is in a highly visible public location providing a good outreach opportunity.
- The project would build on other passage and habitat restoration in this watershed.
- Invasive species removal and planting is a value-added component to the project and will help benefit water quality.
- The applicant has consulted with NOAA on fish passage design.
- The City of Ashland is supportive of the project.
- Ashland Creek is a primary cold water refugia and provides critical habitat for salmonids, including ESA-listed coho.

Concerns

- The long term maintenance of blackberry removal will be undertaken by volunteers. This will require diligence on the part of the applicant to ensure the work is completed correctly and according to schedule.
- The project reach is constrained on all sides by housing, a sewer line, and a park. Due to the constraints of the surrounding infrastructure, the approach will not address the altered hydrologic function of the stream.

Concluding Analysis

There is a limited amount of cold water refugia in this system and this stream provides a primary cold water source to Bear Creek. Restoring passage to these valuable habitats is important for recovery of ESA-listed species and other native aquatic organisms. While the design will not restore the stream to a more naturally functioning state, the engineered roughened channel will improve the channel function from the current state, as well as improve passage to upstream habitat. The addition of a bio-swale, the removal of invasive vegetation, and the replanting of riparian areas with native species will help benefit water quality in the project area as well as downstream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$117,527

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$117,527

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2021-16608

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Elk Creek RM 5.6 Floodplain and Side Channel Enhancements

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $173,400

Total Cost: $616,300

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project seeks to address degraded aquatic habitat conditions in Elk Creek, a large tributary to the upper Rogue River in Jackson County, Oregon. Elk Creek provides habitat for Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, steelhead, Cutthroat Trout, Pacific Lamprey, Klamath Smallscale Suckers, Speckled Dace, Western Pond Turtle, and other native aquatic species. The proposed project reach is managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). A long history of restoration exists in the Elk Creek watershed. Most restoration projects completed in the Elk Creek watershed have been successful because of collaboration and teamwork among land management agencies, NGO's and private interests. The proposed project is yet another example of this collaborative approach. The degraded habitat conditions this project seeks to address are the result of historic land management actions. In summary, these conditions include simplified channel and floodplain habitat and lack of habitat connectivity within the river mile 5.0 - 5.7 reach. More specifically, project managers aim to reconnect Elk Creek and its floodplain, create complex habitat in side channels and on floodplains, and increase inundation frequency of off channel habitats - all with the primary goal of improving rearing conditions for juvenile salmonids.This project proposal originates from a technical assistance grant awarded in 2014 by OWEB (214-2006) to the former Upper Rogue Watershed Association (URWA), now Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC), in 2014. It represents the culmination of input from OWEB's Regional Review Team (via two prior applications) and a technical team of hydrologists, biologists, fluvial geomorphologists, and resource managers. Partners include: ODFW, BLM, ACOE, and RRWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project was selected by a multi-interdisciplinary team through a prioritization process.
- The proposal addresses concerns from the previous review including riparian restoration and the incorporation of levee materials into instream structure work.
- This stream provides important spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho.
- The project will restore more natural stream function and floodplain connectivity along the project reach.
- The project is a high priority for BLM and will build on previous restoration efforts in the watershed.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is a resubmission and was designed through an OWEB Technical Assistance grant. The stream is important to ESA-listed coho and is identified in NOAA's SONC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan and the draft Upper Rogue Coho Salmon Strategic Action Plan as a high priority area for restoration. Historically, the project area was a highly dynamic floodplain and project activities will help to restore this function to the project reach, representing a timely and important restoration opportunity.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$173,400

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$173,400

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2022-16611
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $421,967
Total Cost: $560,375

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

In Coos County, Marlow Creek is the furthest downstream of the three main tributaries to the East Fork Millicoma River and has been heavily impacted by past land management practices, which has degraded in-stream habitat throughout the basin. Marlow Creek provides important habitat to fall chinook, chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout, along with other important aquatic species (e.g. Pacific lamprey). For over the last two decades, the Marlow Creek subbasin has been a focal area of previous habitat restoration in the Coos basin near Coos Bay, Oregon, with its high spawning and rearing activity, but there is still room for habitat improvements. The Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration project is a multi-faceted 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, 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 added 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 chronic sediment input into Marlow Creek. OWEB funds will be used for project management, travel, contracted services, materials & supplies, and indirect costs. The Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA),Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Department of State Lands (DSL), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will be providing match that includes engineered designs, contracted services, materials & supplies, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a resubmittal and the applicant addressed concerns from the previous review by providing design information on the instream structures and the fish passage work.
- Marlow Creek is a highly productive stream that supports important ESA-listed coho spawning and rearing habitat. The project addresses critical limiting factors impacting coho related to simplified instream habitat conditions and passage issues.
- The proposal demonstrates a strong working relationship among partners through involvement in design, implementation, and funding.
- 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.

- Marlow Creek is the only consistent stronghold for chum salmon in this system.

Concerns

- The high cost of the bridge does not have a favorable cost to benefit ratio. The project will result in an additional 900 feet of accessible habitat and will improve sediment transport; however, the cost seemed to outweigh the benefits.

Concluding Analysis

The project partners have established a great track record of implementing this type of restoration. The project builds on restoration activities implemented downstream of the project reach and has the potential to increase the productivity in this stream for ESA-listed coho and other aquatic species, although at a high cost for the habitat benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$421,967

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2023-16617
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Spencer Creek_Instream Restoration
Applicant: Smith River WC
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $130,975
Total Cost: $322,892

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Spencer Creek is a tributary of the Lower Smith River located 25 miles east of Reedsport, Oregon. Historical and current timber practices have greatly impacted the natural function of streams throughout the Smith River Watershed. These impacts have led to bedrock dominant systems lacking substrates, decreased subsurface flow leading to high peak summer temperatures, a lack of large wood recruitment, and ultimately a limited production of anadromous trout, salmon, lamprey, and other aquatic species. This project seeks to maximize ecological uplift by providing a trajectory for rehabilitating stream processes formally present. Funding will be used to mitigate environmental impacts, increasing anadromous species production and improve overall habitat and stream function through instream restoration structures. Instream log/boulder placements have been designed by SRWC and an ODFW Western Oregon Habitat Restoration Biologist.47 structures containing 507 logs and 1640 boulders will be placed over 4.5 miles of stream. Spencer Creek falls will be modified to improve fish access to 8.5 miles of stream habitat. This was a low flow barrier to anadromy that was modified by the BLM and the Oregon Fish and Game Commission. We will remove a boulder, concrete sill, exposed rebar and concrete/rebar pieces from a failed fish ladder.Project partners are the Coos Bay District BLM, Roseburg Resources Company, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Spencer Creek is important habitat for ESA-listed coho and the project will help address primary limiting factors for coho.
- Project partners have a good deal of experience with large wood placement in the basin.

Concerns

- The designs for fish passage have not yet been provided to ODFW or NOAA.
- There is no back up plan for addressing the fish passage issues if the proposed approach at the falls is unsuccessful or if modification is necessary.

- The applicant should consider whether the falls area needs to undergo an archaeological assessment.
- Placement of large wood and boulder structures above the bedrock falls might be better timed after the passage issue is addressed.

Concluding Analysis

The bedrock falls pose a challenging fish passage problem with multiple factors to consider. The current design approach appears to be based on several assumptions and not from a sound technical foundation. The project would be a good candidate for a Technical Assistance project to provide the information needed to develop alternatives for consideration in addressing passage at the site.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2024-16620

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Quarter Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Applicant: Jackson SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $36,019

Total Cost: $110,052

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Quarter Creek is a tributary to 303(d) listed, TMDL-developed Antelope Creek and Little Butte Creek, just outside of Eagle Point, Oregon. Little Butte Creek joins with the Rogue River just beyond the city of Eagle Point and has been the focus of several projects in recent years. Like many previous projects, this project focuses on converting from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation in order to prevent contaminated tailwater from reaching important aquatic habitat for endangered species. In this project, an irrigation bulge pond will be dug and approximately 17 acres of pasture/hayground will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Jackson SWCD is the primary organization on this project. Although this particular project is just outside the current JSWCD/NRCS CIS it will provide cumulative and similar results.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project involves the right partners needed to develop a solution to the water quality issues resulting from flood irrigation.
- The work is fairly low cost for the watershed benefit and has direct support and involvement by the landowners.
- An irrigation and pasture management plan will be developed.
- While Quarter Creek is seasonal and does not support coho, the stream it flows into does contain habitat for steelhead and ESA-listed coho. Reducing fine sediment runoff is important to improving water quality.
- The applicant has the capacity to guide implementation and is experienced in developing solutions for irrigators.

Concerns

- There is shallow bedrock in the area and there have been no geological investigations to determine if there is adequate depth for pond construction.
- The use of a “big gun” sprinkler may still result in erosion issues considering the slope of the pasture. Alternative irrigation delivery methods should be considered.
- Although the budget for pond construction was based on bids, it appears high and without better detail in the budget description it is hard to determine whether this cost is reasonable.

Concluding Analysis

Irrigation water delivery to the property is provided on a 14-day schedule. By building a pond or “bulge” in the system, the irrigator will be able to utilize more efficient irrigation methods rather then the current flood approach. Severe erosion resulting from flooding on the heavy clay soils prompted the landowner to seek assistance for conversion to a more efficient high pressure system. The pond component is key to that conversion; however, there needs to be more assurance that the pond approach will work with the potential shallow bedrock issue. The project has the potential to improve irrigation efficiencies for the landowner, as well as help reduce run-off into the stream and improve water quality. The application would have been stronger if it had examined the potential for conserving water instream.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2025-16627

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $394,340

Total Cost: $496,890

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

In the Coos basin near Coos Bay, Oregon, the Williams River is a major tributary to the South Fork Coos River and provides important habitat for chinook and coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat, and Pacific lamprey, among other aquatic species. In the 1960's, road building and quarry operations constrained the Williams River at the Five Mile Creek Quarry in Douglas County against a massive bedrock hillslope, drastically increasing the stream gradient and establishing the Quarry Falls. These falls are a major topic of concern and are the last barrier on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority List on the Millicoma Tree Farm within the Coos watershed. Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) and Weyerhaeuser have collaborated to tackle the other major barriers on the Tree Farm (OWEB #212-2047 & #216-2012), and we are now focusing on tackling the last major barrier, the Quarry Falls. To address this, we propose to shift the 5000 Road nearly 50 feet to the northeast, widen the channel by up to 45 feet, and plant 400 trees and shrubs along 700 feet of stream. These activities will improve stream complexity, provide a future source of shade and wood, and improve adult and juvenile access to nearly 21 miles of the furthest extent of anadromous fish habitat in the Coos basin and habitat recently restored (OWEB # 214-2035). OWEB funds will fund project management, travel, supplies, contracted services, and indirect costs. Weyerhaeuser, CoosWA, and OR Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will be providing match to cover project designs, permitting, road relocation activities, technical assistance, and some indirect costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a resubmittal and the applicant addressed concerns from the previous evaluation related to the design approach and engineering. Additionally, a planting component was added to the project.
- A letter of support was provided by ODFW describing the importance of addressing the barrier, which may cause delays in the timing of spawning under certain flow conditions.
- This is the final barrier in the system and builds on other fish passage and extensive instream habitat restoration work both upstream and downstream of the site.
- The project will facilitate passage for multiple species including ESA-listed coho, with juveniles benefiting the most from the project.

- Project partners have experience in successfully addressing challenging fish passage projects. The application demonstrates strong working partnerships and commitment necessary to design, fund and undertake a project of this magnitude.

Concerns

- Fish passage is not a priority limiting factor for coho in this watershed.
- There is a high cost relative to the expected fish benefit.
- The application described that the technical team involved in project development was split on what design alternatives to pursue. Additional information on those issues and how they were resolved would help in better understanding the selected alternative.
- It was not clear if the project was “shovel ready” or if it might take additional time to get to that stage.
- The attached landowner letter of support was for a different project.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal. The approach to improve fish passage at the site should lessen gradient and flow velocity and assist in both adult and juvenile passage for multiple species. While passage is not a critical limiting factor in this system, the project will complete fish passage restoration efforts and connectivity between upstream and downstream habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$394,340

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2026-16636

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $76,505

Total Cost: $163,007

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 is a resubmittal and the applicant addressed the previous review concerns regarding inconsistencies in the application metrics.
- The application includes a concise description of the watershed's limiting factors and the discussion of restoration alternatives was helpful in understanding how the proposed solution will address the limiting factors.
- The site preparation approach and the planting plan are reasonable and tailored to the 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

- The concern remains about the plant establishment timeline. With the magnitude of the berry infestation, six years of plant stewardship proposed in the application may not be enough time to get the plantings to the free-to-grow state. The application would have been stronger is it had included a contingency plan in case additional time is needed after six years of plant stewardship efforts.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides an opportunity to help restore native riparian function in this project reach and provide connectivity to healthy habitats upstream. The proposed restoration actions will benefit riparian function, as well as help improve water quality and restore future large wood recruitment to the area to benefit ESA-listed coho and other native salmonids. The challenging nature of the existing conditions may require additional post-restoration plan stewardship.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$76,505

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2027-16642
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Cattle Creek Instream Restoration
Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $74,561
Total Cost: $189,261

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Instream fish habitat restoration work is proposed for Cattle Creek, a tributary to Cow Creek in the Lower Cow Creek 5th field watershed. Cattle Creek is located in South Umpqua Basin southwest of Riddle, in southern Douglas County. Cattle Creek is an important tributary of Cow Creek, providing low gradient habitat used by Oregon Coast coho, winter steelhead and other native fish. Cattle Creek has a medium to high intrinsic potential to support coho and a high relative spawner abundance, but lacks instream wood and has a bedrock and cobble dominated streambed. Rearing habitat is limited during both summer and winter. Cattle Creek is identified in the Lower Cow Creek Watershed Assessment (2003) and PUR Action Plan (2007) as needing instream work to help recover coho. Partners prioritized wood placement in Cattle Creek after the Horse Prairie fire burned through it in 2017. Across 1.2 miles of BLM and private timberland, instream restoration is proposed in Cattle Creek to improve the fish habitat quality by placing 113 logs and 22 trees at 31 sites. Moving quickly to improve stream habitat is allowing us to capitalize on the opportunity to use fire-killed and road hazard trees, felled during and after the fire in 2017, before they rot. This project is proposed to span across BLM and Roseburg Forest Products ownership and include the entire extent of coho habitat in Cattle Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The stream contains critical habitat for ESA-listed coho and the proposed actions have been identified in an action plan for the watershed.
- The project will address habitat complexity, a secondary limiting factor for coho.
- The project is ready for implementation with completed designs, making the project highly likely to succeed. The applicant has become proficient in implementing similar projects.
- There is gravel moving through the project reach. The proposed log jams are needed to capture spawning gravels.
- The project is time sensitive. Fire damaged logs will deteriorate if not placed in the upcoming field season.

Concerns

- The project does not address the primary limiting factor of water quantity for this stream.
- Any wood placed directly above road crossings needs to have special attention to make sure it is well-placed and anchored.

Concluding Analysis

The application laid out a project designed and ready for implementation. While the project does not address the primary limiting factor for the stream - water quantity, it does address an important secondary limiting factor and will help preserve stream integrity while the system recovers from recent wildfires.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,561

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,561

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2028-16670

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: $270,234

Total Cost: $376,657

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 0.2 miles of irrigation ditch that serves 10 properties 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 high priority, 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 structure efficiencies will reduce the amount of water diverted and conserved water will be left instream for the benefit of aquatic species in a DEQ-listed flow-limited stream. Two fish passage barriers below the dams have been removed and this project continues the momentum for restoring passage upstream. 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 allocation of conserved water statute. Instream water will 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.
- The project is a resubmittal. The amount of piping was reduced in this proposal. Project partners plan to leverage OWEB funding as match to help secure funding from other sources for piping the ditch.
- Besides benefiting the stream, the project will increase the efficiency of the water users.
- Fish passage barriers below this project have already been addressed. The next diversion point is 1,000 feet upstream and is a partial passage barrier and on the list for the applicant to address.

- The current plan is to combine the Upper and Lower Phillips Ditch Points of Diversion. This will create efficiencies as well as maximize the potential for conserved water instream.
- The applicant and Ditch associations are coordinating closely with OWRD.

Concerns

- The designs provided were the same ones provided with the previous submission. The applicant plans on working with NOAA to make sure designs meet fish passage criteria.
- It was still unclear how much water is currently diverted and how much would be diverted after implementation. Determining conserved water will be part of a second phase after the fish passage and ditch piping work is completed.
- It is unclear if the fish passage designs would be complete in time for implementation in the upcoming season. It may make sense to phase the project and do the headgate and fish screen work first.
- It is unclear if landowners support the plan to merge the two ditches.

Concluding Analysis

The project has potential to build on the instream flow improvements 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, making it difficult to determine the cost/benefit. Fish passage designs need to meet both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria and advance coordination with these two agencies is critical. The applicant should consider if a Technical Assistance application to support fish passage design, work with land owners on ditch merger, and quantify water savings would be helpful in moving the project forward.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$270,234

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2029-16681
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks Restoration
Applicant: Elk Creek WC
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $342,703
Total Cost: $592,919

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project addresses key watershed problems in Jack and Hardscrabble Creeks, the two major tributaries of the Middle Elk Creek sub-watershed in 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 project 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 components include:• Culvert replacement on Johney Creek (Jack Creek tributary) to improve access to 1.75 miles of high intrinsic potential coho habitat• Culvert replacement on Hardscrabble Creek before its failure impacts water quality• Low-water bridge replacement on Hardscrabble Creek to improve access to 2.5 miles of high intrinsic potential coho habitat• 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 instream habitat complexity• Brush removal, 1200 native trees, 504 native shrubs, and a 3-year herbicide regime to restore 12 riparian acres along 1.3 miles of Jack and Johney Creeks• 2.6 miles of wildlife-friendly riparian fencing, a railcar bridge and an off-channel livestock water system to completely exclude livestock from 1.3 miles of Jack and Johney Creeks.• 5000 willow cuttings to provide shade, capture bedload and enhance beaver habitatThe Woolley family (Hardscrabble Ranch, LLC) owns the land and is a key contributor to this project. Other partners include 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 that effective partnerships are 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 rapport with other landowners in the watershed and is open to using the project as an outreach tool.
- The project will benefit ESA-listed coho and other native salmonid habitat as well as help to improve water quality.

- The buffer setbacks are wider than is typical and all fencing is wildlife friendly.
- The applicant recognizes the need to get ODFW & NOAA involved early for approval on fish passage projects.
- The designs for instream structures on areas of bedrock are site-appropriate.
- ODFW & Douglas SWCD are supportive of the project.

Concerns

- The geotechnical work has not been done for the crossing replacements.
- The size of some of the logs seem small for the site. The applicant will need to work closely with ODFW to make sure key pieces meet sizing criteria.

Concluding Analysis

The project has a high likelihood of achieving project objectives and improving both instream habitat for ESA-listed coho, as well as helping to improve water quality. The project will serve as a great opportunity for outreach to the local agricultural community demonstrating a wide variety of approaches to stream restoration and how restoration can support the management of the property. Working closely with partner agencies and the landowners is key to bringing this project to fruition.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$342,703

Review Team Conditions

Coordinate with ODFW on instream log sizing.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$342,703

Staff Conditions

Coordinate with ODFW on instream log sizing.

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

Application Number: 219-2030-16687

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Butte Creek River Mile 13 Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $357,866

Total Cost: $489,899

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project is located on private lands at river mile 13 of Little Butte Creek in Jackson County near Eagle Point. Little Butte is a tributary of the Rogue River and is considered a priority stream at the state and federal level for endangered coho salmon recovery. The Creek also has a 303(d) listing for temperature, bacteria, and sedimentation. Other limiting factors include: reduced large wood supply; lack of channel complexity and aquatic habitat; sediment impacted spawning surfaces due to erosion; degradation of riparian forests; and high water temperatures due to irrigation withdrawals and lack of shade. The proposed work will include placement of 11 large wood structures to increase fish and wildlife habitat and reduce erosion by stabilizing a portion of exposed bank. Riparian revegetation will occur on 2.3 acres with seven years of plant establishment and noxious weed suppression. Native plants with provide shade, reduce bank erosion, filter nutrients, and become large wood recruitment in the future. The project is part of a larger effort along with the voluntary landowners and City of Medford, and builds on an adjacent project previously funded with an OWEB Restoration Grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will build on similar restoration work in the area undertaken by the applicant and other partners.
- The project area is water quality limited and suffers from high summer stream temperatures. The riparian restoration work will help improve water quality.
- The watershed provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho.

Concerns

- The application presented no clear proposed action and lacked design information for large wood and bank stabilization activities.
- Without design information it was unclear whether the cost to benefit ratio was reasonable.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included assurances the project would be protected and maintained for the long term.

Concluding Analysis

The project has potential to build on other restoration efforts in the area. Actions to improve water quality, such as restoring the riparian area, are important in this water quality limited system which contains critical habitat for ESA-listed coho. However, without design information it was difficult to assess the project and its likelihood of success. Including design information will strengthen the application if resubmitted.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2031-16688
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Page Creek Aquatic Restoration Activities Phase 1
Applicant: Illinois Valley WC
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Josephine
OWEB Request: $145,243
Total Cost: $219,096

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

A tributary of the East Fork Illinois River, Page Creek is approximately 12 miles south of Cave Junction near the town of Takilma. The East Fork is a primary contributor to the Illinois River basin salmonid population. At least 50% of the Rogue River basin coho production comes from the Illinois River (FS/BLM, 2000). The Illinois River has a core, functionally independent population of SONCC coho salmon at high risk of extinction. Altered hydrologic function and degraded riparian forest conditions are the documented key limiting stresses for that species in the subbasin (NOAA, 2014). Negative effects of historic land use practices in Page Creek include channel modification, alteration of the riparian vegetative community (including introduction of invasive species), decreased off-channel habitat features, and reduced large wood recruitment. The straightened and simplified channel is mostly disconnected from it's floodplain. Two barriers to aquatic organism passage are located in the Phase 1 project reach, limiting access to one mile of Page Creek that is designated high Intrinsic Potential (high IP) for SONCC coho salmon. Funding is sought to collaboratively implement the recommended restoration strategy recently developed for the project (OWEB funded) reach that directly addresses key limiting stresses for stream and habitat restoration for a one-half mile reach of Page Creek. Specifically, 11 large wood structures will be constructed, a culvert removed, invasive plants treated, native riparian plants established, and a roughened channel constructed to replace a fish passage barrier. These recommended activities directly address stresses and recovery strategies of the Final Recovery Plan for the SONCC ESU of Coho Salmon (NOAA, 2014) and priority restoration actions of the Forest's Watershed Restoration Action Plan for the East Fork Illinois River watershed (USFS, 2014).Phase 1 project partners include the applicant, the USFS, and a private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is engaged and highly supportive of the project.
- The contractor selected for the instream work has a proven track record.
- The project is the result of an OWEB Technical Assistance grant.

- Fish passage restoration is a high priority for the Rogue River. Improving passage at the diversion point will provide access to fish habitat above the site. Two culverts approximately one half mile upstream, which currently impede fish passage, are scheduled for removal or replacement.
- The Illinois River system is a stronghold for ESA-listed coho. This cold water stream provides critical habitat for this species and other native fish.
- The site has an intact riparian plant community with diverse species and age classes.

Concerns

- The application is incohesive and unclear.
- The design approach will improve passage; however, the approach does not address altered hydrologic function. More information on the design and why it was selected would be helpful to the review.
- The application identified another agricultural user of the ditch, but there was no evidence that producer was supportive of the project.
- Some of the large wood pieces appear to be too small for this stream. The applicant is encouraged to work with ODFW to assure key pieces are sized appropriately.
- The wrap-up section of the application is incomplete and there is no discussion of design alternatives. Additional design detail would have been helpful in the evaluation process.
- The need and description for the riparian work was unclear and lacked detail.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds off other restoration efforts in the sub-watershed. There is an expectation that projects resulting from a Technical Assistance grant will have a higher caliber of detail and explanatory information as a result of the investment. Future submissions would be strengthened by including more information on design and design alternatives; support letters from the USFS and the other irrigators using this ditch; more clarity on the current situation and the ecological uplift expected from restoration work; and reviewing the budget for inconsistencies.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2032-16692

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Fork Evans Creek Large Woody Debris Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $773,145

Total Cost: $1,134,290

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The West Fork Evans Creek Large Woody Debris (LWD) Project will improve spawning and rearing habitat along approximately 11 miles of the West Fork Evans and Sand Creeks in Jackson County through a partnership between Olympic Resource Management, Silver Butte Timber Company, Lone Rock Resources, BLM, Seven Basins Watershed Council, and the Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council. West Fork Evans Creek is designated as a “core area” and the highest priority for restoration under the Final Recovery Plan for SONCC Coho salmon. In addition to ESA-listed Coho salmon, the project will benefit fall Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, and cutthroat trout. Current BLM and ODFW surveys have indicated a decline in the coho population of West Fork Evans Creek. Past management practices in the watershed have reduced the amount of LWD instream, habitat complexity, and pool habitat; modified instream habitat; and increased sedimentation.This project will install 152 instream LWD structures and 18 blockades to exclude OHV use from the creek and adjacent riparian area. These actions will increase the quality and quantity of over-summer and over-winter rearing habitat for juveniles, improve migration and spawning habitat for adults, increase macroinvertebrate populations, improve habitat and stream channel complexity, increase the accrual and retention of spawning gravels, improve riparian health, and reduce sedimentation. These factors will increase spawning success and juvenile survival rates thereby supporting fish populations.This proposal will support fish population recovery for ESA-listed and state-listed species and address DEQ-listed limiting factors. Partners include Olympic Resource Management, Silver Butte Timber Company, Lone Rock Resources, BLM, Seven Basins WC, ODFW, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Engaging private timber companies has been difficult in the Rogue Basin. This project involves three industrial timber companies in a meaningful way which will help open up future opportunities for restoration collaboration.
- West Fork Evans Creek is a cold water stream which provides important habitat to ESA-listed coho.
- OHV use is high in this watershed and the decomposed granitics common in this system are subject to severe erosion in the unmanaged high-use areas. Activities to address this problem on a large scale are needed.

- There is a good cost to benefit ratio for the instream restoration work and the amount of habitat to be treated.
- The project match from BLM is time-sensitive and will be lost if not used in this upcoming field season.

Concerns

- It is not clear that the access restriction by installing the ditch and large rock “tank traps” will be effective in reducing usage long-term. Off-road use will need to be closely monitored into the future.
- Due to the high cost of the request, the applicant offered a phased project alternative to reduce costs. However, this approach may come with loss of efficiencies through additional mobilization.
- The scope of the project may be larger than necessary. Some upper reaches have started to naturally recruit wood and trees will continue to come down on their own accord.

Concluding Analysis

The stream is important for ESA-listed coho and is identified in NOAA’s SONC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan and the draft Upper Rogue Coho Salmon Strategic Action Plan as a high priority area for restoration. Project activities will help benefit habitat as well as help improve water quality. OHV use has impacted this watershed for a long time. While the application includes appropriate measures to reduce impacts, along-term comprehensive management plan with a strong outreach approach is needed to address OHV use and help mitigate for the impacts. The project is a great opportunity to approach restoration across a large number of stream miles and spanning four land ownerships in a meaningful way.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$773,145

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$773,145

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2033-16716
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Cedar Creek Enhancement
Applicant: Curry SWCD
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Curry
OWEB Request: $89,787
Total Cost: $225,090

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located in the Cedar Creek subwatershed of Elk River, on the southern Oregon Coast. Cedar Creek is a tributary to the Elk River estuary that originates on the uplifted coastal terrace that separates the Elk River and Sixes River. The stream quickly descends from the coastal terrace and forms a short stream valley that then opens onto the Elk River floodplain. This project is needed to restore floodway capacity along 3700 feet of the Cedar Creek stream corridor so that the channel can develop hydrologic floodplain connectivity and complex instream habitat without diverting onto adjacent pastureland. Project components include the construction of a contiguous floodway and new segments of stream channel, the installation of log structures, the construction of grade control on the new channel to preserve existing wetland and off-channel habitat features, the replacement of a road crossing with a bridge, and the fencing and planting of a riparian reserve. Project partners include: ODFW, the Wild Salmon Center, the NOAA Restoration Center, the Wahl Family (landowner), the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership, and the Elk River Coho Business Plan Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is highly engaged and supportive of the project. There is a conservation easement in place to protect riparian areas on the property and the project builds on previous restoration work. The landowner is conservation minded and this is clearly reflected in the approach to management of the property, which provides high ecological benefit on working lands.
- Strong partnerships and commitment to project success are clearly demonstrated in the application.
- The proposed design aligns with the project objectives. The project designer has completed a topographic survey and incorporated wetland connectivity into the approach. The design also allows beaver activity to continue.
- The NOAA engineer reviewed the designs and has no fish passage concerns with the approach.
- This stream provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho and the project will address key limiting factors in the stream – lack of complexity and water quality.
- A comprehensive monitoring strategy is proposed, including four years of post-project pre-smolt trapping and aquatic habitat inventory work.
- The design will break up gully-forming flows.

Concerns

- The project focused on the hydrology and drainage. The application would have been further strengthened by including more discussion on the current fish use and other increased benefits from project implementation.
- The site has constraints caused by human use; the project maintains an artificial channel.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner's commitment and support for the project and demonstrated conservation approach to land management will ensure the project's long-term success. The project can serve as a demonstration opportunity to showcase how agricultural producers can maintain a livelihood while also providing ecological benefits. The project is consistent with actions identified in the Elk River Coho Salmon Strategic Action Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$89,787

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$89,787

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2034-16585

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: White Ditch Sucker Creek Flow Restoration & Fish Passage Study

Applicant: Illinois Valley SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $68,145

Total Cost: $146,045

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will address low flow conditions and fish passage on Sucker Creek of the Illinois River basin, near Cave Junction in Josephine County. The project area is the White Ditch irrigation conveyance system, which diverts an approximated allowable 7.9cfs of water from Sucker Creek. Sucker Creek is DEQ 303(d) listed as water quality impaired for not meeting the temperature standard, and is also limited by summer low-flow conditions. The large pushup dam at the point of diversion, known as the White-Brown pushup dam, is a passage barrier for 26 miles of upstream habitat and summer temperature refugia for juvenile salmonids. The White Ditch is an inefficient water delivery system, with users citing difficulty accessing their water rights, and an open and unlined design that allows for water losses. This proposed project will research and map the water rights served by the ditch, examine and analyze existing infrastructure (including topographic and ditch loss surveys), develop alternatives (for conveyance, on-farm irrigation, and pushup dam), select the preferred alternative, and develop preliminary designs and cost estimates for the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative will meet irrigator needs, allow conserved water to remain instream, and improve fish passage. Project partners include landowners, Trout Unlimited, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Rogue Basin Partnership, Bureau of Land Management, and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Landowner interest is high for developing alternatives to the current water delivery system. The project provides a great opportunity to work with irrigators on allocation of conserved water. The oldest water right is 1858.
- There are multiple users associated with the diversion. The application clearly lays out the issues and need for a Technical Assistance project to develop alternative solutions. The approach to the problem is clear and likely to achieve project objectives.
- The structure is a seasonal push-up dam which is in place during the summer irrigation season and blocks upstream juvenile migration to 26 miles of habitat. This barrier is ranked number two in the Illinois River watershed for remediation by ODFW and is the lowest barrier on Sucker Creek.
- The resulting restoration project will address ESA-listed coho population limiting factors of altered hydrological function and water quality concerns related to temperature and sediment.

- Using infiltration galleries as alternatives to push-up dams has proven successful in the Illinois River watershed .
- NRCS is seeking support to develop a focus area to improve irrigation systems in the area.

Concerns

- Before design options can be determined, the associated water rights need to be clarified. Assurance is needed that the allocation of conserved water statute will be included in the final product.
- Alternatives for improving the current system could be expensive due to the characteristics of the geography and the conveyance systems that will need to be built.

Concluding Analysis

White Ditch is an open and unlined 4.5 mile irrigation conveyance. The point of diversion is a large seasonal push-up dam that restricts upstream fish passage for juveniles. Multiple water users on White Ditch have issues with reliably receiving water due to inefficient infrastructure, lack of clarity on individual water rights, and changes in agricultural crops. Most users flood irrigate with a few that utilize more efficient systems. Before solutions to the current irrigation system can be determined, clarification of water rights associated with the ditch, their rates and priority dates, and which lands they serve is needed. Once this is completed, an alternate diversion approach and conveyance system can be designed and irrigation systems can be upgraded. The application clearly described the issues associated with the current scenario and posed a reasonable approach to developing implementable restoration projects on working lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$68,145

Review Team Conditions

Grantee must investigate and attempt to quantify the potential for allocation of conserved water.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$68,145

Staff Conditions

Grantee shall investigate and quantify the potential for allocation of conserved water and include findings and recommendations in the project completion report.

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

Application Number: 219-2035-16596

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coaledo Drainage District Tidegate Replacement and Fish Passage

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $74,816

Total Cost: $207,589

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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. In the Coquille Basin, these habitats, including tidal wetland habitats, 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 Coaledo Drainage District Tidegate Replacement and Fish Passage Project (Coquille, OR, Coos County) will address this limiting factor by creating technical designs to restore fish passage to a 9,100 acre sub-watershed containing 11.4 miles of coho habitat and 490 acres of tidal wetland habitat, of which 289 acres are a natural wetland owned and protected by ODFW. Prioritized as a high potential restoration project by a tidegate survey and optimization model, this project is the first step in implementing habitat restoration for coho while also providing improved pasture infrastructure and water management for the Coaledo Drainage District. To achieve this, the CoqWA is partnering with ODFW, Coos SWCD, USFWS and the Coaledo Drainage District. OWEB funds are needed to 1) create and finalize structural and geotechnical engineering designs for tidegate replacement to meet fish passage requirements; 2) create and approve a water management plan with the drainage district and project partners; 3) write and submit permits for tidegate replacement; 4) coordinate meetings between project partners and stakeholders to ensure adequate input at all stages of the design process. Together these actions will result in a fish passage restoration project and working landscapes initiative that is ready for implementation. Additionally, this project will serve as a catalyst for the development of additional restoration and working lands projects within the Coaledo Drainage District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on the momentum of China Camp Creek and Winter Lake restoration projects and improves access to additional tidal wetland habitats.
- The resulting restoration project will address the number one limiting factor for ESA-listed coho: lack of slow-water refugia and off-channel habitat.

- The applicant has a track record of successfully working with partners and regulatory agencies to find solutions to tide gate issues. Additionally, the applicant has demonstrated ability and capacity to understand landowners needs and concerns, as well as those of the natural resources they are working to restore.
- A tide gate inventory undertaken by project partners ranked this tide gate as the number #3 priority in the Coquille River watershed.

Concerns

- The application did not include information about the habitat quality of the acreage behind the tide gate structure.
- The data needed to inform the engineering design was not clearly defined.
- The resulting restoration project will be expensive due to the characteristics of the site and the systems that will need to be built.
- It is critical that a water management plan be developed as a deliverable of this proposal.

Concluding Analysis

Addressing failing tide gate infrastructure in a way that benefits fish access and restores tidal wetland habitats is a high priority. This proposal builds on recent momentum within the Coquille River drainage and on the Oregon coast to address tide gates and tidal restoration. The project clearly laid out the link to The Coquille Subbasin Plan (CIT, 2007) and the NOAA Recovery Plan for ESA-listed coho and was identified as a priority through a habitat modeling and tide gate prioritization process. The habitats behind these tide gates provide important refuge for ESA-listed coho during winter months, improving their chances for survival. The products from this technical assistance work have a high likelihood of resulting in a restoration proposal.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,816

Review Team Conditions

A Water Management Plan must be developed as a final product of the project.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,816

Staff Conditions

The project completion report shall include a water management plan.

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

Application Number: 219-2036-16622
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Rogue Basin Partners Collaboration for Engineering & Technical Services
Applicant: Rogue Basin Partnership
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Jackson
OWEB Request: $74,800
Total Cost: $151,466

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will take place in three priority Rogue Basin watershed council geographies: Applegate, Seven Basins and Rogue River. The Rogue River Basin has over a thousand human built barriers that inhibit native fish passage and sediment transport, which in turn impacts the long-term viability of the fisheries of the Rogue Basin including: native spring and fall Chinook salmon, ESA listed "threatened" coho salmon, winter and summer steelhead, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout and Pacific lamprey, among other native fishes. The project proposes to contract with qualified engineering contractors to to obtain engineering design and technical assistance to develop alternatives, 30% engineering designs, water rights investigation and irrigation system designs for up to 6 priority dam removals (2 in each geography: Applegate, Seven Basins, Rogue River) and enable partners to reduce the time it takes to move projects from idea to implementation. The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) Fish Passage Working Group is coordinating efforts with support and participation from working group members: Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council and Rogue River Watershed Council. Each organization works to address priority fish passage projects, including dam removal and culvert replacements. These barriers are primarily located on privately owned land and require significant landowner communication to reach agreement on how to improve fish passage.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoring fish passage in the Rogue River watershed is a significant need and priority. There has been a great deal of work and success on this effort.
- Engineering can be a bottleneck for getting projects developed and implemented, especially in a manner responsive to the interest and needs of landowners. This project will provide the opportunity to react quickly to restore fish passage opportunities in three different basins.
- The resulting restoration will help address a key limiting stress of altered hydrological function for ESA-listed coho.
- Four of the six barriers identified are considered high priority barriers in the Rogue River system.

Concerns

- It was unclear how the project locations were prioritized, and whether identified priority fish barriers factored into the prioritization.
- Without site-specific details for prospective project sites, it is unclear how the applicant will determine in advance whether there is sufficient time and budget for each proposed barrier.
- With such a widespread effort, there were no letters of support provided.
- More detail on the outreach portion of the proposal would have been beneficial to the review. It was unclear whether the landowners associated with the identified barriers had already been contacted.
- Two of the barriers identified are not a high priority for ODFW.
- 30% designs may be insufficient for developing sound restoration project budgets.
- The application did not include a contingency plan for addressing all six locations in the event of cost overruns.

Concluding Analysis

This project builds on the momentum of successful fish passage projects in the Rogue basin and presents a proactive option of providing engineering services for passage projects in a timely manner. The proposal was more difficult to evaluate than traditional technical assistance projects which generally focus on one location and provide site specific details. Being responsive to potential fish passage projects in priority streams allows project partners to capitalize on landowner interest to develop successful restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,800

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2037-16623

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $74,659

Total Cost: $112,458

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) & team are developing the Winter Lake Phase III tidal floodplain hydrologic connectivity project. The project is within the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) floodplain (River Mile 20.5) of the Coquille River, 2.5 miles west of Coquille, Coos County, OR. Historical water management through installation of tidegates, berms, and channel excavation in the early 1900's has disconnected fish access to over 14,000 acres of tidal floodplain habitat in the Coquille River basin has severely truncating production potential for coho. Early tidegate infrastructure has changed little since tidegates were installed in the early 1900's.Oregon Coast (OC) coho have declined from ~150,000 average /412,000 peak adult fish prior to Euro-settlement to ~18,000 annually today. Tidegate infrastructure was installed to drain wetland habitats, and does reduce water levels sufficiently for modest pasture grass production, however, there has been limited ability to deliver water inflow to pastures for irrigation. In 2017 the largest tidegate infrastructure within the Pacific Coast was installed with the C3P tidegate project on the BSDD (Winter Lake Phase I). In 2018 installation of ~8.0 miles of tidal channel was completed in Unit 2 of Winter Lake (Phase II). Coos SWCD in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BSDD, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and landowners are proposing to develop engineering and design for replacement of undersized culverts and installation of swale channels/grassed waterways that will critically enhance the capacity of BSDD Units 1 and 3 to produce OC coho juveniles and pasture grass due to enhanced hydrologic connectivity. This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the investment developed through Phase I and II. The project team includes: SWCD, ODFW, TNC, and BSDD; with additional partnership from the Coquille Watershed Council and Coquille Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is within the footprint of the China Camp Creek Tidegate Replacement Project. The land behind the completed project includes three units with extensive channel and riparian restoration completed in Unit 2. Units 1 and 3 were reserved primarily for agricultural purposes. This project will result in designs for channel restoration compatible with agricultural practices in Units 1 and 3.
- The applicant and regulatory agencies are engaging early with the landowners.

- The project will result in additional habitat for over wintering ESA-listed coho, as well as help landowners manage and irrigate their agricultural properties during the summer months.
- The project addresses critical habitat for a number of fish species. About 5% of historic tidal wetlands remain in the Coquille valley, making landowner interest in restoring these valuable habitats notable.
- A Water Management Plan is already in place and allows water exchange with the tide cycle. During winter months coho can access units 1 & 3. The design work proposed would enhance access to habitat in these two units by replacing existing gated culverts with slide gates and providing additional channel systems for fish access as well as improving their ability to move back to the mainstem as winter flows recede.
- NRCS has done preliminary work to explore water quality projects with landowners through the EQIP program.
- The fencing plan will help protect improvements to the channel system.

Concerns

- The current Water Management Plan will need to be updated.
- The existing infrastructure and proposed channel work will be designed to maximize landowner benefits. The resulting channel network design will be more simplified than in Unit 2 and may not provide high benefits for fish and tidal wetlands.
- The archeological cost appeared to be under budgeted because of project size and potential sites of cultural significance.
- The resulting restoration application will be expensive based on the costs of creating the new channel network for the Unit 2 restoration.

Concluding Analysis

Units 1 and 3 were designated as primarily agricultural units under the China Camp Creek project and the Water Management Plan was designed accordingly taking into account that coho would have access to these units during the winter months. The resulting restoration work will be costly based on costs from the Unit 2 channel restoration work and project partners will have to develop a strategy to raise those funds early on. A clear articulation of the watershed benefits of the proposed restoration will help determine the cost effectiveness.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,659

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2038-16643

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Olalla Creek and Tributaries Fish Passage and Enhancement Design

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $26,408

Total Cost: $33,808

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Olalla Creek and three tributaries, located in the southern part of the 103,000 acre Olalla-Lookingglass Creek Watershed, are identified as needing improved fish passage and fish habitat enhancement. According to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) High Intrinsic Potential (HIP) maps, Olalla Creek, Byron Creek, and Bushnell Creek have high potential to provide quality spawning and rearing habitat for coho salmon and steelhead. Old Lane Creek was not surveyed for HIP, but it does have spawning surveys that ODFW conducts and the ODFW Habitat Restoration Biologist confirmed that the creek is suitable for coho salmon. Gordon Hanek, Byron Creek Estates Road Master, identified two deteriorating culverts maintained by his rural home owners association. After discussing this with other residents, he recruited two more landowners interested in participating in stream restoration work. Working with ODFW and PUR staff, the group formulated a plan to not only replace the culverts, but also restore fish habitat. To address limiting factors to fish production in Olalla Creek, Byron Creek, Bushnell Creek, and Old Lane Creek we are seeking OWEB TA funds to 1) complete site surveys at the two culverts, 2) produce culvert designs, 3) work with PUR Monitoring Coordinator to develop a monitoring plan, 4) work with the landowners on selecting materials for instream placement, 5) design instream fish habitat structures on Olalla and Byron Creek to enhance habitat, 6) work with Byron Creek Estates on outreach for future restoration projects and 7) prepare the OWEB restoration grant application for submission. Partners for this Technical Assistance Grant includes ODFW, Byron Creek Estates, Gordon Hanek, Melissa Garcia Perry and Heather Robbins-Hinton.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Above the barrier there are two miles of medium to high intrinsic value habitat for ESA-listed coho, indicating high potential for restoration given the current poor habitat quality.
- The project will add instream habitat structures to 0.5 miles of stream to help address instream complexity which is a secondary limiting factor for ESA-listed coho.
- NRCS selected this sub-watershed as one of 16 in the nation for implementing drinking water source protection plans through the National Water Quality Initiative Project.
- The project partners have a sound track record of turning Technical Assistance projects into successful on-the-ground restoration.

- Project support by the landowners is clearly high based on the impressive letters of support provided in the application.
- A Professional Engineer has been identified to undertake the bridge designs.

Concerns

- The primary limiting factor for this sub-basin is water quality yet the project does not describe any activities to address that concern.

Concluding Analysis

The project partners have a track record of designing and implementing successful fish passage and fish habitat enhancement projects. The project will address a stream reach with high intrinsic potential habitats but in need of actions to improve instream complexity to increase productivity. The project will result in implementable designs to improve stream conditions and restore fish access to two miles of spawning and rearing habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$26,408

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$26,408

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2039-16660
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Sykes Creek Fish Passage Project
Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Jackson
OWEB Request: $67,580
Total Cost: $85,278

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located on Sykes Creek, a tributary of Evans Creek. Sykes Creek provides habitat for summer and winter steelhead and cutthroat trout. Currently fish passage is limited by man-made barriers. Removal of the barriers will provide passage for adult and juvenile steelhead for 1.7 miles of habitat and 2.7 miles of cutthroat trout habitat. Over-summering fish will have passage to critical cold water habitat during low summer flows which will increase survival. Additionally, passage will be provided for adult fish to spawning habitat.This project will develop designs for removal of 7 concrete barriers consisting of 4 small dams, 2 concrete fords, and a box culvert along 0.5 miles of on Sykes Creek, a tributary of Evans Creek in Jackson County, Oregon. One dam is located at River mile 2.5, the 6 other barriers are located on contiguous properties between river mile 3 and3.4. The barriers will be removed and the box culvert will be replaced with a bridge. Additionally, irrigation designs (pump systems) will be provided for two of the dams that currently irrigate, and we will work with landowners to develop designs that will improve fish habitat and riparian areas along the project reach. The APWC and SWCD will provide outreach to landowners and assist in developing on site irrigation efficiency projects and the water rights from 1 dam will be donated as an instream lease.Project partners include landowners, Jackson County Soil & Water Conservation District, Seven Basins Watershed Council, United States Forest Service, 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 project will address the last set of barriers on Sykes Creek, restoring both fish passage and sediment transport to downstream reaches. Additionally, the effort incorporates an instream flow restoration component with the land owners in support.
- The application is well written, organized and clearly described the project need and design approach.
- This stream is a source of cool water refugia for both summer and winter runs of steelhead and cutthroat trout.
- The applicant has demonstrated the capacity and ability to successfully implement fish passage projects - from the design phase through implementation.

Concerns

- The water rights associated with the diversions are junior rights (1974) thus any conserved water may not have instream flow benefits because they are subject to withdrawal by senior users.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring fish passage and flow restoration address primary limiting factors for ESA-listed coho as well as steelhead and cutthroat trout in the Rogue River basin. The project will design fish passage alternatives and incorporate instream flow restoration for the seven remaining barriers on 1½ miles of Sykes Creek. The project, once implemented, will improve fish passage to 1.7 miles of stream to anadromy and benefit in-stream habitat and water quantity for all life stages of fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$67,580

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$67,580

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2040-16669

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coos River Road Assessment and Project Development

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $68,942

Total Cost: $90,130

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 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, the Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP). This protocol will help us to identify road conditions and identify problems. This project will provide two tools for reducing the effects of roads 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 be used for tracking sediment reduction actions and long term asset management. The Action Plan will identify the Top 10 sediment reduction actions and all of the fish passage issues in the project area. We anticipate seeking funding for at least three of the top projects in this area, and potentially other road improvements will completed by our partners.Project partners are the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Weyerhaeuser and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). 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 project is a resubmittal. The applicant addressed the concerns raised in the previous review related to project prioritization, habitat capacity, and fish distribution.
- The project will survey 234 miles of road for the investment, showing a favorable cost benefit ratio.
- The project takes a watershed approach using an established methodology (GRAIP) to identify sediment sources. The applicant has successfully utilized GRAIP in other watersheds.

- The project will identify and prioritize project opportunities that address sediment from road crossings and fishing access, building on previous road improvements, instream habitat restoration, and fish passage improvements upstream from the project area.
- 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.

Concerns

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project area focuses on the lower section of the Coos system encompassing main stem reaches that are primarily migration corridors connecting to tributary habitats. This work builds on road assessments upstream and the resulting restoration activities accomplished in other areas of the watershed. Restoration work resulting from this project can improve water quality through the reduction of sediment and benefit habitat important to ESA-listed coho and other salmon and trout species utilizing the system; however, many areas are constrained by the configuration of the forest road network within the riparian area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$68,942

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2041-16707

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Goose Point, Haynes Inlet Project Development

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $74,749

Total Cost: $113,499

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project area totals 79.7 acres of wetland habitat, freshwater systems, and working lands on Goose Point in Haynes Inlet, north of Coos Bay in Coos County. The project site is directly below the confluence of Larson and Palouse creeks—both documented as two of the most historically productive salmon streams per stream mile on the Oregon coast. Winter rearing habitat has been identified as a limiting factor for both Larson and Palouse due to limited off-channel and tidal marsh habitat available during high winter flows. This project seeks to address the lack of nursery grounds by enhancing and creating a wetland complex that is compatible with the agricultural land use. This property will provide juvenile salmonids a variety of conditions to best suit their needs depending on environmental, spatial, and temporal variation, which will allow them to gain higher fitness before migrating to the ocean.The property is a small scale ranch, and the landowners maintains their EFU through light timber harvest, blueberry production, and grazing. This project represents an opportunity to demonstrate the potential to preserve agricultural values while maximizing habitat restoration and protection. The project has three major components: enhancement and connection of 68.6 acres of wetland habitat; water quality improvements and riparian restoration on 11.1 acres of pastureland; and the facilitation of easements to protect those critical ecological, cultural, and agricultural resources for the future. The deliverables of this phase are topographic surveys to assess current conditions, water level monitoring, a hydrologic model, conceptual designs and alternatives, a selected design approved by a Technical Advisory Team, archaeology surveys, rough cost estimates, and an evaluation of necessary permits. Partners include (see Appendix 1: Abbreviations) SSNERR, DU, DEQ, ODFW, USFWS, Coos Curry CREP, WRLT, CTCLUSI, SOU, and the landowner/retired wildlife biologist, Larry Mangan.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is highly supportive and engaged in the project development and is considering a conservation easement.
- The technical assistance requested will help design strategies maximizing the habitat potential of the property.
- The project presents an opportunity to implement several types of restoration resulting in multiple species and habitat benefits.

- The project location creates a great opportunity to showcase tidal wetland restoration on private lands.
- The resulting restoration project will benefit a critical habitat type important to ESA-listed coho.
- The application described strong partnerships and a technical advisory team to help guide the design of the project components. The ODFW shellfish team is involved in the project design.

Concerns

- The application presented a great deal of information, much of it through attachments, making it somewhat cumbersome and difficult to easily discern actions.

Concluding Analysis

This project represents a good opportunity to demonstrate the potential of preserving agricultural values while maximizing salt marsh habitat restoration and protection. Current habitats of this type are only a small fraction of what they were historically and opportunities to restore these valuable habitats are very rare. The resulting restoration will address a primary limiting factor for ESA-listed coho by creating critical rearing habitat in an area drained by two highly productive creeks with high quality spawning.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,749

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,749

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2042-16718

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Elk Creek Watershed Limiting Factors Assessment and Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $49,902

Total Cost: $76,845

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Elk Creek Watershed Limiting Factors Analysis and Action Plan proposal consists of several parts. There is a substantial amount of historical, reach-scale data on stream habitat conditions in the watershed, though most is outdated (ODFW, 1993-1996). There is also a limited amount of more recent data: ODFW Aquatic Habitat Inventories, and Elk Creek Watershed Council bioassessment and habitat surveys (2015-16). None of this data has been systematically analyzed to guide prioritization of restoration actions in the watershed.All this data is currently being entered into a GIS database that can be queried to identify reach-scale limiting factors for habitat parameters affecting juvenile coho survival. (Cascade Environmental, August 2018).ODFW has developed a model (HabRate), based on ODFW benchmarks, that assesses the quality of stream habitat for each life stage contributing to coho survival at the reach scale. Using this model, individual reaches within the subwatersheds of the Elk Creek Watershed will be analyzed to identify specific factors limiting coho production. From this, Cascade will develop a strategic restoration plan that will guide and support the Council's restoration actions for the next 6 years.The final piece of this project will be the collection of survey data on the Big Tom Folley subwatershed in the summer of 2019. This survey, funded by the SW Oregon BLM RAC, will use the Watershed Council's "modified bioassessment protocols" to survey and enter a complete, current dataset for the entire 6th-field. This data will be used to develop a detailed, comprehensive restoration action plan for the subwatershed.The data analysis and plan for Big Tom Folley will be presented to Seneca-Jones Timber, who, along with BLM, owns nearly the entire watershed. Seneca has expressed an interest in understanding previous restoration work on their lands, and is willing to support projects that are compatible with their land management goals.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project scope includes areas containing ESA-listed coho critical habitat.
- The project brings in new partnerships and the potential for new information on habitat and ESA-listed coho distribution.
- The applicant has the capacity to undertake the project and this work builds on previous rapid bio-assessment efforts in the watershed and will add information on ownerships not currently covered.

Concerns

- While much of the habitat has already undergone the bioassessment survey, the application did not identify how many miles of stream will be analyzed.
- The application did not provide any description of the "modified bioassessment protocols" which would be used in the survey work.
- The project does not focus on priority critical limiting factors related to water quality for ESA-listed coho. Instead, the bioassessment approach focuses on collecting stream habitat data and fish distribution and abundance, resulting in a habitat rating.
- The budget is expressed in lump sums, making it difficult to analyze the cost effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis

The project will provide important habitat and fish distribution data that could help inform actions to protect and restore habitats important to ESA-listed coho. However, without incorporating water quality related issues the resulting project deliverables are not as strong as they could be.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2050-16706

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: SOLC Upper Bear Creek Ashland Watershed Engagement

Applicant: Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $55,087

Total Cost: $73,435

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The geographic location comprises a portion of the upper Bear Creek Watershed, inclusive of the Ashland Watershed. This is a strategic focus area of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. The area includes both the forested mixed-conifer slopes of the western portion, and the oak-woodlands and grasslands of the eastern portion of the watershed, which also contains mixed conifer forests in the upper elevations. Specifically, the project will focus on privately-owned lands which contain high conservation values and at which conservation will contribute to watershed health. This area also captures a portion of the municipal watershed for the City of Ashland. The lands on the eastern side provide the scenic backdrop of the southern Rogue Valley and contain high wildlife connectivity values, and a mosaic of oak-pine and conifer forests, grasslands, and streams and springs.The Bear Creek watershed is susceptible to fragmentation and land conversion which degrades the integrity of the watershed. The stakeholder engagement objectives aim to ultimately result in acquisition projects on high-quality lands. Successful acquisition projects will conserve high-quality properties to abate the threats of subdivision and development; land conversion (e.g., land clearing); unsustainable and ecologically unsound forest and grazing practices; and protect open space and scenic view sheds. These threats are known to fragment the landscape and negatively impact the integrity of the watershed to support wildlife, fish habitat, and ecosystem functions.Activities to engage stakeholders will comprise open-house style events, direct mailings, social media, and other methods. Follow-up with interested landowners will consist of one-on-one meetings to discuss more specific aspects of conservation opportunities.Partners include Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR), City of Ashland, USFS, and Lomakatsi. Potential partners include Selberg Institute, the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal's focal area is in the Upper Bear Creek watershed. This area is highly impacted by urbanization and a likelihood that it will continue.
- Acquisition is a sound strategy to help preserve and protect existing habitats in the watershed.
- The applicant has a proven track record with acquisition work, including monitoring of their current portfolio of properties. They are well known and respected in the community.

- There is the potential to develop projects that could protect a wide variety of habitats ranging from upslope to riparian.
- The methods proposed to approach potential landowners seem reasonable for the area and audience.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the applicant will prioritize lands or what a high-value conservation property will look like. This information is available but was not included in the application.
- It is unclear how limiting factors for ESA-listed salmonid species will be considered in prioritizing lands for acquisition.
- Missing from the application was how the concept of restoring watershed connectivity plays into the outreach focus.
- It is unclear whether the project will result in a strategic rather than an opportunistic approach to identifying candidate parcels for permanent protection.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal fits into the applicant's strategy for identifying and acquiring properties for conservation. Acquisition is a sound strategy to protect valuable habitats and will be effective in this urbanizing area; however, the pathway from Stakeholder Engagement to an eligible acquisition is unclear. The application would be strengthened by including an explanation of what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement activities and how the project will result in developing acquisition projects, and subsequent restoration where needed.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2043-16577

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Ramp Effectiveness Monitoring 2019

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $69,492

Total Cost: $104,454

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Pacific Lamprey are listed as a state sensitive species and are considered a “first-food” to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), and an important to link to their native culture. The historical lamprey harvest within the Eel Lake Basin has been eliminated for generations due to the decline in the lamprey population.Eel Lake and Eel Creek are located in Coos and Douglas Counties just south of Reedsport. Eel Lake is a natural lake formed by dunal sand encroachment. Historically this basin and streams supported robust runs of native fishes including Coho Salmon and Pacific Lamprey.In 1989, ODFW constructed a fish trap and weir on Eel Creek at the outflow of Eel Lake. While the design works well for Salmon, it is not conducive to Pacific Lamprey passage. As a result, Pacific Lamprey have not been able to access Eel Lake and the upper tributaries since 1988.CTCLUSI, ODFW, and TLBP (Tenmile Lamprey Group (TLG)) cooperated on the funding, design, and fabrication of a new lamprey ramp, which was installed at the Eel Lake Trap in August, 2018. This creates a unique opportunity to conduct effectiveness monitoring for Pacific Lamprey passage, while increasing knowledge of this species. TLG will evaluate the functionality and usability of the lamprey ramp for allowing passage and safely trapping lamprey for enumeration. Using radio telemetry and visual observations, TLG will also monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the Eel Lake Basin, both above and below the ramp.Implementation of this monitoring project will also provide stakeholders with valuable information for Oregon Coast Pacific Lamprey. Funding this priority monitoring effort will complete several actions recommended in the Tenmile Lakes Basin 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Management Plan and supplement the creation of ODFW’s forthcoming Conservation Plan for Lampreys (CPL) with information on coastal lamprey.Pacific Lamprey are listed as a state sensitive species and are considered a “first-food” to the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), and an important to link to their native culture. The historical lamprey harvest within the Eel Lake Basin has been eliminated for generations due to the decline in the lamprey population.Eel Lake and Eel Creek are located in Coos and Douglas Counties just south of Reedsport. Eel Lake is a natural lake formed by dunal sand encroachment. Historically this basin and streams supported robust runs of native fishes including Coho Salmon and Pacific Lamprey.In 1989, ODFW constructed a fish trap and weir on Eel Creek at the outflow of Eel Lake. While the design works well for Salmon, it is not conducive to Pacific Lamprey passage. As a result, Pacific Lamprey have not been able to access Eel Lake and the upper tributaries since 1988.CTCLUSI, ODFW, and TLBP (Tenmile Lamprey Group (TLG)) cooperated on the funding, design,

and fabrication of a new lamprey ramp, which was installed at the Eel Lake Trap in August, 2018. This creates a unique opportunity to conduct effectiveness monitoring for Pacific Lamprey passage, while increasing knowledge of this species. TLG will evaluate the functionality and usability of the lamprey ramp for allowing passage and safely trapping lamprey for enumeration. Using radio telemetry and visual observations, TLG will also monitor the movements, holding habitats, barrier issues, and habitat use of Pacific Lamprey within the Eel Lake Basin, both above and below the ramp.Implementation of this monitoring project will also provide stakeholders with valuable information for Oregon Coast Pacific Lamprey. Funding this priority monitoring effort will complete several actions recommended in the Tenmile Lakes Basin 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Management Plan and supplement the creation of ODFW's forthcoming Conservation Plan for Lampreys (CPL) with information on coastal lamprey.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant's continued focus on lamprey given the increased conservation interest and cultural importance of lamprey across the state.
- The information that will be collected will be useful in design of future fish ladders outside the Columbia Basin.
- The cooperative group working on this ongoing monitoring project has good representation and is building on momentum from past monitoring efforts in the area.
- The application has a good description of monitoring methods and leveraged existing resources to train monitoring partners to properly tag lamprey.
- The OPMT remarked that the information could be transferrable to other areas and the exportability of findings raises the value of this monitoring.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application described using the monitoring data for adaptive management but it's not clear how this will be done. There was no explanation to understand if it is possible to modify the ladder.
- The applicant described an interest in using the information for outreach, but there was no description of products to be produced and what audience they were targeting.
- The application lacked information on how they plan to use the larval distribution data.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed scope of work will continue efforts to monitor Pacific lamprey usage of the Eel Lake

watershed.

- The effort has strong partner support and involvement as evidenced by the letters of support, wide variety of agencies and stakeholders involved, and secured match commitments to the project.
- The application was presented in a clear and complete manner.
- The project has a high benefit for the cost.
- The proposal is timely with respect to efforts by OWFW and ODOT to remove barriers and improve access to upstream habitats for Pacific lamprey.
- Pacific lamprey are of cultural significance to Tribes and their decline is of great concern.
- ODFW's Lamprey Specialist is involved in the project and the work will be implemented in coordination with ODFW statewide conservation plan.
- Project partners have a successful track record on monitoring and addressing fish passage barriers.
- The approach and methodology is sound and the project has a high likelihood of success.

Concerns

- Differing numbers on trap effectiveness were presented in the application making the “findings to date” confusing.

Concluding Analysis

The project has high levels of commitment from the right mix of partnerships needed to make an effort like this successful. Understanding Pacific lamprey use of fresh water habitats and evaluating the effectiveness of projects designed to improve passage for them is important work and will help fill the gaps in the understanding of this species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$69,942

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2044-16603

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Smith River ARIS/DIDSON Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $62,511

Total Cost: $178,806

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project location is in Douglas County on the main-stem Lower Smith River, 20 miles east of Reedsport, Oregon. The total monitoring area of the project includes the West Fork Smith River, Vincent Creek (6th field HUC), Upper Smith River (5th field HUC), and 40% of Spencer-Johnson Creek (6th field HUC). We have implemented the use of an Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS) to estimate ESA listed Oregon Coast Coho, fall chinook, and winter steelhead run abundances. Escapement estimates will fill population data gaps, provide insight to population-level responses to restoration projects throughout the basin, and provide fishery managers with an improved base of information for managing these populations. Smith River and the streams throughout its basin have been heavily impacted by past land-use practices. Past timber harvest, large-scale fires, and subsequent timber salvage operations have simplified streams and dramatically reduced high quality spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous salmonids. In order to mitigate these issues, SRWC and others have carried out a multitude of restoration projects, enhancing 66.9 stream miles throughout the basin. Utilizing ARIS as a means to monitor salmonid populations is ideal for estimating the impacts restoration projects have on these populations. Though discontinued in 1996/97, the steelhead and chinook hatcheries in the basin once saturated streams with hatchery stock. Monitoring native steelhead and chinook runs will greatly contribute to our understanding of the population's trajectory since the hatcheries' termination. Project partners include Trout Unlimited (provided ARIS unit and all necessary equipment for project operation), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management. OWEB funding will be used to employ a technician to collect and interpret data and remove ARIS during high flow events. Hired technician will also assist TU in maintaining and repairing equipment.The project location is in Douglas County on the main-stem Lower Smith River, 20 miles east of Reedsport, Oregon. The total monitoring area of the project includes the West Fork Smith River, Vincent Creek (6th field HUC), Upper Smith River (5th field HUC), and 40% of Spencer-Johnson Creek (6th field HUC). We have implemented the use of an Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS) to estimate ESA listed Oregon Coast Coho, fall chinook, and winter steelhead run abundances. Escapement estimates will fill population data gaps, provide insight to population-level responses to restoration projects throughout the basin, and provide fishery managers with an improved base of information for managing these populations. Smith River and the streams throughout its basin have been heavily impacted by past land-use practices. Past timber harvest, large-scale fires, and subsequent timber salvage operations have simplified streams and dramatically reduced high quality spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous salmonids. In order to

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This technology is useful to help understand timing and abundance and will be especially useful for steelhead monitoring.
- This application can produce improved abundance estimates for this part of the Smith River.
- The information produced from this effort will provide some ancillary information about lamprey and striped bass.
- The applicant has already acquired the equipment and spent a year training staff to operate the equipment, reading the imagery, and developing protocols to determine species.
- The picket weir is likely to get better images of the fish and the applicant consulted with ODFW fish passage staff to install it according to legal requirements.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Absent basin-wide estimates of smolt production, it would be difficult to focus a restoration effectiveness evaluation on the freshwater component of productivity of the Smith River solely with this information.
- Sonar technology has real possibilities and applications, but there are some unknowns. This proposal doesn't acknowledge the potential limitations of the technology.
- It will be challenging to estimate the Chinook and coho numbers, given the difficulty in separating them when they are present at the same time; also, there is no way to determine wild vs. hatchery origin.
- Some of the graphs provided in the application were confusing relative to describing how this information can leverage the life-cycle monitoring site on the WF Smith River.
- Setting the minimum size limit for steelhead to 60cm will reduce chances of misclassifying suckers as steelhead, but it also means that some smaller steelhead in the system will not be included in the count (see Figure2 in the report to BLM).
- The application says that it will allow ODFW to manage for harvest at Maximum Sustainable Yield.
- Retention of wild steelhead and coho is currently not allowed in the Smith River Management Area.
- Harvest limits for Chinook were established in the Coastal Multi-Species Plan, and the applicant did not discuss a direct path how this monitoring can be applied for any future revision of harvest limits.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Monitoring fish numbers is important information for restoration practitioners and fishery managers.
- This monitoring will complement other adult and juvenile salmonid sampling efforts.
- The data collected is stored, backed-, and made available to agencies and researchers.
- The equipment is in place and project staff are trained to use the equipment and analyze the information collected.
- The approach utilizes modern technology and employs sound methodology.
- The project costs appear reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- By only looking at adult fish counts at only one location, it may be difficult for this data to evaluate productivity and associate it with the effectiveness of restoration efforts.
- The applicant should consider adding a juvenile estimates component.
- The cost to benefit ratio is hard to determine prior to seeing the data collected and analyzed.
- It will be difficult to differentiate between Chinook and coho during overlaps in the timing of their runs.
- The value of the project will be enhanced if field verification is included. Without it, applicability to restoration is almost impossible to determine.
- It is unclear if there is a back-up plan in case of possible equipment malfunction.

Concluding Analysis

The approach proposed to monitor returning adults has merit and employs technology that can track adults at times and flow conditions traditional survey methods cannot. This could prove cost-effective and useful in helping to understand the timing of returns, as well as numbers of returning adults. With overlaps in the timing of fish runs there will be challenges in determining the difference between the three main species targeted. The addition of field verification will enhance the accuracy, as well as help inform the analysis of the impacts of restoration work, as would adding a juvenile monitoring component.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2045-16625

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2019

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $31,958

Total Cost: $56,389

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This is a continuation of a long-term project which began in 1998 that monitors summer stream flow and stream temperature at sites across the Umpqua Basin (see map for locations). Flow measurements, taken at high priority sites, are used to regulate instream water rights to protect aquatic resources, model water supply and demand, and provide data of interest for PUR, agencies, and municipalities. Summer stream temperature measurements at five representative sites provide a long-term data set that is used by aquatic specialists in the basin to normalize for annual variability in stream temperature data for land management projects, burned area evaluations, and shorter-term baseline monitoring with smaller data sets. In addition, a trend analysis of the temperature dataset will provide analyses integral in understanding the effects of climate change on streams in the basin. The proposed addition of two North Umpqua temperature comparison sites (from historic sites) would expand the use of the Reference Temperature data into that subbasin. The data and analyses from the previous work on this project has been distributed and presented to natural resource professionals working in the basin. It has been widely used by both PUR and partners (OWRD, Douglas County, BLM, USFS, and DEQ) as well as by other groups (ODFW, City of Oakland, and The North Umpqua Hydroelectric Project (PacifiCorp)), and is of current interest to NOAA Fisheries. In addition to the aforementioned uses, it would continue to be used for corroboration of regional timing and trends of maximum stream temperatures; development of fishing regulations during low-flow periods; support of effectiveness monitoring; investigation of climate change impacts; evaluation of water allocation applications; implementation of TMDLs; and development of strategic plans. By maintaining a continuous period of record, this pivotal data is critical for the continued success of many programs in the Umpqua Basin.This is a continuation of a long-term project which began in 1998 that monitors summer stream flow and stream temperature at sites across the Umpqua Basin (see map for locations). Flow measurements, taken at high priority sites, are used to regulate instream water rights to protect aquatic resources, model water supply and demand, and provide data of interest for PUR, agencies, and municipalities. Summer stream temperature measurements at five representative sites provide a long-term data set that is used by aquatic specialists in the basin to normalize for annual variability in stream temperature data for land management projects, burned area evaluations, and shorter-term baseline monitoring with smaller data sets. In addition, a trend analysis of the temperature dataset will provide analyses integral in understanding the effects of climate change on streams in the basin. The proposed addition of two North Umpqua temperature comparison sites (from historic sites) would expand the use of the Reference Temperature data into that subbasin. The data

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The project focuses on priority water availability basins in the Umpqua Basin.
- This ongoing project is the result of an effective partnership with OWRD and the county.
- The applicant addressed concerns identified in a previous evaluation.
- The application proposes to work with DEQ to perform trend analysis of water temperature and share the long-term dataset with them.
- The applicant has a successful track record and has a quality assurance plan in place.
- The flow information generated from this project is applied directly in water management decisions, and the water temperature information is helpful for other partners in the basin

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant cited some outdated flow measurement methodologies – this is confusing and should be corrected.
- Some statements about how OWRD is using its data to develop water forecasting at the basin scale are incorrect.
- Some of the application objectives were redundant and could be refined to focus on what key work they are doing.
- It was unclear why the applicant only requested funding for one year and if the water temperature monitoring period was adequate.

Monitoring Team Comments

• The applicant should work with OWRD to evaluate pros/cons of installing select gaging stations in the future at some sites to meet objectives described in the application.

• The OPMT encourages applicants to consider monitoring water temperature data year-round to adequately document thermal dynamics.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is the continuation of a successful ongoing monitoring effort and the project demonstrates strong partnership between the applicant, OWRD, and Douglas County.
- The monitoring work focuses on identified priority water availability basins.
- Comprehensive QA/QC assurances are described in the application.
- The efforts provide valuable flow information, especially critical in drought years.
- There is a plan to work with DEQ to perform trend analysis and share the long-term dataset.
- The data can be used by forestry and agricultural partners to understand impacts and improvements from restoration.
- The project is very straight forward with a high benefit to cost ratio.

Concerns

- The application referenced outdated flow measurement methodologies. These will need to be updated.
- Partners need to work with relevant agencies and look at long-term strategies for ensuring commitment to maintain stream gauging sites as an important piece in monitoring long-term flow conditions in the Umpqua.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a continuation of a successful program originated in 1998 to collect baseline flow data and temperatures in high priority water availability basins. The information collected is useful to project partners and helps support a variety of activities, including regulation of instream water rights to protect aquatic resources, model water supply and demand, and provide flow and temperature data for project partners and the community at large.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

$31,958

Review Team Conditions

Applicant verify and provide documentation that Flow measurement methodology is current.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2046-16657

Project Type: Monitoring

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

Applicant: Klamath Bird Observatory

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $33,607

Total Cost: $49,807

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Healthy riparian vegetation provides important ecological services, including critical habitat for birds and other terrestrial wildlife, yet many riparian habitats in the Rogue Basin have been lost or degraded. Riparian restoration implemented by The Freshwater Trust (TFT) in the City of Medford's Water Quality Trading Program in southwestern Oregon meets rigorous vegetation performance standards, but it is unknown whether other important ecological goals are being met: improving riparian areas for wildlife habitat as well as increasing shade. Birds are widely recognized as excellent ecological and management indicators, and are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) proposes a project partnering with TFT using avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. KBO will adapt existing standardized bird monitoring techniques (e.g. territory mapping, reproductive index, activity budgets), adapt their use for smaller-scale sites restored by TFT, and confirm the feasibility of achieving ecologically meaningful results that can be applied to adaptive management. This exciting collaboration will link a science-based conservation organization with an on-the-ground restoration practitioner, create a model of better communication between scientists and land managers that will benefit the Rogue watershed, and advance efforts to quantify benefits of restoration and inform future project design. This project provides a timely opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of avian monitoring as a metric of habitat quality, ecosystem function, and restoration success that will be exportable to other sites, and can be included in the Rogue Basin Partnership's comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy. Healthy riparian vegetation provides important ecological services, including critical habitat for birds and other terrestrial wildlife, yet many riparian habitats in the Rogue Basin have been lost or degraded. Riparian restoration implemented by The Freshwater Trust (TFT) in the City of Medford's Water Quality Trading Program in southwestern Oregon meets rigorous vegetation performance standards, but it is unknown whether other important ecological goals are being met: improving riparian areas for wildlife habitat as well as increasing shade. Birds are widely recognized as excellent ecological and management indicators, and are relatively easy and cost-effective to monitor. Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO) proposes a project partnering with TFT using avian monitoring data and a focal species approach to evaluate effectiveness of riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin. KBO will adapt existing standardized bird monitoring techniques (e.g. territory mapping, reproductive index, activity budgets), adapt their use for smaller-scale sites restored by TFT, and confirm the feasibility of achieving ecologically meaningful results that can be

applied to adaptive management. This exciting collaboration will link a science-based conservation organization with an on-the-ground restoration practitioner, create a model of better communication between scientists and land managers that will benefit the Rogue watershed, and advance efforts to quantify benefits of restoration and inform future project design. This project provides a timely opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of avian monitoring as a metric of habitat quality, ecosystem function, and restoration success that will be exportable to other sites, and can be included in the Rogue Basin Partnership's comprehensive basin-wide monitoring strategy.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application is based around monitoring of focal bird species that serve as indicators of habitat conditions. Species are selected for their association with particular habitat elements or features, or because of a special conservation need, and ease of monitoring.
- Information could potentially lead to a clearer connection between bird habitat and water quality benefits of riparian restoration actions.
- The application describes appropriate protocols and includes citations.
- The applicant is committed to applying the data in a meaningful manner and had a good description of how they plan to share the information with appropriate agencies and local partners
- The applicant provided information on previous success working on similar projects to describe their track record, and has the necessary skills to complete this project as proposed.
- The data will be archived through the Avian Knowledge Network. This is a data repository that helps to ensure that bird-related data are available to scientists, resource managers, and other conservation practitioners in the future.
- The application addressed concerns raised previously. One of the concerns identified by the review team last year was that monitoring for the presence of birds or their nests alone could be misleading as indicators of habitat quality. The applicant better addresses the issue by describing methods for territory mapping, indices of reproductive success, and activity budgets for focal species to understand how these species are using an area.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not specify criteria or thresholds for the metrics that would be considered success. It is unclear whether success is defined as trajectories toward values observed in reference sites or if reference values themselves are the desired outcome.
- The short-term data and the relatively young age of the restoration actions (1-6 yrs old) may not be appropriate to answer all of their questions.
- There is a lack of baseline, pre-treatment data to which to compare results.
- It is unclear how the varying aged sites distributed across a broad area will impact the results.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a resubmittal and the proposal addressed the concern related to project objectives by providing an expanded discussion on them.
- The applicant has experience with bird monitoring and this project is based on work undertaken in the Klamath, adapting monitoring protocols from those efforts.
  The process for implementing this project is clear and uncomplicated because the applicant is working with an organization that already has established long-term agreements with landowners.
- The use of bird presence and abundance monitoring is identified on the list of recommended parameters for effectiveness monitoring of riparian restoration in the Rogue Basin Restoration Plan.
- The project builds on monitoring The Freshwater Trust is implementing in areas that have already been planted, incorporating species diversity, survival and invasive species in the data collected.

Concerns

- The purpose of the project is confusing. It is not clear whether it evaluates riparian restoration effectiveness or refines bird monitoring methodology.
- The project statement about benefitting salmon and steelhead is questionable.
- It is unclear if this monitoring is necessary or if avian monitoring done in the Trinity River system for a ten- year period could be used to help identify tree species and bird responses, helping to further evaluate the effectiveness of plantings in providing avian habitats.
- The project focuses on evaluating smaller sized sites in mainstem settings. The work may be more effective on the smaller tributaries.

Concluding Analysis

There is value in understanding if plantings also benefit birds. The riparian projects to be evaluated are already established, making the collection of baseline data on these existing sites no longer feasible. That said, the sites have only been established in the last one to six years and the habitats may not yet be suitable to attract avian species. Additionally, the plant establishment efforts could, in the short-term, disrupt avian usage. The addition of this monitoring effort to projects already in place did not seem like a good fit.

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 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 219-2047-16662

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2019-2021

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $220,356

Total Cost: $374,301

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Our project location is the Umpqua Basin, which encompasses 2,569,527 acres of land and 1,740 stream miles of anadromous fish habitat, the largest watershed draining into the Pacific Ocean south of the Columbia River. The Umpqua River system originates just north of Crater Lake in the Cascade Mountains, cuts through the Coastal Range, and enters the Pacific Ocean near the town of Reedsport.2) In our basin, there is a lack of water quality data on many steams. This information is essential to know for human, fish and wildlife survival. Identifying stream-specific limiting factors will permit planning to address issues in areas most in need of restoration. This also identifies areas most in need of preservation. 3) Activities under this grant consist of staff and volunteers performing standard monthly water quality monitoring runs in 5th field watersheds for three years in the Umpqua Basin plus monitoring reference sites from watersheds where three years of monitoring has been completed. All runs will be monitored once per month, collecting water quality data on temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, total coliform, E. coli bacteria, blue-green algae, total chlorophyll, and photo points at 15 to 20 sites per 5th field watershed. In addition, summer instream continuous temperature loggers (about 30 recording every 30') and DO loggers (four recording every 15') will be located throughout the watersheds. Also, we will deploy a multi-parameter Sonde that will be recording temperature, DO, conductivity, and pH every 15 minutes. 4) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), US Forest Service (USFS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Tribes, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Oregon Water Rescores Department (OWRD), cities, county, water treatment plants and area residents.1) Our project location is the Umpqua Basin, which encompasses 2,569,527 acres of land and 1,740 stream miles of anadromous fish habitat, the largest watershed draining into the Pacific Ocean south of the Columbia River. The Umpqua River system originates just north of Crater Lake in the Cascade Mountains, cuts through the Coastal Range, and enters the Pacific Ocean near the town of Reedsport.2) In our basin, there is a lack of water quality data on many steams. This information is essential to know for human, fish and wildlife survival. Identifying stream-specific limiting factors will permit planning to address issues in areas most in need of restoration. This also identifies areas most in need of preservation. 3) Activities under this grant consist of staff and volunteers performing standard monthly water quality monitoring runs in 5th field watersheds for three years in the Umpqua Basin plus monitoring reference sites from watersheds where three years of monitoring has been completed. All runs will be monitored once per month, collecting water quality data on temperature, turbidity,

conductivity, dissolved oxygen (DO), pH, total coliform, E. coli bacteria, blue-green algae, total chlorophyll, and photo points at 15 to 20 sites per 5th field watershed. In addition, summer instream continuous temperature loggers (about 30 recording every 30') and DO loggers (four recording every 15') will be located throughout the watersheds. Also, we will deploy a multi-parameter Sonde that will be recording temperature, DO, conductivity, and pH every 15 minutes. 4) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), US Forest Service (USFS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Tribes, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), Oregon Water Rescores Department (OWRD), cities, county, water treatment plants and area residents.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has developed a well-established monitoring program in coordination with DEQ.
- The previously collected data has been adequately reported to various partners in the past.
- The application included several letters of support describing the different supporting agencies and organizations and reflects the effective partnership they have developed in collaboration with other agencies.
- There is good detail in the application and justification for their monitoring methods and study design to balance continuous and grab sampling efforts is provided.
- There was good detailed information to describe the expenses in the budget.
- Their method of monitoring fits well with DEQ's TMDL data needs and use of this data to target implementation actions. Future agricultural water quality status and trend reports will benefit from the data set proposed in this application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application describes that they would like to identify water quality improvement projects, but there were no examples of projects being implemented from the water quality data that has been collected to date.

Monitoring Team Comments

• The OPMT encourages applicants to consider monitoring water temperature data year-round to adequately document thermal dynamics.
• Contact DEQ to talk about continuous pH data loggers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will continue a successful monitoring effort and build on the existing long-term data sets.

- The applicant has the capacity and experience to make the project successful. The application presented a comprehensive explanation and justification for their approach to the data collection.
- Project partners work closely with DEQ. This work is necessary to help identify water quality impaired subwatersheds and includes an approved DEQ QA/QC plan.
- There is a great deal of support for the project demonstrated by the letters of support and match commitments.
- Past data collected is valuable and has been used to focus restoration work. For instance, data from the Lookingglass watershed helped NRCS develop a national-level water quality pilot project.

Concerns

- It would be useful to increase involvement from the agricultural and forestry sectors to help elevate awareness of the work and data collected. This in turn could help get more private land owners engaged in restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal will continue long-term monitoring efforts and builds on an existing water quality data set compiled by project partners. The project is an example of how watershed councils and their professional staff can successfully organize and effectively engage volunteers in aspects of an important monitoring effort. The work is important to better understand and engage in restoring the aquatic health of watersheds in the Umpqua basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$220,356

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$220,356

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2048-16672

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Ni-les'tun tidal wetland restoration effectiveness monitoring

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $323,953

Total Cost: $413,244

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

With 418 acres of emergent tidal marsh and 12 acres of forested tidal swamp, the Ni-les'tun restoration project in the Coquille River watershed several miles northeast of Bandon (Coos County) is one of the largest tidal wetland restoration projects completed in Oregon to date. Periodic effectiveness monitoring is essential for evaluating project results and the rate of ecosystem change, but most essential monitoring parameters have been monitored only once since restoration (in 2013). This proposal builds on previous OWEB-funded monitoring to characterize: (1) the status of site hydrology; (2) plant community development; (3) soil conditions (plus links between soils, groundwater hydrology, and plant communities); (4) aquatic habitat availability, quality, and utilization by fish (plus fish prey); and (5) climate change adaptation potential of the restored site. Project partners include the Institute for Applied Ecology, Oregon State University, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Results of our monitoring will provide accountability for OWEB's prior investments in this project, and through outreach, will help advance restoration practices and guide similar restoration projects in Oregon. We will widely distribute project results to the public via a synthesis report, outreach activities, and user-friendly datasets. Project outcomes will include valuable data on wetland restoration effectiveness in the Coquille River Estuary a decade following restoration, data on how physical drivers relate to biotic communities, and restoration lessons learned for application to other restoration projects throughout Oregon.With 418 acres of emergent tidal marsh and 12 acres of forested tidal swamp, the Ni-les'tun restoration project in the Coquille River watershed several miles northeast of Bandon (Coos County) is one of the largest tidal wetland restoration projects completed in Oregon to date. Periodic effectiveness monitoring is essential for evaluating project results and the rate of ecosystem change, but most essential monitoring parameters have been monitored only once since restoration (in 2013). This proposal builds on previous OWEB-funded monitoring to characterize: (1) the status of site hydrology; (2) plant community development; (3) soil conditions (plus links between soils, groundwater hydrology, and plant communities); (4) aquatic habitat availability, quality, and utilization by fish (plus fish prey); and (5) climate change adaptation potential of the restored site. Project partners include the Institute for Applied Ecology, Oregon State University, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Results of our monitoring will provide accountability for OWEB's prior investments in this project, and through outreach, will help advance restoration practices and guide similar restoration projects in Oregon. We will widely distribute project results to the public via a synthesis report, outreach activities, and user-friendly datasets. Project outcomes will include valuable data on wetland restoration

effectiveness in the Coquille River Estuary a decade following restoration, data on how physical drivers relate to biotic communities, and restoration lessons learned for application to other restoration projects throughout Oregon.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The OPMT acknowledged that there is a need for information about the effects of tidal wetland restoration, and this can inform future coastal restoration actions.
- The application has a good description of methods and protocols. These methods follow past monitoring efforts at this restoration site.
- The OPMT liked the description of how the data will be managed, analyzed and reported.
- The monitoring described in this application is a result of good partnerships and includes tribal and university participation.
- The applicant has a good track record of completing past monitoring, including reporting and sharing findings.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail on what the OSU faculty member was implementing/completing to justify the lump-sum budget and why travel from UC Davis was relevant to the monitoring in Oregon.
- The application lacked detail on the methods for obtaining the aerial imagery using a drone and how that will be linked with on-the-ground data.
- It would have been helpful to have the entire budget broken out by objective like a portion of the budget was.

Monitoring Team Comments

The OPMT recommends surveying ground water levels when doing other RTK surveys on site to verify water levels and link to the datum.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a unique opportunity to look at large scale salt marsh restoration efforts, nearly nine years after the work began. The timing is good and the need is there for this effectiveness monitoring to help inform other tideland restoration efforts.
- The data collection methods are sound and highly likely to achieve project objectives.
- The project partnerships are long running and strong, as evidenced by the letters of support and project contributions.
- The proposal addresses concerns from the previous review, including discussion on timing of the work waiting longer to collect and documenting project support.

- Project managers and partners are experienced and have the capacity to do this monitoring.
- The macroinvertebrate sampling will be useful in determining water quality benefits.

Concerns

- The overall project cost is high related to the benefit. Perhaps interns or work study could be incorporated to help reduce the overall cost.

Concluding Analysis

Application was withdrawn by the applicant after review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Withdrawn

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
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

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

Application Number: 219-2049-16704

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coos Watershed Real-time Hydrological and Meteorological Monitoring 2019-2021

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $88,270

Total Cost: $133,006

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Coos Watershed, located on the Southern Oregon Coast, is the home of an important population of the ESA listed coastal coho salmon. The ESA Recovery plan for the Oregon Coast coho salmon (NOAA 2016) cites the need for increased quantity and quality of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitat. Historically, the need for hydrological and meteorological data was identified in the IMST's Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon Lowlands (2002), and in OWEB's Monitoring Strategy for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (2003). NOAA's A Strategic Plan for Enhanced Coastal Observational System and Predictive Hydrodynamic Model for Improved Management of the Coos Bay Estuary, Oregon (2005) ranked continuing gaging station operations as the highest priority. The lack of long term hydrological data has driven the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) to try and meet this need. Most recently, Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (OWRD 2017) recommends that the state continue and maintain the stream gage network, collaborate with other groups, and promote continuous monitoring of changing climates. OWEB funds will be used for staff to upgrade, operate, and maintain five real-time stream gaging/weather stations. Hydrologcial data will be analyzed and summarized by water year, and reported quarterly and annually on the CoosWA website. Discharge data will be further complied into the long-term data set, flow duration estimates will recalculated with the updated data. Meteorological data will be posted to our website in time-series format and summarized by water year. Instantaneous data will be available in real-time.Since 1999, CoosWA has partnered with OWEB, OWRD, ODEQ, U of O, Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board, and BLM to develop a Water Resources Program to develop a Hydrological and Meteorological data set large enough to perform meaningful statistical analysis for monitoring, assessment, research, and project effectiveness needs.The Coos Watershed, located on the Southern Oregon Coast, is the home of an important population of the ESA listed coastal coho salmon. The ESA Recovery plan for the Oregon Coast coho salmon (NOAA 2016) cites the need for increased quantity and quality of freshwater and estuarine rearing habitat. Historically, the need for hydrological and meteorological data was identified in the IMST's Recovery of Wild Salmonids in Western Oregon Lowlands (2002), and in OWEB's Monitoring Strategy for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (2003). NOAA's A Strategic Plan for Enhanced Coastal Observational System and Predictive Hydrodynamic Model for Improved Management of the Coos Bay Estuary, Oregon (2005) ranked continuing gaging station operations as the highest priority. The lack of long term hydrological data has driven the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) to try and meet this need. Most

recently, Oregon's 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy (OWRD 2017) recommends that the state continue and maintain the stream gage network, collaborate with other groups, and promote continuous monitoring of changing climates. OWEB funds will be used for staff to upgrade, operate, and maintain five real-time stream gaging/weather stations. Hydrologcial data will be analyzed and summarized by water year, and reported quarterly and annually on the CoosWA website. Discharge data will be further complied into the long-term data set, flow duration estimates will recalculated with the updated data. Meteorological data will be posted to our website in time-series format and summarized by water year. Instantaneous data will be available in real-time.Since 1999, CoosWA has partnered with OWEB, OWRD, ODEQ, U of O, Coos Bay/North Bend Water Board, and BLM to develop a Water Resources Program to develop a Hydrological and Meteorological data set large enough to perform meaningful statistical analysis for monitoring, assessment, research, and project effectiveness needs.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This program has done a good job leveraging funding from various sources.
- This is an ongoing long-term monitoring project with dedicated, consistent staff.
- The monitoring network provides long-term data set that is used by many agencies, researchers and other local groups.
- The application did a good job explaining how this monitoring informs the design of future restoration projects.
- The application addresses comments on previous application by explaining the streamflow monitoring methods and cites the USGS protocols.
- The data management, analysis and reporting is aided by the use of an appropriate time series management software (WISKI).

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT was questioning the use and value of the weather stations and the ability to use these to understand orographic effects due to these sites most likely suitable for documenting micro climates.
- It was unclear why are they moving the MET stations. More information and clarity about this is needed.
- The description of the gaging station history was difficult to follow and understand why some gages were being re-established.
- Past project completion reporting was limited and weather station data was of poor quality.
- The monitoring methods did not describe operation of weather station and parameters they want to collect.
- The application describes collecting continuous turbidity data at the streamflow gages for load duration calculations, but there was no description of the necessary suspended sediment monitoring to correlate the turbidity measurements to generate load estimates.

Monitoring Team Comments

• If funded, provide a final technical report summarizing data to generate products that align with their objectives and answering the monitoring questions posed in the application.

• Update QAPP to include operation of weather station and maintenance procedures.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal supports continuation of a long running data set.
- The project scope has been expanded to add additional collection sites and incorporates new partners bringing in new match contributions and additional technical support.
- The data collected is important. It is actively used and is vital for natural resource agencies, as well as the applicant, in work such as project development, effectiveness monitoring, outreach and modeling efforts.
- The project is technically sound and has a high likelihood of continued success. The work is coordinated with OWRD and utilizes standard OWRD and USGS protocols.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project will continue a long running successful data collection effort that results in information readily available and used to support restoration planning and design, assessment, effectiveness monitoring and modeling efforts. The information also sees a great community use of the real-time stream gauging information to support recreational activities. The applicant does a superb job of sharing the information and using the data collected in outreach, as well as restoration efforts. Establishing regular check in meetings with OWRD and USGS will help with making sure collection efforts are always using the latest protocols and creating a forum for sharing lessons learned.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

$88,270

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$88,270

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-2050-16706

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: SOLC Upper Bear Creek Ashland Watershed Engagement

Applicant: Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $55,087

Total Cost: $73,435

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The geographic location comprises a portion of the upper Bear Creek Watershed, inclusive of the Ashland Watershed. This is a strategic focus area of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. The area includes both the forested mixed-conifer slopes of the western portion, and the oak-woodlands and grasslands of the eastern portion of the watershed, which also contains mixed conifer forests in the upper elevations. Specifically, the project will focus on privately-owned lands which contain high conservation values and at which conservation will contribute to watershed health. This area also captures a portion of the municipal watershed for the City of Ashland. The lands on the eastern side provide the scenic backdrop of the southern Rogue Valley and contain high wildlife connectivity values, and a mosaic of oak-pine and conifer forests, grasslands, and streams and springs.The Bear Creek watershed is susceptible to fragmentation and land conversion which degrades the integrity of the watershed. The stakeholder engagement objectives aim to ultimately result in acquisition projects on high-quality lands. Successful acquisition projects will conserve high-quality properties to abate the threats of subdivision and development; land conversion (e.g., land clearing); unsustainable and ecologically unsound forest and grazing practices; and protect open space and scenic view sheds. These threats are known to fragment the landscape and negatively impact the integrity of the watershed to support wildlife, fish habitat, and ecosystem functions.Activities to engage stakeholders will comprise open-house style events, direct mailings, social media, and other methods. Follow-up with interested landowners will consist of one-on-one meetings to discuss more specific aspects of conservation opportunities.Partners include Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR), City of Ashland, USFS, and Lomakatsi. Potential partners include Selberg Institute, the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal's focal area is in the Upper Bear Creek watershed. This area is highly impacted by urbanization and a likelihood that it will continue.
- Acquisition is a sound strategy to help preserve and protect existing habitats in the watershed.
- The applicant has a proven track record with acquisition work, including monitoring of their current portfolio of properties. They are well known and respected in the community.

- There is the potential to develop projects that could protect a wide variety of habitats ranging from upslope to riparian.
- The methods proposed to approach potential landowners seem reasonable for the area and audience.

Concerns

- It is unclear how the applicant will prioritize lands or what a high-value conservation property will look like. This information is available but was not included in the application.
- It is unclear how limiting factors for ESA-listed salmonid species will be considered in prioritizing lands for acquisition.
- Missing from the application was how the concept of restoring watershed connectivity plays into the outreach focus.
- It is unclear whether the project will result in a strategic rather than an opportunistic approach to identifying candidate parcels for permanent protection.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal fits into the applicant's strategy for identifying and acquiring properties for conservation. Acquisition is a sound strategy to protect valuable habitats and will be effective in this urbanizing area; however, the pathway from Stakeholder Engagement to an eligible acquisition is unclear. The application would be strengthened by including an explanation of what is expected beyond the Stakeholder Engagement activities and how the project will result in developing acquisition projects, and subsequent restoration where needed.

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

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Fall 2018 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018FallCycle\Projects\Region3_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Fall.mxd
ESRI ArcMap 10.6 NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20190314

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 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/

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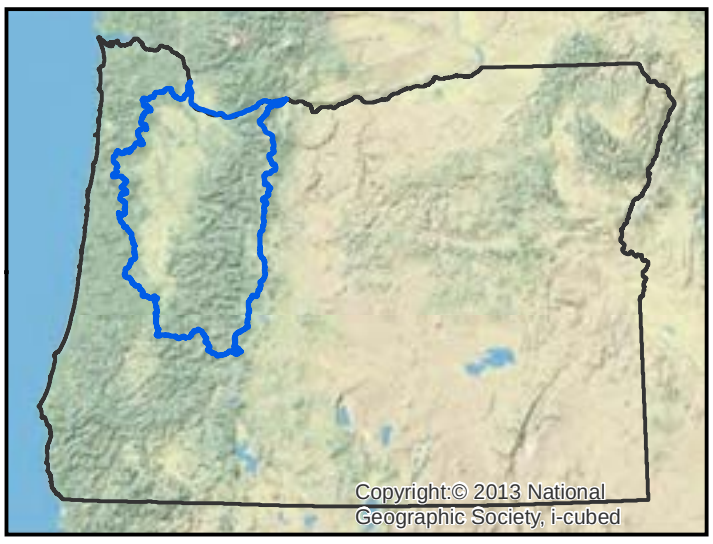

Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-3023	Long Tom WC	Greenhill Oak and Prairie Restoration	Oak savanna, woodland, and prairie habitat currently impacted by fire suppression, woody encroachment, dense canopy conditions, and pressure from nonnative and invasive plant species will be restored on four contigious private properties covering 315-acres in the Coyote Creek subbasin of the Long Tom Watershed, located a mile southwest of Eugene.	299,936	Lane
219-3019	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project: Salmon River and Clear Fork	Native fish habitat will be restored in the Upper Sandy River near Welches, Oregon in Clackamas County. Increasing off-channel stream habitat, floodplain connectivity with the river, and large wood abundance instream will provide diverse, high quality habitat that supports salmon and steelhead populations.	317,507	Clackamas
219-3024	Luckiamute WC	South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement	Impacts from historic land use practices, including logging to the water's edge, removing logs from the stream, and log drives in a upper Luckiamute tributary will be addressed to restore natural stream functions. This will include replacing road crossings, adding large wood in the stream, and replanting native streamside trees.	121,684	Polk
219-3022	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Lower South Fork River Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase II	McKenzie River stream habitat will be restored to a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem for native fish species, including spring Chinook salmon and bull trout. This multi-phased project on 600 acres over 4.2 stream miles addresses impacts caused by the installation of a Army Corps dam, placement of berms and levees, removal of instream wood, and timber harvest from floodplain forests.	464,079	Lane
219-3018	Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas River Community Cooperative Revegetation Project	A streamside plant community along the Clackamas River will be restored by eradicating invasive species and re-establishing native plants.	66,249	Clackamas
219-3021	Metro	Heritage Pine oak and prairie restoration and enhancment	Oak and prairie habitats will be restored on 60 acres of the Heritage Pine Natural Area, which is a 202-acre property located near Sherwood, Oregon, just east of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. Controlling invasive plant species, increasing the diversity in native plant communities, and removing plants crowding oaks trees will improve habitat for native plants and wildlife.	107,212	Washington
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,376,667**	

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

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-3017	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Upper North Santiam Side Channel Reconnection	Stream habitat will be restored in the Upper North Santiam River near Idanha, Oregon. Reconnecting a side-channel to the mainsteam river and placing large wood structures instream will provide diverse habitat for native fish, including Chinook salmon and cutthroat trout.	159,894	Linn
219-3014	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase II	The diversity, quality, and quantity of instream and floodplain habitats will be improved on Horsetail Creek in the Lower Columbia River Gorge in Multnomah County. This 180-acre floodplain natural area contains two fish bearing streams and associated sloughs, ponds, drainages and wetlands. Habitat restoration will improve cold-water refuge for native salmon migrating along the Columbita River by placing large wood instream, installing beaver dam analogs, and establishing native plant communities.	162,240	Multnomah
219-3016	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Fribley Oak Woodland Restoration	Willamette Valley oak woodland will be restored on a 20 acre property located south of the City of Eugene within Lane County. Controlling invasive plant species, increasing the diversity in native plant communities, and removing fir trees that are crowding oaks trees will improve habitat for native plants and wildlife.	106,794	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,805,595**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-3015	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Little North Fork Santiam Bank Restoration	224,608	Marion
219-3020	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy River Delta Habitat Continuity	165,544	Multnomah
219-3025	Calapooia WC	Truax Island Floodplain Restoration - Phase 1 - Planting and Plant Establishment	212,671	Linn
219-3026	Marys River WC	Oak Creek Fish Passage Phase 1	139,918	Benton

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

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-3028	The Xerces Society	Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration--Technical Assistance	Technical assistance will be provided to restoration practitioners statewide to identify and protect freshwater mussels during stream restoration projects. Freshwater mussels are an important, yet overlooked, animal in Oregon's freshwater systems that provide valuable services to salmon and other stream organisms. Stream habitat restoration work poses a significant emerging threat to mussel beds, which can take decades to recover after they are lost in a stream project.	74,952	Lane
219-3027	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Feasibility Assessment of Pilot Cold Water Refuge Enhancement Technique	A feasibility assessment will be completed to develop engineering designs for a pilot technique that will enhance cold water refuges at the mouths of lower Columbia Gorge tributaries to protect salmon and steelhead in the face of warming climate conditions.	74,977	Multnomah
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**149,929**	

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				**149,929**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
None				

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

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-3033	North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council Kellogg Dam Fish Passage	Stakeholders in a lower Willamette tributary area will be convened into a Fish Passage Steering Committee that will provide planning, coordinated action, and fundraising essential to create fish passage at Kellogg Dam. The resulting restoration project will open passage to 9 miles of stream habitat for salmon, steelhead and lamprey, and provide off-channel refuge for Clackamas and Willamette river fish populations.	62,312	Clackamas
219-3031	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Engaging Stakeholders in Restoration to Enhance Drinking Water Quality	Stakeholders in Row River, Mosby Creek, and Upper Coast Fork Willamette watersheds in Lane County will be engaged to conduct on-the-ground restoration actions that provide long-term drinking water protection and improve overall watershed health.	27,715	Lane
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**90,027**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**90,027**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-3032	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Engaging Diverse Stakeholders in Floodplain Restoration at Elijah Bristow Park		124,594	Lane
219-3034	Sandy River Basin WC	Beaver Creek Fish Passage Community		36,597	Multnomah

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

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-3029	Luckiamute WC	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring Phase 2	Stream temperature data will be collected in the Luckiamute River Watershed to fill a data gap, and inform restoration project prioritization and planning.	48,152	Polk
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**48,152**	
Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**48,152**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-3030	Calapooia WC	Calapooia Environmental DNA Monitoring		48,378	Linn
Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,664,775**	**16%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**10,554,731**	

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

Application Number: 219-3014-16583

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase II

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $162,240

Total Cost: $222,359

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) requests $162,236 to improve the diversity, quality, and quantity of instream and floodplain habitats on the Horsetail Creek floodplain in the Lower Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah County. The site is 180-acre Columbia River floodplain natural area containing two fish bearing streams and associated sloughs, ponds, drainages and wetlands, located on US Forest Service (USFS) property. It is situated between 1-84 and the Union Pacific Railroad and was significantly impacted by construction of the railroad and highway and historic land use. The proposed Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Phase II project (Phase II) expands upon the previous project. Phase I, constructed in 2013 on the west portion of the site, improved site thermal conditions, removed fish passage barriers, restored freshwater tidal hydrology, added 600 pieces of large wood to the stream and revegetated 0.9 miles of stream habitat over the lower 35 acres of the site. Phase II, focused to the East Slough, will treat an additional 0.5 stream miles by placing 25 pieces of in-stream large wood, installing beaver dam analog structures (BDAs), and revegetating an additional 30 acres of floodplain habitat by removing an invasive understory of reed canary grass and planting 65,000 native forested wetland species. This project has the unique opportunity to leverage burned wood from the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire by felling and placing large on-site burned trees in-stream and on the floodplain. Large wood placements and the BDAs will increase habitat complexity, enhance off-channel rearing and high flow refugia habitat and encourage additional beaver activity. Restoring floodplain vegetation and closing the riparian overstory will restore process and function to floodplain forests, improve the site's cold-water refuge for anadromous salmonids, and increase macroinvertebrate prey production for juvenile salmonids.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a previous phase 1 restoration investment.
- Since the project site is located on one of the last cold water refugia areas before the Columbia River dams, restoration actions will significantly benefit spawning and rearing ESA-listed fish.
- Technically sound designs will be implemented for large wood placement and floodplain vegetation restoration; and design alternatives and likely impacts of restoration at the site and adjacent areas were considered.

- Watershed benefits are quantified well in the application.
- The site provides a well-suited opportunity to test Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) structures, which will help beavers by providing dam building materials.
- The project will take advantage of burned trees from the 2017 Eagle Creek fire by utilizing these trees as instream and floodplain habitat features.

Concerns

- The budget has some lump sums, which makes it difficult to determine how costs break down by tasks. For example, it is unclear how costs break out for various plant establishment activities, such as mowing and herbicide application.
- Inclusion of BDA design information in the application, including a placement plan, would help provide better understanding of how BDAs will function.
- It is challenging to address causes of watershed impacts with the constraints created by the project location adjacent to I-84.

Concluding Analysis

The project addresses human altered watershed conditions in a priority location for ESA-listed fish. Proposed restoration activities take advantage of opportunities provided by available large wood, partners engaged in a restoration vision and plan for the site, and a location to restore floodplain process and function. The ecological uplift that will result is cost-effective for the watershed benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$162,240

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 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3015-16619

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little North Fork Santiam Bank Restoration

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: $224,608

Total Cost: $318,808

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Little North Fork Santiam Bank Restoration project is located just passed Salmon Falls County Park approximately 14 miles up Little North Fork Rd on private property owned by the 25 member not-for-profit group known as the Elk Horn Corporation. Over the last 30 years the members have been observing steady soil erosion along approximately 300 feet of riverbank adjacent to the county road. The riparian area in this reach which was once full of native vegetation is now consisting of exposed soils and is inundated with non-native blackberries. The bank erosion and riparian degradation in this reach has the potential overtime to undermine and impact the Little North Fork county road. The NSWC is proposing to contract River Design Group to design and oversee the construction of a large wood bank restoration project. The project area will then be planted with native riparian trees and shrubs to help further stabilize the soils and to restore the riparian habitat. The project will benefit ESA listed Spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead by reducing further erosion, improving water quality and by providing instream large wood habitat. Grant funds will cover contracted services and supplies and materials. Project partners include: Marion Soil & Water Conservation District, Marion County, ODFW and the Elk Horn Corporation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is clearly described in the application.
- The project site is located in a priority watershed for ESA-listed fish.
- Proposed actions will provide benefits to a diversity of fish species during high stream flows.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by a letter of support and significant match.

Concerns

- Since the large wood placement is not designed to extend into the stream, habitat benefits to fish will be minimal.
- Project designs focus on treating symptoms of disturbance instead of causes of watershed impacts.

- The project cost is high for a limited watershed benefit.
- The county is not involved in the project even though the adjacent county road significantly influences the river in this area.

Concluding Analysis

Since the Little North Santiam River is deficient in instream large wood, adding large wood structures will address a limiting factor for this watershed. However, the primary purpose of the proposed project design appears to be bank stabilization rather than fish habitat restoration, which results in an uncertain ecological benefit for the investment. Investigating design alternatives that incorporate a longer reach of the river could lead to a restoration approach that addresses watershed processes and functions causing erosion at the project site while incorporating restoration elements that provide cost-effective fish habitat benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3016-16621
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Fribley Oak Woodland Restoration
Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Lane
OWEB Request: $106,794
Total Cost: $139,794

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The 20.03 acre property is located south of the City of Eugene within Lane County and the lower Camas Swale sub-watershed. This property contains rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland habitat and a seasonal stream. Oregon white oaks within the project area are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping, while the understory has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these habitats including acorn woodpecker, slender billed nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak woodland habitat restoration that includes: (1) thinning small and large-diameter firs and oaks around legacy trees to restore 20.03 acres of oak habitat; (2) enhancing the seasonal stream; (3) controlling invasive plant species; (4) enhancing the plant diversity by planting native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) will implement this project in partnership with CFWWC Technical Advisory Team who will provide planning & technical support. OWEB funds will be used for CFWWC staff, contracted services (tree thinning, weed removal/planting crews), travel, permits, and materials (plants).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written.
- The project site is located in historic oak habitat and provides a potential future opportunity to connect with other oak habitat restoration projects in the area.
- Proposed plans for restoring oak habitat are technically sound.
- A letter of support is provided to demonstrate landowner support for the project.

Concerns

- Since there are no old legacy oak trees on the site, this site may not be the highest priority for oak habitat restoration.
- The project area has a small footprint, which limits the cost-benefit for the watershed investment.
- While there are oak restoration sites in the general area, existing projects are located too far away to provide immediate habitat connectivity.

Concluding Analysis

The current scale of this project limits the quantified watershed benefits, which also limits the cost-benefit of the restoration. While the proposed actions will improve oak habitat at this site, strategically recruiting neighbors to build connectivity with other oak habitat restoration projects in the region would significantly increase impacts from this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$106,794

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

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

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3017-16624

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper North Santiam Side Channel Reconnection

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $159,894

Total Cost: $311,809

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper North Santiam side channel reconnection project is located 10 miles upstream of the Detroit Dam near the town of Idanha. This site has an old 750 foot long historical side-channel that used to connect with the Upper North Santiam River at River Mile 59. Past stream cleaning and logging activities have removed riparian conifers and key pieces of large wood in the channel and floodplains. Side-channel development has been limited by the lack of in-stream large wood to re- direct flows off the mainstem and channel hardening and straightening activities from revetment installation. Reconnecting the side channel will primarily benefit ESA listed juvenile Spring Chinook salmon and resident cutthroat trout by increasing the availability and complexity of off-channel rearing habitat. The NSWC/CPRCD received an OWEB TA grant in 2017 to contract River Design Group to develop a list of restoration alternatives that helped the NSWC and its local technical team in identifying alternatives and the feasibility of restoring side channel habitat in this reach. Based off the alternatives analysis the NSWC is now seeking funds to implement the technical teams preferred design alternative of opening up the 750 ft historic side channel and creating an additional 150 ft side channel. Large wood structures will be placed at the inlet, outlets and throughout the reconnected and newly created side channel habitat. Grant funds will cover contracted services and supplies and materials. Project partners include: ODOT, ODFW, USFS and adjacent private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a previous technical assistance investment.
- The proposed actions will address limiting factors identified for this watershed in a strategic location for habitat restoration to benefit ESA-listed fish.
- Designs consider potential impacts to adjacent properties.
- Surrounding landowners are actively involved in the project planning process.
- The project leverages a separate mitigation investment by expanding restoration benefits through an increased project scope and footprint.

Concerns

- A constructed side-channel reconnection may not sustain over the long term since the upstream inlet connection will likely fill in over time. Furthermore, this project may not be re-establishing a historic side-channel because the site appears to be the result of avulsion instead of a historic side-channel that filled in and disconnected from the mainstem North Santiam. This, combined with the proximity of homes and other nearby infrastructure, has resulted in a highly engineered project with a whole project cost that is high for the anticipated watershed benefit.
- Land ownership for the project area is uncertain.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration will provide habitat to ESA-listed fish in a priority watershed for their recovery. While the highly engineered approach limits the cost-benefits of this project, the resulting habitat elements address priority limiting factors in the Upper North Santiam watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$159,894

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 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 219-3018-16634

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Clackamas River Community Cooperative Revegetation Project

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $66,249

Total Cost: $98,124

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed restoration project is located in Clackamas, Oregon on the property of the Clackamas River Community Cooperative, a nonprofit, resident owned manufactured home community (45°40'40.46N 122°52'19.53W). The property includes the confluence of Sieben Creek and the mainstem Clackamas River and can be accessed from SE Jennifer Street. This project is designed to return this property to its baseline conditions by eradicating invasive species and re-establishing native plant communities, mixed riparian forest. Bohmian knotweed, garlic mustard, Himalayan blackberry, reed canarygrass, English ivy, clematis, and false brome dominate the area and negatively impact riparian functioning. Proposed work would consist of site prep, including hand cutting weeds and then treating resprouts with aquatically labeled herbicide. The project would be maintained following OWEB funding with matching funds from the CRISP partnership (pending).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site is located on a priority stream for ESA-listed fish, and is in close proximity to past and future restoration planned in adjacent areas.
- Restoring the riparian forest will provide significant ecological benefits to this site.
- The restoration approach is technically sound.
- It is likely that successful implementation of the proposed actions will lead to adjacent landowners committing to restoration on their properties, which will further expand the benefits of this project.
- The applicant has a proven track record restoring riparian plant communities, therefore, this project is likely to succeed.
- Project costs are reasonable for the watershed benefit.
- Landowners are actively involved and supportive of the project.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project provides an opportunity for a landowner with limited resources to restore a riparian forest that has ecological benefits on the decline. If an investment is not made soon to restore this riparian forest habitat, the area will further decline and require substantial investment to restore watershed function. This riparian area is at a tipping point at which a timely restoration investment will provide significant watershed benefit for the cost because there are habitat elements in place to leverage and move it towards a healthy native plant community.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$66,249

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$66,249

Staff Conditions

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

Application Number: 219-3019-16640

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project: Salmon River and Clear Fork

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $317,507

Total Cost: $1,138,223

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Sandy River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. The Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners) have identified the Salmon River and Upper Sandy 6th Field watersheds among the top four areas providing high quality habitat for the basin's native fish. The Partners are aligned on a near term goal of restoring these priority watersheds to advance Sandy basin-scale restoration. On behalf of the Partners, The Freshwater Trust (TFT), US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are taking the lead on the Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project, which will address primary limiting factors by increasing off channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance in the Salmon River and Clear Fork (located within the Upper Sandy 6th Field watershed). Restoration actions include: reactivation of flow to historic side channels and floodplain habitat, construction of large wood habitat structures, and placement of additional large wood in side channels and on stream margins. Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM located near Welches, Oregon in Clackamas County. This project is part of a larger, multi-year watershed scale restoration effort, and builds on similar successful projects completed in the basin by TFT and the Partners since 2008. OWEB funding will support TFT staff time for project design/permitting, project management, construction, travel, administration and reporting.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clear and addresses previous project evaluation comments.
- The proposed restoration is similar to previous work completed in the watershed that has proven success demonstrated by evidence from fish return data.
- The project addresses key limiting factors in a priority watershed with known use by ESA-listed Chinook, coho, and steelhead. The proposed work also implements actions in multiple planning documents.
- Lessons learned from previous restoration implementation are incorporated into this phase of the project.
- The project design approach demonstrates an understanding of geomorphic processes in the Sandy River Basin.

- The project team has a proven track record as a successful partnership on similar projects.
- Partner support is demonstrated by multiple letters of support and match.
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Concerns

- It is unclear whether the design-build contractor has capacity for the restoration work scheduled to occur during Summer 2019.
- Due to the scale and complexity of this project, there are greater risks of negative impacts if the project were to fail.

Concluding Analysis

This project is part of a phased strategic approach in 6th field subwatersheds of the upper Sandy River Basin. This watershed has numerous ESA-listed fish species, making it a priority area for instream habitat restoration. Furthermore, post-project data from previous work demonstrates this stream system typically has an outstanding response to restoration that improves fish run numbers. The project has a high ecological benefit-cost ratio and high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$317,507

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$317,507

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3020-16668

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sandy River Delta Habitat Continuity

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $165,544

Total Cost: $243,596

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located at the confluence of the Columbia and Sandy Rivers, the Sandy River Delta supports the rich biological diversity of the Columbia River Gorge region and critical habitat for fish and wildlife, including five species of salmonids listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This proposal supports landscape scale restoration underway and as planned for the Sandy River Delta Park, as described in the NEPA approved USDA Forest Service Sandy River Delta Plan. Historic land conversion, multiple uncoordinated restoration projects, and noxious weed invasion have degraded riparian forest structure and function at the Delta. Without intervention, noxious weeds are inhibiting the natural forest canopy and native habitat continuity throughout the 100-acre project area. This proposal restores functional floodplain forest by connecting previously restored habitat areas through the elimination of unintentional hedge rows of invasive species such as blackberry and Scotch broom. Contract crews will remove noxious weeds, which will be replaced with native trees, shrubs and broadleaf pollinator species. Project partners include the USDA Forest Service, Friends of Trees, National Forest Foundation, and East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in an Oregon Conservation Opportunity Area and is a site that provides habitat to a diversity of native species.
- Proposed restoration will build on previous investments that resulted in successfully establishing native plant communities at this location.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar type projects.
- Restoration actions are identified in a USFS management plan for the property.
- Project costs are reasonable for the proposed work.
- The project offers an opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.

Concerns

- The application lacks details to determine technical soundness of the project design approach for this

phase of restoring native plant communities.

- The restoration approach does not provide adequate plant protection to address the level of impact that is likely to occur at this site located in a heavily used recreational area. This will limit the likelihood of success for this investment.
- The budget does not include plant stewardship activities. Activities to ensure plants reach a “free-to-grow” state depends on match funding sources that are not yet secured. As a result, it is uncertain that plants will effectively be maintained to ensure a likelihood of success for establishing restored native plant communities.
- It is unclear how funds requested for effectiveness monitoring will provide information beyond the reporting elements required for Post Implementation Status Reports, which has a separate line item in the budget.
- Since there are several partners working on restoring native plant communities on the Sandy River Delta, a description on how these partners are collaborating to leverage their efforts in implementing the USFS plan for the site would be helpful. For example, inclusion of an abridged version of the USFS management plan with progress made by each partner would provide useful context for understanding whether work on this site is coordinated or occurring as independent projects.

Concluding Analysis

While the proposed restoration will improve habitat for fish and wildlife, there are significant risks caused by recreational impacts at the site that could limit the ecological uplift from this investment. Without a site-specific plan for protecting and stewarding plants, the proposed restoration is not likely to succeed in establishing restored native plant communities under the unique conditions resulting from the heavy recreation use. Also, considering additional levee removal as part of a project in the Sandy River delta area to allow increased water inundation would significantly increase ecological benefits at this location.

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

None

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

Application Number: 219-3021-16675

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Heritage Pine oak and prairie restoration and enhancment

Applicant: Metro

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: $107,212

Total Cost: $214,426

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Heritage Pine Natural Area (Heritage Pine NA) is a 202-acre property located near Sherwood, Oregon, just east of the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge (TRNWR) Atfalati unit and bordered by the Tualatin River to the North. Heritage Pine NA is within the TRNWR acquisition boundary and the Tualatin River ODFW Conservation Opportunity Area. The site is co-managed by Metro and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service under an Inter-Governmental Agreement. The proposed 60 acre project will implement oak and prairie habitat restoration based on a restoration plan developed by RTF Consulting in collaboration with Metro and TRNWR staff. Actions will address fundamental limiting factors identified in the state conservation strategy, especially woody plant encroachment, invasive weeds and low forb diversity. Several restoration actions are included. 1) Release of open grown legacy Oregon white oak on 14.2 acres on the edges of the prairie and on an escarpment above the emergent wetland. This will involve thinning competing conifer, Oregon ash and bigleaf maple, removal of non-native trees and seeding of native forbs and grasses. 2) Restoration and enhancement of 33.4 acres of wet and upland prairie, including removal of woody vegetation and invasive species, and seeding of native prairie species. A small drainage ditch will be filled and agricultural drain tiles will be removed to restore wet prairie hydrology. At Heritage Pine, encroaching woody vegetation includes a planted ponderosa pine plantation surrounding the iconic pine.3) Restoring a small section of riparian forest (2.3 acres) and emergent wetland (8.9 acres) adjacent to the prairie through site preparation, native bare root plantings and seeding of native wetland species. These areas will buffer the focal oak and prairie restoration area from re-invasion by invasive weeds and provide habitat for associated species. The cost per acre over five years is approximately $3600.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and provides details on restoration activities, why these actions are needed, timing of project elements, and costs.
- Restoration methods are clearly defined, technically sound, and focus on treating causes impacting habitats rather than symptoms of disturbance.
- Priority oak and wet meadow habitats will be restored to provide benefits to a diversity of native wildlife species, and will build anchor habitats in an area that has rapid urbanization.

- There is connectivity between this project site and other restoration efforts along the Tualatin River.
- The project site provides opportunities to raise public awareness about watershed restoration.
- Multiple partners are involved in the project.

Concerns

- Project management costs seem high compared to similar type projects.
- While partner participation in the project was described well at the review team site visit, the application provides limited information on partner roles.

Concluding Analysis

A diversity of priority habitats will be restored on a large conservation holding that is part of a portfolio of properties in the region owned by the applicant. Previous restoration activities on these properties, along with future restoration envisioned for these sites, will provide a network of connected fish and wildlife habitats and build watershed resilience as urbanization expands in this region. This provides a significant watershed cost-benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$107,212

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$107,212

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3022-16680

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower South Fork River Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase II

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $464,079

Total Cost: $962,134

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project is a multi-phased effort designed to restore the physical, chemical, and biological processes that maintain a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem within the lower 4.2 miles and 600 acres of the South Fork McKenzie River (South Fork) downstream of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)-operated Cougar Dam. Phase I was completed in 2018 over the lower 0.7 miles and 150 acres of the South Fork. The proposed Phase II will continue that work on 0.5 miles and 50 acres of floodplain directly upstream of Phase I on public lands owned and managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in Lane County near the unincorporated community of Blue River.The installation of USACE operated Cougar Dam, placement of berms and levees, removal of instream wood, and timber harvest from floodplain forests degraded habitat within the lower South Fork valley. These activities alter physical, chemical and biological processes and degraded habitat for native species including ESA-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout. Limiting factors include lack of spawning gravel, off-channel habitat, high flow refuge, pools, cover, fine sediment deposition on the floodplain, and shallow wetland habitat. Phase II will address limiting factors through the removal of artificial berms and other floodplain surfaces, manual aggradation of incised channels, and placement of large wood throughout the valley bottom. Partners include the USFS Willamette National Forest, McKenzie Watershed Alliance, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and USACE.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written.
- This phase 2 project builds on previous restoration to reconnect the stream with its flooplain in a large-scale, whole valley approach that treats causes impacting watershed health rather than symptoms of disturbance.
- Lessons learned from previous restoration work are incorporated into this phase of the project.
- Effectiveness monitoring is incorporated into the project and provides an opportunity to understand the efficacy of the stage zero restoration approach.
- The overall project cost for the scale of resulting watershed benefits is reasonable.
- The project team has a proven track record as a successful partnership on similar projects.

- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support and match.

Concerns

- Since impacts from Cougar Dam continue to affect this watershed, there could be a limit to how effective this restoration can be in restoring watershed processes and functions.
- Some ODFW staff have concerns regarding the technical soundness of the stage zero approach, however, the local ODFW staff provided a letter of support for this project that highlights the success of the phase 1 work.
- There is limited data on the effectiveness of the stage zero restoration approach.

Concluding Analysis

In addition to Cougar Dam, the lower South Fork valley in the McKenzie Watershed has been impacted by placement of berms and levees, removal of instream wood, and timber harvest from floodplain forests. While the dam will continue to be a limiting factor in this watershed, the proposed restoration will make significant progress towards restoring watershed processes and functions degraded by the collective impact of these historic actions that led to current conditions. This large-scale, high impact project will build watershed resilience and provide significant benefits to ESA-listed fish in a watershed prioritized for their recovery. Based on phase 1 results, it is expected that phase 2 will result in a significant amount of high quality stream habitat that will likely be utilized by fish instantly.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$464,079

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$464,079

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3023-16702

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Greenhill Oak and Prairie Restoration

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $299,936

Total Cost: $556,756

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project area encompasses 315 acres on four contiguous private properties in the Coyote Creek subbasin of the Long Tom Watershed located about a mile southwest of Eugene in an area identified as high priority for oak and prairie conservation by the Rivers to Ridges Partnership, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and The Nature Conservancy. The project proposes to restore 315 acres oak savanna, woodland, and prairie habitat that currently suffers from fire suppression, woody encroachment, dense canopy conditions, and pressure from nonnative and invasive plant species. Native prairie and oak understory plant communities continue to support a number of rare and high-fidelity plant species and in some places moderate and high species diversity. Grassland birds, including Oregon Vesper Sparrow, nest in the project area. The Long Tom Watershed Council proposes to work with the four highly engaged and motivated landowners, NRCS, and USFWS to develop land management plans to guide habitat restoration activities, including transitioning 78 acres of planted Doug fir woodland to oak savanna, implement habitat restoration actions, including prescribed fire, and share experiences with other landowners. The site would leverage OWEB's significant prior investment in restoration on several adjacent and nearby properties. Project activities include thinning, brush treatments, mowing, invasives control, good fire, and seeding. On one site rotational grazing planning and monitoring will continue to inform the use of grazing as a tool in prairie and oak habitat stewardship. Project partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Rivers to Ridge Partnership and burn implementation group, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project leverages previous OWEB restoration investments by extending connectivity of restored habitats on properties adjacent to the project area.
- Priority oak savannah, woodland, and prairie habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy will be restored.
- The project has a large footprint with four large contiguous properties, which creates a significant cost-benefit for the watershed investment.
- Landowners are actively involved in building partnerships to utilize restoration resources, and they have already completed voluntary restoration work on their properties.

- Multiple partners are involved in the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- Existing habitat in the project area has a high diversity of native plants, including 74 prairie plant species on just one landowner site alone.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Landowners involved in this project share a unified vision for a ridgetop to ridgetop restoration approach across their properties. This project also provides an opportunity to demonstrate how voluntary conservation and working lands can effectively be integrated together. There is a high likelihood for this project to succeed because of the scope and scale of the restoration, diversity of partners involved, and integration of land management actions with habitat restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$299,936

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$299,936

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3024-16711

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: $121,684

Total Cost: $466,534

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The South Fork Pedee Creek Enhancement project area lies within the timberlands of the upper Luckiamute watershed in the Pedee 6th field hydrologic unit. The North and South Forks join to form Pedee Creek, which then drains into the Luckiamute River near the community of Pedee in Polk County. Historical practices such as logging to the water's edge, log removal, and log drives impacted upper Luckiamute sub-basins, including Pedee. A severely undersized culvert at the upper end of the project reach is blocking the transport of bedload. The streambed is scoured to bedrock in many areas, a lack of instream wood and debris jams has led to poor sediment sorting and gravel retention, riparian conifers are absent in large sections, and there is little channel-floodplain interaction. The lower culvert, near the center of the project reach, is undersized and failed during high flows in 2012; a small, ephemeral alder log jam has raised the streambed, otherwise the pipe's size and slope create a juvenile barrier. The riparian corridor along a 0.74-mile section of the project reach is dominated by invasive weeds and is not providing adequate shade. The Luckiamute Watershed Council used NetMap, a fine-scale watershed based modeling tool, in combination with field verification to prioritize restoration reaches for steelhead recovery in the Luckiamute basin. The proposed project area was the highest ranking reach. Resolving current and future instream large wood deficiencies through log placement, conifer enrichment, understory enhancement, and riparian revegetation will result in both immediate and long-term habitat benefits and restore key ecological processes throughout the 2.8-mile reach. Project partners will replace both culverts during the project period. Partners are Starker Forests, Inc., Hancock Forest Management (on behalf of the property owners), Forests Forever, Inc., Western Oregon University, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site is located in a stream reach with high potential for improved biological value, and restoration actions will address limiting factors and benefit steelhead.
- The proposed actions will treat causes impacting watershed health instead of symptoms of disturbances by addressing undersized culverts trapping sediment bedload. When the culverts are replaced, this bedload will move downstream, sort, and be captured by the large wood structures that will be placed instream. This will provide a restored streambed with fish habitat benefits.

- The proposed restoration is based on a rigorous analysis of the watershed that was used to determine the best locations for stream restoration. As a result, the proposed project has a high likelihood for success in achieving expected watershed benefits.
- Alternatives were evaluated as part of the project design.
- The project includes a public awareness component, including Western Oregon University student involvement.
- The ecological benefits from this project significantly outweigh the cost.
- Applicant has a proven track record in implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- A portion of the project planting component will occur within a 100-foot riparian buffer on private timber lands that could potentially be havested in the future.

Concluding Analysis

This comprehensive project across multiple properties leverages landowners investing in road crossings that are currently interrupting watershed processes and functions. An OWEB grant to fund instream large wood placement is timely in order to leverage the landowner investment and achieve the highest benefit-cost of this voluntary work. Instream large wood placement needs to occur before the culverts are replaced so that when the bedload trapped above the culverts moves downstream, the large wood can sort and trap gravels and rebuild a natural streambed that provides fish habitat. The project has a high likelihood of success and benefit-cost- ratio because it addresses altered watershed functions over a significantly long stream reach that will benefit priority steelhead populations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$121,684

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$121,684

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3025-16712

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Truax Island Floodplain Restoration - Phase 1 - Planting and Plant Establishment

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $212,671

Total Cost: $365,225

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Truax Island Access is a 128 acre undeveloped Willamette Greenway site within the Upper Willamette River Floodplain conservation Opportunity Area (COA 61, Oregon Conservation Strategy, 2016). The project occurs on the east side of the mainstem Willamette in kilometer slices 160-161 (http://ise.uoregon.edu/slices/Main.html). Truax Island is bordered on the south side by Dead River Slough which flows into the Willamette River. The Willamette River is the northern border of Truax Island. The primary watershed issue being addressed during the current Phase 1 is restoration of 40 acres of floodplain forest in the active floodplain which was cleared for agricultural use, and addressing riparian forest degraded by invasive species, as well as enhancing a small area of oak-pine uplands and adding turtle basking structures. Site preparation is underway thanks to a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust (OWEB 216-8201-15835). Funding is sought to install 62,160 native stems to reestablish a native floodplain forest (31.3 acres) and enhance oak-pine uplands through oak release and planting of upland native plants (8.7 acres). The future Phase 2 will build on the vegetation work and will focus on increasing connectivity to Dead River Slough and a relict gravel pit for juvenile salmonids and enhancing Western pond turtle habitat. Project partners include Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Knife River Corporation, River Design Group, Department of Geologic and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), The Nature Conservancy, and the Calapooia Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site is located in a priority watershed area and implements actions identified in multiple plans, including the Upper Willamette Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead, Oregon Conservation Strategy, and the Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Action Plan.
- A diversity of watershed habitat benefits will result from the proposed restoration activities, including oak and western pond turtle habitats.
- The project builds connectivity with upstream and downstream restoration efforts.
- Multiple partners are involved in the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support. The applicant has engaged a diversity of partners necessary for this project to be successful, including neighboring agricultural landowners, state agencies, and an on-site gravel industry stakeholder.

- The project site provides opportunities to raise public awareness about watershed restoration.

Concerns

- Since previous turtle habitat projects have been unsuccessful, consulting ODFW to ensure turtle predation concerns are addressed and their life history is considered in scheduling restoration activities, such as timing of mowing and herbicide use, would improve technical soundness of the restoration approach.
- Planting plans for some of the habitat types may not be the most effective approach for the site. For example, planting an understory of herbaceous woody vegetation in the oak habitat area is discouraged. Given the scale of the site and the diversity of vegetation communities, the project would benefit from vetting the revegetation plan with a technical team to ensure planting approaches are likely to succeed and provide significant watershed benefits for the investment.

Concluding Analysis

Since initial site preparation has begun on the site with match funding sources, there is an element of timeliness and need to implement replanting strategies in order to maintain gains from this investment. The proposed restoration has potential to provide significant ecological uplift to priority habitats in a location that leverages connectivity with restoration investments in adjacent areas. However, proposed restoration strategies for western pond turtle and oak habitats have uncertain likelihood of success, which limits the benefit of this watershed investment. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to consult with ODFW on pond turtle habitat, and work with technical advisors on planting techniques, especially in the oak habitat, to ensure planting designs are site-appropriate and technically sound for the habitat type.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3026-16717
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Oak Creek Fish Passage Phase I
Applicant: Marys River WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Benton
OWEB Request: $139,918
Total Cost: $320,457

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in the Oak Creek watershed, a tributary which enters the Marys River in Corvallis a mile from its confluence with the Willamette. This proposal represents the first phase to address fish passage barriers identified in Marys River Watershed Council's TA grant (#219-3007). Working with project partners Benton County Public Works and OSU Research Forests, we propose to replace two culverts which prevent access to the high value cutthroat trout habitat in the upper reaches of the basin. A third previously impassable culvert was replaced by Starker Forests in summer 2018, opening access to the upper reaches of Alder Creek, Oak Creek's major tributary. Removal of these barriers also builds upon the removal of a dam previously installed near OSU's Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture. The Oak Creek Action Team convened by four professors in the late 1990's recommended and oversaw the removal in 2006.The Benton County culvert located on Alder/Skunk Creek just upstream of its confluence with Oak Creek will replace a culvert that is undersized and perched with the bottom ribs rotted out, presenting a hazard to migrating aquatic life. For this crossing, we are proposing an open bottom multi-plate arch culvert with concrete footings and simulated stream bed. Replacement of this culvert opens up year-round passage for 4.65 miles in the Alder and Oak Cr drainages, which is presently truncated on mainstem Oak Creek at the OSU McDonald Forest research weir (a complete passage barrier to be addressed with our TA grant).The OSU Research Forests culvert is on forest road #6020 upstream of the research weir, with high quality habitat in two branches of Oak Cr for 1.43 total miles above it. The current culvert in this location is undersized, perched and rotted in the center with about a 2' drop to the stream through the center of the pipe at low flows. We propose to install a counter-sunk squash pipe with passively-seeded stream bed at this location.

This project is located in the Oak Creek watershed, a tributary which enters the Marys River in Corvallis a mile from its confluence with the Willamette. This proposal represents the first phase to address fish passage barriers identified in Marys River Watershed Council's TA grant (#219-3007). Working with project partners Benton County Public Works and OSU Research Forests, we propose to replace two culverts which prevent access to the high value cutthroat trout habitat in the upper reaches of the basin. A third previously impassable culvert was replaced by Starker Forests in summer 2018, opening access to the upper reaches of Alder Creek, Oak Creek's major tributary. Removal of these barriers also builds upon the removal of a dam previously installed near OSU's Oak Creek Center for Urban Horticulture. The Oak Creek Action Team convened by four professors in the late 1990's recommended and oversaw the removal in 2006.

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The OSU Research Forests culvert is on forest road #6020 upstream of the research weir, with high quality habitat in two branches of Oak Cr for 1.43 total miles above it. The current culvert in this location is undersized, perched and rotted in the center with about a 2' drop to the stream through the center of the pipe at low flows. We propose to install a counter-sunk squash pipe with passively-seeded stream bed at this location.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on OWEB technical assistance and stakeholder engagement investments.
- Undersized culverts that are in danger of failing and negatively impacting stream conditions will be addressed, which will also open access to cold water refugia habitat for native fish.
- An OSU concrete research weir located between the two project culverts will likely be removed in the future, and OSU plans to use this opportunity to study how barrier removal affects stream sediment transport.

Concerns

- There is uncertainty about whether the dam on an OSU property downstream of the project area is likely to be addressed.
- While there are plans to address the OSU research weir located between the two project culverts, it will not occur until after the current research project is completed in 2023.
- The project design approach could provide additional ecological benefit for the investment by incorporating instream habitat components.

Concluding Analysis

The project area provides a unique opportunity for a watershed restoration strategy to connect multiple land use types including agricultural, residential, urban, and forestry. The proposed culvert replacements will have limited benefits due to the downstream dam and research weir. The current stakeholder engagement project could provide an opportunity to continue conversations with OSU and secure a stronger commitment for addressing the downstream dam. Until there is more definitive indication these other barriers will be addressed in the near-term, the proposed restoration lacks urgency and has uncertain ecological benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3027-16614

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Feasibility Assessment of Pilot Cold Water Refuge Enhancement Technique

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $74,977

Total Cost: $101,658

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

LCEP requests $74,976 to assess the feasibility and develop 30% engineering designs for a pilot technique to enhance cold water refuges at the mouths of lower Columbia Gorge tributaries to benefit salmon and steelhead in the face of warming climate conditions. The importance of cold water refuges to salmon and steelhead migrating through the Columbia River is well documented, with steelhead using cold water refuges for days to weeks during the summer. Summertime water temperatures in the mainstem Columbia River have increased steadily over the last several decades, and recent annual peak temperatures have regularly exceeded 21°C and been as high as 24°C. These already stressful summer temperatures are predicted to continue to warm and the duration of that warm period is expected to increase. The warmest period typically occurs in July to early September, coincident with late-migrating summer Chinook and with substantial portions of the fall Chinook salmon and summer steelhead runs. Previous research identified several characteristics that make cold water areas along the mainstem suitable for salmonid use: 1) a temperature differential of >2°C with the mainstem, 2) water depth of >0.5 meters for juveniles and >2 meters for adults, and 3) size of > 1 acre. In the lower Columbia River below Bonneville Dam only the Kalama, Cowlitz, and Lewis rivers meet these criteria, leaving a distance of 57 miles between refuges in the Lewis River and Eagle Creek. To fill this spatial gap, we assessed the feasibility of expanding the cold water plumes of three lower Columbia Gorge tributaries, which meet the temperature criterion but not the size and depth criteria, through manipulating nearby topography. By mimicking topography at other documented thermal refuges, primarily Herman and Eagle creeks' confluences with the mainstem, we hope to deflect mainstem Columbia flow away from the confluences of smaller tributaries to expand plume size and depth to foster salmonid use.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and clearly describes a need for the proposed technical assistance.
- Enhancing cold water refugia addresses a key limiting factor for ESA-listed fish in the Columbia River. This technical assistance project provides an opportunity to design watershed restoration that will create cold water refugia fish habitat, and the proposed model may have potential to inform other cold water refugia habitat projects.

Concerns

- Portability of this work may be limited in its applicability to future projects due to differences in site conditions.
- There are a limited number of partners involved in the project.

Concluding Analysis

Cold water refuge for ESA-listed fish migrating along the Columbia River corridor is a key limiting factor in a priority location for their recovery. Restoring this habitat type in a large-scale river system is challenging, therefore, progress towards designing effective restoration projects will provide significant watershed benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,977

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,977

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3028-16639

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration--Technical Assistance

Applicant: The Xerces Society

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $74,952

Total Cost: $90,140

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

We will partner with restoration practitioners statewide to identify and protect freshwater mussels during restoration projects. Mussels are among the most important, yet overlooked, animals in Oregon's freshwater systems, providing valuable services to salmon and other organisms. Mussels purify water by filtration, increase macroinvertebrate abundance, support lamprey, and cycle nutrients. However, many of Oregon's native species risk extinction. Aquatic habitat restoration poses a significant emerging threat to these cryptic, frequently unnoticed animals. They are often discovered by restoration practitioners after site dewatering, at which point their chance of survival is limited. When mussel beds are lost, recovery can take decades.Our solution is to provide direct technical assistance to 18 existing restoration projects, affecting at least 20 river miles, including conducting mussel surveys, reviewing restoration plans and providing feedback on protecting mussels, and being present during restoration projects to coordinate mussel salvages or otherwise assist.Identified project partners and locations include: 1) McKenzie River Trust; Finn Rock Reach Preserve; McKenzie River near Blue River, Lane Co; 2) Luckiamute WC; South Fork Pedee Creek and Upper Luckiamute River, near Falls City, Polk Co; 3) Middle Fork Willamette WC at Elijah Bristow SP; Middle Fork Willamette River near Dexter, Lane Co; 4) BLM, South Fork Alsea River near Alsea, Benton Co; 5) MidCoast Watersheds Council; Bummer, Ernest, and Crazy Creeks; near Alsea, Benton and Lincoln Co; and North Creek near Lincoln City, Lincoln Co; and 6) CTUIR at restoration sites on the Middle Fork and North Fork John Day Rivers, and the Grand Ronde River and tributaries, Grant, Umatilla, and Union Co. Projects activities range from culvert replacements to large wood placement and floodplain and in-channel restoration. We will identify other partners through our complementary Stakeholder Engagement project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written, and provides a clear justification for the need to protect freshwater mussels in Oregon’s waterways.
- Proposed technical assistance activities are based on a technically sound Best Management Practices Manual, and will provide an effective resource for restoration practitioners.
- The applicant has relevant qualifications and experience for the proposed project.

- Project support is demonstrated by multiple letters of support.

Concerns

- Some project costs in the budget are unusually high, including costs for a wetsuit and travel costs. Additional explanation on these costs would help to determine whether they are necessary and reasonable.
- Given the broad extent of the mapped freshwater mussels, it will be difficult to have a signifciant impact with the limited available resources. Prioritizing geographies could be useful in helping to focus efforts.
- It is unclear whether all types of restoration projects are a risk to freshwater mussels, or whether there is a threshold at which watershed restoration work impacts mussels. For example, large wood placement projects that lay wood in the channel do not impact the stream to the same extent as large wood placement projects that bury the logs into the channel and may be more disruptive to mussel beds.

Concluding Analysis

This proactive approach for introducing Best Management Practices is likely to succeed in protecting native freshwater mussels during watershed restoration projects. Similar to lamprey, freshwater mussels are widely overlooked even though they play an important role in freshwater habitats. Raising awareness and teaching techniques for incorporating lamprey into restoration project design considerations made significant progress in protecting this species; therefore, it is expected the same result is likely to occur for freshwater mussels.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,952

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,952

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3029-16697
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring Phase 2
Applicant: Luckiamute WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Polk
OWEB Request: $48,152
Total Cost: $62,552

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) proposes to continue its temperature monitoring program. The project will collect continuous temperature data from surface waters in the Luckiamute River Watershed during the summer months of 2019 and 2020. The goal is to continue to fill a data gap of stream temperatures and trends in key locations to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects. Sites will be selected in order to characterize priority tributaries and stream reaches, detect trends, collect baseline data, and ground-truth results of the thermal loading model from the 2017 NetMap analysis. The LWC proposes 21 monitoring stations in the mid and upper Luckiamute watershed in Polk and Benton Counties. Work will include field deployment, mid-season checks, and retrieval of 21 loggers. The LWC will also implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control measures to ensure high-quality data that meets A-level standards. The LWC will share data through presentations and incorporation of web-based interpretation and visualization applications. Project partners include field and technical volunteers, Hancock Forest Management, and River Network.The Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) proposes to continue its temperature monitoring program. The project will collect continuous temperature data from surface waters in the Luckiamute River Watershed during the summer months of 2019 and 2020. The goal is to continue to fill a data gap of stream temperatures and trends in key locations to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects. Sites will be selected in order to characterize priority tributaries and stream reaches, detect trends, collect baseline data, and ground-truth results of the thermal loading model from the 2017 NetMap analysis. The LWC proposes 21 monitoring stations in the mid and upper Luckiamute watershed in Polk and Benton Counties. Work will include field deployment, mid-season checks, and retrieval of 21 loggers. The LWC will also implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control measures to ensure high-quality data that meets A-level standards. The LWC will share data through presentations and incorporation of web-based interpretation and visualization applications. Project partners include field and technical volunteers, Hancock Forest Management, and River Network.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has an existing DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP), and the application has a good explanation of monitoring methods and steps to manage and interpret the data.
- There is a sound rationale for and explanation of the sites they are choosing to monitor.

- The applicant has local support from relevant partners and some local landowners.
- The interactive web interface increase access to the data.
- A two-page handout for each participating landowner will explain what the data mean.
- The data are being collected to ground truth and inform the NetMap model to prioritize restoration actions.
- The application schedule incorporates a planning element for their Temperature Subcommittee and Project Review Committee to review and interpret the data for use in planning and prioritizing future restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Depending on the web interface developed, more time and resources might be needed to develop an effective online visualization tool in order to meet the objectives described in the application.
- Some sections of the application were overly long – particularly the issues section. Consider using bullet points to succinctly describe important content.

Monitoring Team Comments

• The applicant should consider monitoring water temperature year-round to adequately document thermal dynamics.

• The applicant should consider developing additional water temperature metrics beyond what was mentioned in the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring builds on a previously funded project that has demonstrated success.
- The application is well-written.
- Protocols described in the application are technically sound.
- Resulting monitoring data will be used to groundtruth the applicant’s NetMap watershed restoration planning tool that is used to identify and prioritize watershed projects.
- Multiple partners support this monitoring work, which is demonstrated by letters of support.
- The applicant has a demonstrated track record from previous monitoring work, which included effectively reviewing and reporting data.
- Landowners and the local community will be engaged as part of this monitoring project.
- Project costs are reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The proposed work shifts the direction of the applicant's monitoring approach, which previously included monitoring effectivessness of completed restoration projects. The current proposal focuses monitoring to only identifying areas with water temperatures well suited for fish rearing and migration in the forested reaches of the watershed to identify future restoration opportunities.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring is a continuation of a number of integrated efforts the applicant is implementing to build a comprehensive watershed restoration strategy. Monitoring data will characterize temperature conditions in forested fish rearing and migration habitat to identify priority tributaries and stream reaches for future restoration. The applicant has a history of adapting their restoration strategy based on lessons learned from monitoring data, which results in cost-effective prioritized restoration projects with a high likelihood for success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$48,152

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$48,152

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3030-16713

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Calapooia Environmental DNA Monitoring

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $48,378

Total Cost: $62,978

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The Calapooia Watershed Council's proposed environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring will occur on the mainstem Calapooia River/Sodom Ditch, from its confluence with the Willamette River in Albany to the end of anadromy on National Forest Lands at RM 72.0. 2) To best manage and restore native populations of aquatic organisms in the Willamette Valley, a baseline understanding of their distribution and habitat utilization is required. However, this critical information is largely lacking in the Calapooia River due to limitations in agency capacity and the elusiveness of certain species. Thus, management decisions regarding the declining native fish species often lack critical information. Spring Chinook in the Willamette River are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. With the recovery of UWR spring Chinook still attainable, valuable spatial information gathered with eDNA monitoring will begin to guide the restoration of important habitats and provide insights into the recovery of the population. 3) In order to make the most effective use of monitoring funds and enable instream restoration targeted at the reach-scale, the Calapooia Watershed Council seeks to address these information gaps regarding wild spring Chinook in the Calapooia River with eDNA monitoring. Environmental DNA (eDNA) is an innovative monitoring technique that collects and analyzes the DNA shed into the environment by an organism. By filtering stream water and analyzing the contents for the DNA of a particular species, the presence of that species can be determined with a high level of certainty. The results of the eDNA monitoring will inform the selection of instream habitat restoration sites, depict the current spatial distribution of spring Chinook in the Calapooia River, and provide insights for future monitoring.4) The CWC will be partnering with the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Weyerhaeuser. 1) The Calapooia Watershed Council's proposed environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring will occur on the mainstem Calapooia River/Sodom Ditch, from its confluence with the Willamette River in Albany to the end of anadromy on National Forest Lands at RM 72.0. 2) To best manage and restore native populations of aquatic organisms in the Willamette Valley, a baseline understanding of their distribution and habitat utilization is required. However, this critical information is largely lacking in the Calapooia River due to limitations in agency capacity and the elusiveness of certain species. Thus, management decisions regarding the declining native fish species often lack critical information. Spring Chinook in the Willamette River are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act. With the recovery of UWR spring Chinook still attainable, valuable spatial information gathered with eDNA monitoring will begin to guide the restoration of important habitats and provide insights into the recovery of the population. 3) In order to make the most effective use of monitoring funds

and enable instream restoration targeted at the reach-scale, the Calapooia Watershed Council seeks to address these information gaps regarding wild spring Chinook in the Calapooia River with eDNA monitoring. Environmental DNA (eDNA) is an innovative monitoring technique that collects and analyzes the DNA shed into the environment by an organism. By filtering stream water and analyzing the contents for the DNA of a particular species, the presence of that species can be determined with a high level of certainty. The results of the eDNA monitoring will inform the selection of instream habitat restoration sites, depict the current spatial distribution of spring Chinook in the Calapooia River, and provide insights for future monitoring.4) The CWC will be partnering with the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Weyerhaeuser.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application proposes an appropriate use of eDNA technology to detect Spring Chinook in the Calapooia River, where the species is believed to be at very low densities.
- The applicant has a realistic understanding of what the information this technology can provide.
- The applicant is leveraging an existing eDNA assay for Spring Chinook and they are going the extra step to verify it will detect Willamette river species in advance.
- The applicant is working closely with the National Genomics Center for Wildlife and Fish Conservation to ensure they are following the correct sampling collection method and samples are analyzed correctly.
- The applicant has a good track record of coordination with ODFW to help fill data gaps in the Calapooia River.
- This project provides a nice opportunity to engage a broad range of volunteers and engage underutilized groups to help collect water samples.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- With the low numbers of Spring Chinook in the Calapooia, they may not detect any DNA, but that would be important information.
- The application mentions leveraging the water temperature data they are collecting with another monitoring grant, but this was not described in the schedule and no funding is provided in the budget.
- It was not clear what the additional staff time in the budget was needed for since they describe this monitoring project as needing minimal effort to collect the data.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Collect a water sample from a known stream (outside the Calapooia) where Spring Chinook are present and submit it blindly to the lab to verify their ability to detect DNA.

• The final report should include information from the eDNA results and mapped relative abundance and incorporate existing data gathered from additional monitoring grants to inform future monitoring and restoration efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring protocols and use of eDNA data is technically sound.
- Resulting monitoring data will fill data gaps and inform future watershed restoration projects.
- The applicant's project manager has experience with this monitoring technique.
- The project is supported by a partnership with ODFW and National Genomics for Wildlife and Fish Commission.

Concerns

- It is unclear how other data, such as the temperature data referenced in the application, will be integrated with eDNA data. The proposed eDNA data alone may not help identifty potential watershed restoration sites. As a result, the certainty of success for this project is unclear without more information on how other watershed data will be incorporated with eDNA information to direct future projects with watershed health benefits.
- The application is unclear on what final products, such as a report, will result from this monitoring project.
- Costs for staff for the amount of work outlined in the application seem high. Without an explanation on the need for the number of hours for the project manager, executive director, and restoration program manager, it is unclear whether costs and hours are reasonable for achieving the scope of work described in the application.
- It is unclear what the outreach project components requiring education staff time will entail, and whether these components are necessary for the proposed monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed eDNA monitoring project has potential for providing useful information to determine the presence of spring Chinook that could inform ODFW management of the Calipooia River. Without additional details on how this eDNA data will be integrated with other watershed data to provide information that will be used to implement and direct watershed health projects, it is unclear whether this monitoring project is likely to succeed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3031-16637

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Engaging Stakeholders in Restoration to Enhance Drinking Water Quality

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $27,715

Total Cost: $52,840

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Coast Fork Willamette watershed is located in the southern most reaches of the Willamette Basin, in Lane County. As one of the two headwater rivers that create the mainstem Willamette River near Eugene, the Coast Fork Willamette Rivers' influence can be felt throughout the Willamette Basin. The Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC) continues to work collaboratively with partners to recruit stakeholders and encourage new projects that benefit fish, wildlife, natural ecosystems and human health. CFWWC is in the process of finalizing a 10-year Action Plan prioritizing work throughout the watershed. The result of this work has identified key areas that will provide the most ecologically significant impact for on the ground 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 to conduct on the ground restoration. The sensitive areas identified 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 Coast Fork Willamette River surface water for drinking water. Funding for this project will primarily support CFWWC staff time and travel required to conduct outreach efforts, build relationships with key landowners, and design projects for future restoration efforts. Primary project partners include the City of Cottage Grove, the City of Creswell, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, private landowners, and the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council. Secondary partners that will participate if appropriate based on landowner interest, future project design, current land use, and project location include McKenzie River Trust, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Services Agency, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by the applicant.
- The project outreach plan is based on drinking water source protection, and proposed landowner engagement methods have proven successful.
- 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.

- Support from both cities involved in the project is demonstrated by letters of support.
- Resulting restoration project development will be beneficial to the watershed.
- Stakeholder engagement integrates job opportunities for youth crews.
- The project is timely for identifying restoration opportunities that could potentially secure local funding sources.

Concerns

- The project problem statement is unclear.
- It will be difficult to track what actions landowners complete on their own in response to the stakeholder engagement activities.
- The cities' staff roles in this project are unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed stakeholder engagement project will reach a significant number of landowners in a community that has not yet been contacted through watershed related work. Framing the engagement conversation around drinking water concerns provides an effective common ground starting point to raise awareness about watersheds, and builds landowner interest to participate in activities that benefit the watershed. The applicant is encouraged to work with the county on trash pick up activities that may result from this stakeholder engagement work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$27,715

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$27,715

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3032-16649

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Engaging Diverse Stakeholders in Floodplain Restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $124,594

Total Cost: $161,131

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Through an OWEB Technical Assistance grant, the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC) has been working with Wolf Water Resources (W2r), and a robust technical team (Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept., Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service) to develop process-based floodplain restoration designs for Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) – targeting 800 acres – and the sections of the Middle Fork Willamette River (MFWR) and Lost Creek that flow through the park. Dam building on the MFWR and berm creation have resulted in the loss of dynamism and diverse habitat historically present in this floodplain environment. Restoration designs will be bold – including the consideration of “Stage 0” approaches. This type of restoration approach has been strictly implemented on Federal lands thus far. Applying this approach in a location with more logistical and social constraints is going to require significant social engagement in order to be successful. The logical and necessary next step in the effort to restore the EBSP floodplain is to engage stakeholders. EBSP is an extremely popular site with annual day-use attendance of 187,200 including frequent use by equestrian groups, trail runners, anglers, and boaters. We seek to explain the project and its rationale to neighbors, park visitors, and river users because stakeholder understanding and acceptance will be essential to restoration project success. We will utilize project tours, science pubs, open houses, social media, and other methods to do so. It will also be critical to engage with Tribes, river and land managers, permitting agencies, and other key organizations that have an interest in the site and can support the restoration activities. Engagement activities with these groups will primarily include meetings, information sharing, and project tours.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on an OWEB-funded technical assistance project.
- Stakeholder engagement activities are technically sound and described well in the application.
- The proposed stakeholder engagement is timely for development of the Elijah Bristow State Park restoration project, which will provide high ecological benefit for the watershed.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether alternatives to the proposed stage zero restoration approach were considered as part of the technical assistance work. If there are no restoration design alternatives under consideration, it is unclear what restoration project options are available in the event that engagement conversations result in no stakeholder support for stage zero restoration at this site.
- The proposed stakeholder engagement is described in the application as targeted; however, the stakeholders listed seem broader than is necessary to be effective. For example, all 9 federally recognized tribes in Oregon are identified when it would not be appropriate to engage more than the local geographically appropriate tribes. Additional information on why the proposed intensity of engagement is necessary and engages only the appropriate stakeholders for the resulting Elijah Bristow Park restoration project to be successful would provide helpful context.
- The number of staff hours seems high for the described goals, objectives, and tasks. It is also unclear whether some costs are necessary; for example, perhaps boats could be provided by partners instead of purchasing kayaks.

Concluding Analysis

Using the stage zero restoration approach at Elijah Bristow State Park is bold and will provide significant ecological benefits; and it will also require significant stakeholder engagement to be successful. Since using stage zero outside of USFS lands is new and experimental, it will be challenging to manage stakeholder expectations on how it will change this landscape. If stage zero is the only restoration alternative under consideration and it is unclear whether stakeholders will be comfortable with the uncertainty with this approach, there is a level of risk that the proposed stakeholder engagement will not lead to timely development of a watershed restoration project for implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3033-16691

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council Kellogg Dam Fish Passage

Applicant: North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $62,312

Total Cost: $112,698

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

NCUWC will engage stakeholders to create fish passage at Kellogg Dam, which blocks access to 9 miles of vital salmon, steelhead and lamprey habitat in the Kellogg/Mt. Scott Watersheds and off channel refugia for Clackamas and Willamette river populations. We will convene stakeholders into a Fish Passage Steering Committee that will provide the needed planning, coordinated action, and fundraising essential needed to create fish passage at Kellogg Dam and to take advantage of upcoming windows of opportunity. While public support for fish passage and/or dam removal is high, the lack of coherent stakeholder engagement and planning processes has led to missed opportunities for mitigation credits, agency funding processes, and other opportunities to advance fish passage forward. There are several upcoming opportunities to advance the project, but they are time-sensitive and steps must be taken now to prepare to seize them. NCUWC will rejuvenate stalled processes and consolidate uncoordinated, ineffective and sporadic planning, and advance the project toward the feasibility and design phases. Key results will be:-Re-engagement of stakeholders in securing fish passage-Convening these stakeholders in a Fish Passage Steering Committee that will coordinate work-Progress toward the feasibility, design and fundraising phasesWorking with a strong consultant with knowledge of both public and private opportunities for advancing restoration work and experience in mufti-agency watershed processes, we will achieve an essential step in rebuilding anadromous fish populations and watershed health in the Lower Willamette region.Committed partners include Cascade Environmental Group (CEG), City of Milwaukie, Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES), GeoEngineers, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, NOAA Fisheries, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, and other partners listed in the full application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed stakeholder engagement is likely to succeed in moving a high profile restoration project forward. This will build on previous efforts that addressed upstream barriers, and improved instream and riparian habitat.

- While there is already strong support demonstrated for dam removal, there is a clear need for an organization to lead a steering committee of key stakeholders to plan, coordinate, and fundraise for the restoration project that is likely to result from this effort.
- Project support is demonstrated by multiple letters of support.
- The consultant identified has relevant experience.
- The resulting planning documents will support fundraising efforts from diverse sources.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant has the capacity for the proposed project.
- Future restoration options may have a high cost for the resulting watershed benefit.

Concluding Analysis

The long-term goal of this project is to remove Kellogg dam and provide fish passage on an important tributary located in the lower Willamette River. This will significantly benefit fish using the drainage, including Coho and steelhead, by providing cold water refugia. Proposed activities described in this application will engage over 25 stakeholders and provide necessary coordination to move towards achieving the goal to address the negative impacts Kellogg dam has on migrating fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$62,312

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$62,312

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-3034-16715

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Beaver Creek Fish Passage Community

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $36,597

Total Cost: $84,179

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project will take place in the Beaver Creek watershed, the lowermost tributary to the Sandy River, in and near the Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, in Multnomah County.2) One remaining culvert either completely or partially blocks fish passage on Beaver Creek, home to endangered salmonids, following removal of two others in the past two years. Temperatures in Beaver Creek exceed salmonid rearing standards much of the summer due in part to lack of riparian canopy. Both fish passage and temperature reduction will support recovery of ESA listed salmon in the watershed. The culvert replacement previously completed on Beaver Creek at Stark St. was met with some resistance from neighbors over the road closure; due in part to poor communication and lack of awareness that endangered salmon depend on Beaver Creek. Community concerns hold the potential to jeopardize the implementation of another culvert replacement project scheduled for 2019. Habitat in many riparian areas is compromised by invasive vegetation along Beaver Creek. This project will address weed removal and native plant establishment in key riparian areas and provide critical direct stakeholder engagement opportunities in the restoration of the watershed.3) Stakeholder engagement activities include site tours of fish passage sites (4 tours with a total of 50 participants each year), work parties to restore native vegetation in riparian and sensitive areas (4+ events with 25 participants each) and tabling and other outreach events in the community (10 events reaching 1000 stakeholders) with the outcome of securing community support and active involvement in implementing fish passage and riparian vegetation restoration projects.4) Project Partners include East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, Multnomah County, Metro, Mt. Hood Community College, Cities of Gresham and Troutdale, Job Corps, Gresham Chamber of Commerce, Gresham and Reynolds School Districts, and others.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written.
- The project is located in a watershed with salmon bearing and 303(d) listed streams.
- Stakeholder engagement will target a diverse urban population with a variety of activities including face-to-face interactions, project tours, and social media.

Concerns

- Since the fish passage barrier projects will be implemented regardless of the proposed stakeholder engagement work, it is unclear whether the proposed project is needed.
- Additional description on how projects costs were determined would strengthen the application since it is unclear whether the budgeted cost for proposed community engagement staff time is warranted.
- 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 future restoration implementation project.

Concluding Analysis

Fish passage restoration projects scheduled to be implemented in 2019 offers a community engagement opportunity to raise community awareness about watershed restoration, and could potentially recruit involvement in future projects. Since stakeholder engagement is not necessary for the fish passage project implementation and it is unclear whether additional restoration project types will result from this proposed project, there is a is a low benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

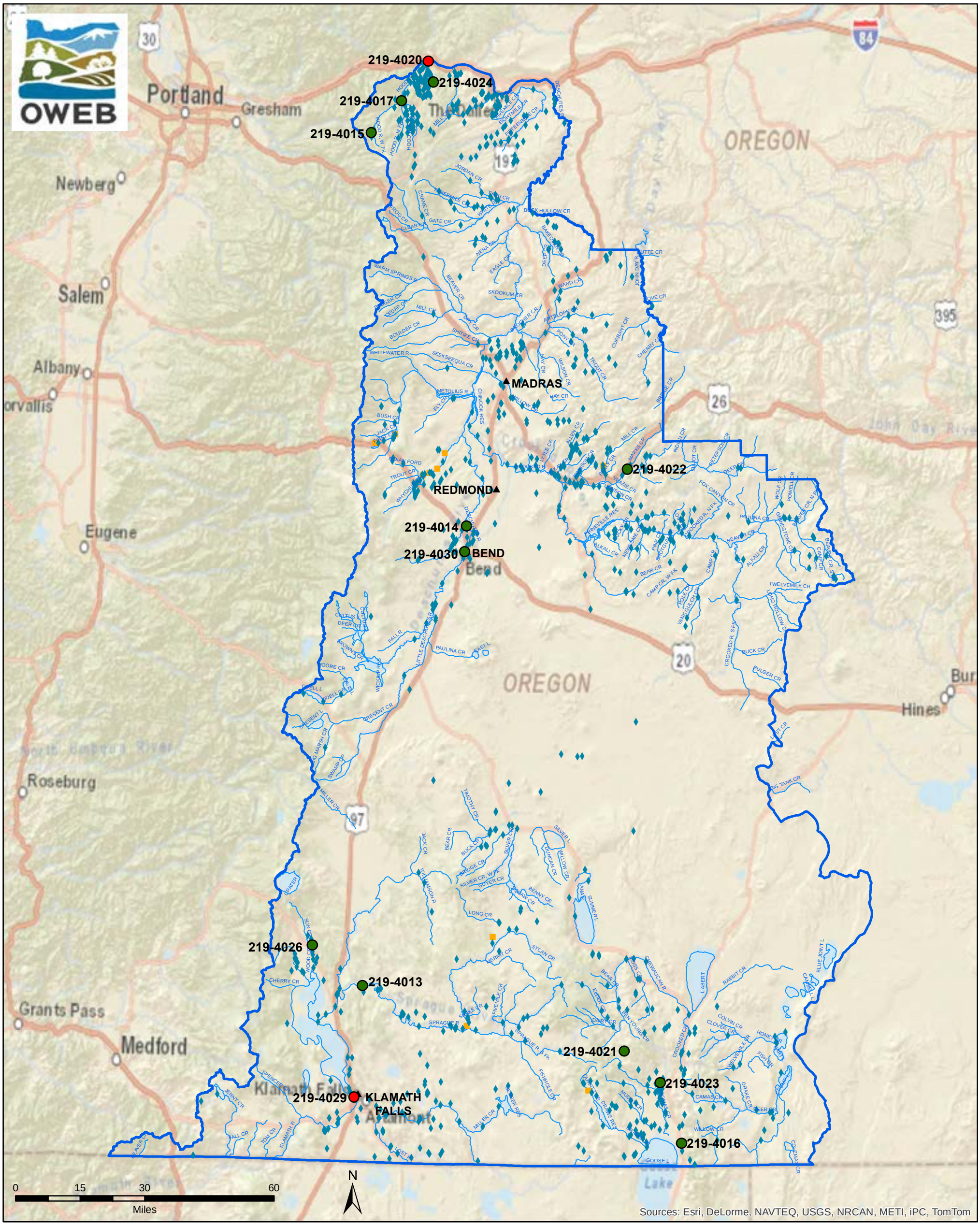
Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Central Oregon - Region 4 Fall 2018 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6 NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20190314

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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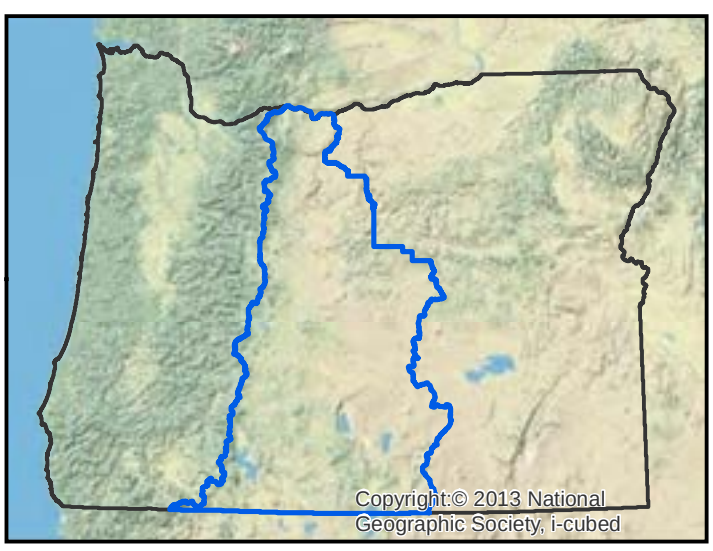

Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4015	Hood River SWCD	West Fork Hood River at Jones Creek Instream Habitat Project	Instream fish habitat structures will be placed along a one mile segment of the West Fork Hood River to improve habitat for spring Chinook, coho, and summer steelhead.	72,704	Hood River
219-4014	Deschutes River Conservancy	Swalley Piping Project, Elder Lateral	Irrigation piping of the Elder lateral will permanently conserve water instream to the Middle Deschutes River.	292,008	Deschutes
219-4013	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project - Forest Treatments	Small tree thinning and brush treatment will occur on forested private lands east of Chiloquin to promote wildlife resiliency and wildlife habitat.	537,878	Klamath
219-4017	DEE Irrigation District	Dee Irrigation District Water Conservation Project	The last phase in irrigation modernization for the District will permanently conserve water instream to the West Fork Hood River.	303,981	Hood River
219-4016	DEE Irrigation District	Cogswell Creek Fish Passage & Stream Restoration	Fish passage will be fully restored to the entire Cogswell Creek, a small east side tributary to Goose Lake.	366,518	Hood River
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,573,089**	

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				**1,573,089**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-4018	Discover Your Northwest DBA: Discover Your Forest	Lower Deep Creek Restoration Project Phase 2 (2019)	211,151	Crook
219-4019	Jefferson SWCD	Trout Creek Upland Habitat Improvement	417,333	Jefferson

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

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4023	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Thomas Creek & Tributaries Streams - Restoration and Fish Passage Reconnaissance and Design	The technical assistance will engage three landowners to develop partial engineered designs to improve fish passage at five barriers on Thomas, Cox, and Camp Creeks located just west of Lakeview.	56,934	Lake
219-4024	Hood River SWCD	Eastside Lateral Pipeline Design	Engineered designs will be completed and construction-ready to support future piping of a six mile canal that will permanently protect water instream to the East Fork Hood River.	35,090	Hood River
219-4022	Crook SWCD	Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed	Project partners will work with several private landowners to develop partial engineered designs to improve fish passage and fish screening on stream diversions along Ochoco Creek above Ochoco Reservoir.	74,871	Crook
219-4021	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Thomas Creek Watershed Forest Health Mapping & Inventory	An eight step model will be used to engage and inform landowners, characterize timber and other natural resources to develop landowner specific management plans to promote forest health and wildlife habitat.	51,150	Lake
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**218,045**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4020	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan	The Lower Columbia Estuary 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.	74,995	Hood River
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**293,040**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-4025	Deschutes SWCD	Lundy Ditch Feasibility	45,851	Deschutes

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

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-4030	The Xerces Society	Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration--Stakeholder Engagement	Workshops and technical assistance will be provided to restoration practitioners in an effort to engage and facilitate the protection of freshwater mussels during stream restoration.	55,167	Deschutes
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**55,167**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**55,167**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
None					

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

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4026	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Recovery of a threatened amphibian after invader removal	Oregon spotted frogs will be monitored to evaluate their response to bull frog removal.	195,483	Klamath
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**195,483**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-4029	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Continuation Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake	Field-based surveys will continue to classify stream types and fish suitability to provide critical updates to ODF's outdated and often unreliable stream classification database.	130,876	Klamath
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**326,359**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-4028	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Measuring the effects of beaver dam analogs for restoration on the South Fork of the Crooked River	48,801	Crook

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**2,041,784**	**19%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**10,554,731**	

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

Application Number: 219-4013-16589

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project - Forest Treatments

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $537,878

Total Cost: $9,591,331

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Fire suppression and past forest practices in and around Chiloquin, Oregon, have altered forest structure and watershed function. Increased stand density and understory growth have reduced vegetation vigor and diversity, leaving entire landscapes vulnerable to drought, catastrophic wildfire, or other disturbances such as insects or disease. Changes in precipitation infiltration, water storage, and riparian condition have altered the hydrologic regime and water quality, altering habitat conditions and availability for T&E species such as the Oregon spotted frog, shortnose sucker, Lost River sucker, bull trout, and northern spotted owl. Forest restoration to historical conditions will restore and protect conservation values. The Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project (CCFFP) will restore forest health and resiliency across 184,370 acres of private and federal U.S. Forest Service land by engaging the community and implementing phased treatment of overstocked dry-type forests. The area is identified as a high-risk for wildland fire in the Chiloquin Community and Klamath County Wildfire Protection Plans. Vegetation and wildfire risk mapping has been completed for all of the private land, and crosswalks have been used to identify treatments for each stand. Outreach and education to 2,841 private landowners began with mailings and workshops in 2017, and will continue throughout the project to build a stakeholder base necessary for landscape implementation and long-term maintenance. Conservation practices that will be used to restore forest health and wildlife habitat include: brush management, fuel breaks, forest slash treatment, forest stand improvement (thinning), and tree/shrub pruning.Key partners include the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and governmental and non-governmental members of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Forestry treatments (small tree thinning and brush mowing) will improve watershed function with an increase in precipitation infiltration promoting understory vegetation growth and a decrease in risk and stress to mature trees left on the landscape from pest insects (e.g. bark beetles).
- The project builds off of successes gained through a current OWEB technical assistance grant.
- Proposed forestry treatments will improve wildlife habitat and forage availability.

- Management plans developed for each landowner will incorporate wildlife habitat improvements and wildfire education.
- The Wyden Amendment will be utilized to promote cross boundary forestry treatments between private and public lands.
- The project approach taken by the applicant and partners is strategic and utilizes an eight step model that has proven to be effective in neighboring Lake County for implementing similar cross boundary forestry treatments.
- The role of prescribed fire in contributing to the long-term maintenance and resiliency of the landscape is being discussed with the community.

Concerns

- Individual management plans with landowners have not been developed, which makes it challenging to discern the watershed and wildlife benefits without seeing actual prescriptions for each landowner.
- Mule deer could be negatively impacted by intense brush management, it would have been helpful to understand what type of prescriptions and subsequent monitoring will be employed to ensure that bitterbrush remains productive and abundant as appropriate to support mule deer populations.
- The long term benefits stated in the application are hinged upon the introduction of prescribed fire on the landscape, yet there is no guarantee this action will occur. Implementing prescribed fire requires risk management and private landowner trust, neither of which is discussed in the application.
- It is challenging to understand from the application how contracts with landowners will be managed, maintained, and monitored over time. More detail about contract management with each landowner would have been helpful.
- It is unclear what the landowners' role will be in maintaining the treatments completed with grant funds, specifically what the expectation is from the applicant and its partners.
- The timing associated with implementing match fund sources is unclear, specifically the implementation timeframe and location for treatments on Fremont Winema National Forest and landowner implementation timeframes with NRCS's Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) for this area. This information would have allowed for a better understanding of how matching fund sources complement this grant's focus area and timeline.
- The threatened Oregon spotted frog is listed as a beneficiary of these treatments, yet no critical habitat for the species is within the treatment area.

Concluding Analysis

The overall 184,370-acre project footprint provides an opportunity to implement landscape scale forestry treatments across ownerships that promote wildfire resiliency and watershed health. This proposal is the result of a methodical and successful model to work with community members so they are aware, informed, and engaged in the process of restoring their forests. The application clearly articulates the need for forest health treatments in this geography; however, it fell short on details regarding wildlife considerations and expected benefits from small tree thinning and brush management. This project will work with willing landowners who are committed and interested in completing forest health activities on their lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$537,878

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$537,878

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4014-16605

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Swalley Piping Project, Elder Lateral

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $292,008

Total Cost: $1,021,090

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The Swalley Elder Lateral Piping Project is located in Bend north of Cooley Road crossing under the Old Bend-Redmond Highway in Deschutes County. 2)This project addresses critical streamflow issues that are a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River. 3) Swalley Irrigation district serves 4,331 acres in the Upper Deschutes Basin. This project will pipe approximately 10,057 feet of district conveyance canals and permanently protect rights 395 acre-feet (1.3 cfs) into the Deschutes River. The project will also eliminate approximately 100 individual irrigation pumps, estimated to save irrigators up to 286,566 kWh a year. Swalley will construct the project in fall-winter 2019-2020. The Deschutes River Conservancy will manage the administrative process through the Oregon Water Resources Department to permanently protect conserved water instream.4) Project partners include Swalley Irrigation District, the Deschutes River Conservancy and the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Both the watershed context and ecological benefits are described well in the application, making it clear the proposed restoration is the right action in the right place to achieve the desired outcomes.
- The applicant has a proven track record for completing conserved water transactions.
- Since the Swalley Irrigation District has a completed and approved watershed plan, this project is permit-ready.
- Due to the extensive planning effort to date, the applicant and District are operating in a strategic manner to upgrade the District’s delivery system.
- Piping the Elder lateral will result in 1.3 cfs of senior water rights permanently conserved to the Middle Deschutes Riv

Concerns

- The power savings discussed in the application will only occur once the main canal is piped; therefore, savings will not be realized with the implementation of this project.

- There is no documentation of landowner support in the application, nor any mention of farm irrigation water management. It would have been helpful to understand how landowner irrigation operations will become more efficient with the delivery of pressurized water.
- The applicant proposes 75% of water savings to be permanently conserved. The ecological value of the project would have been stronger if 100% of the water savings were to be permanently protected.

Concluding Analysis

Piping the Elder lateral in the Swalley Irrigation District is another step towards the District's commitment to irrigation modernization. The District's watershed plan was recently federally approved, which secures their match funding source from the current PL-566 fund and making this OWEB request a timely investment. The overall watershed plan will take roughly 10 years to implement and is heavily contingent on available funding. With this investment of public funds to modernize water delivery systems, a commitment from the landowners to implement on-farm irrigation water efficiencies would have strengthened the proposed project. The applicant and District demonstrate a strong partnership and commitment to achieving the ecological goal of improving stream flow in the Deschutes River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$292,008

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$292,008

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4015-16607

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Fork Hood River at Jones Creek Instream Habitat Project

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $72,704

Total Cost: $395,775

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed instream habitat enhancement project is along a 0.6-mile reach of the upper West Fork Hood River between the confluences with Jones Creek and Ladd Creek. The project is located on United States Forest Service (USFS) land on the Mt. Hood National Forest. The Upper West Fork provides some of the best spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook, coho, and summer steelhead in the Hood River basin because of its cold water temperatures and higher stream flows. However, past timber management practices (i.e., splash damming, stream cleaning, removal of large riparian conifers) have led to insufficient amounts of large wood instream, channel incision, and loss of connectivity between the main channel and historic side channels. These factors have resulted in reduced habitat quantity and complexity, including poor spawning substrate composition, low pool frequency, and little refuge from high velocities.The goals of the project are to improve and expand salmonid spawning and rearing habitat within the treatment reach . This will be accomplished by placing 380 pieces of large wood in 10- 15 structures. Large wood structures will improve spawning habitat by trapping and sorting spawning gravels. They will improve rearing habitat by maintaining or reconnecting side channels, creating new pools, partitioning flow, increasing cover, and improving stream food web dynamics. The project will be managed by USFS staff. USFS has provided the large wood and paid for its delivery to the site, and performed a modeling analysis of the design. Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) developed the design for this project and will assist with implementation oversight. Hood River Watershed Group staff will assist with contract administration and monitoring. USFS and CTWS have implemented several projects in the Upper West Fork and its tributaries over the past 10 years. The proposed project complements these projects and builds off of the lessons learned.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The location of this project is a high priority for fish habitat restoration because it is not impacted by siltation from glacial tributaries and is a designated cold water refugia.
- The actions proposed in this project are identified in recovery planning documents for ESA-listed salmonids. The applicant and their partners have a proven track record with related restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- The project builds off previous restoration efforts and incorporates key lessons learned.

- The project is cost effective by utilizing whole trees salvaged from nearby hazard tree removal on USFS lands.

Concerns

- The design plans included in the application are light on details and do not include engineered drawings or construction plans. This additional information would have been helpful to determine whether the design intent will effectively accomplish project goals.
- The long-term objectives for the landowner should include management specifically designed to grow larger trees in the riparian area for future large wood recruitment.

Concluding Analysis

The West Fork of the Hood River bolsters some of the best remaining spawning and rearing habitat in the entire Hood River basin. The area of focus for the project partners presents an opportunity to improve these conditions while promoting floodplain inundation with the addition of whole large trees. This project complements on-going efforts in the West Fork of the Hood River, and will specifically address limiting factors for several ESA-listed salmonids. The project is cost effective, has high potential for success, and demonstrates an effective working relationship with local, federal, and tribal partners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$72,704

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$72,704

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4016-16609

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cogswell Creek Fish Passage & Stream Restoration

Applicant: Lakeview SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $366,518

Total Cost: $482,120

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Cogswell Creek is a steep to low gradient stream south of Lakeview flowing from the west out of the Warner Mountains into Goose Lake. 2) There are multiple irrigation diversions and a road culvert that pose multiple problems including, fish passage, altered sediment transport regimes, and in stream push up dams that require constant maintenance. The only consistent stream flow is in the upper reaches of the stream to which fish access is limited. 3) The restoration components are as follows: Replace push-up diversions with stream simulation concrete wall diversion with closeable headgates; replace failing concrete diversion with new diversion which allows for fish passage; replace perched culvert barrier with pre-fabricated steel bridge; install a screen and pipeline on the primary ditch of concern for fish entrapment, and install instream fish habitat features. 4) Partners include: OWRD, ODFW, USFWS, USFS, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County SWCD, and the landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed system-wide approach will address all diversions and barriers to fish movement on Cogswell Creek, which will allow for a complete barrier-free perennial tributary to Goose Lake.
- The project includes instream habitat and bank stability treatments to improve overall riparian and aquatic conditions for redband trout.
- Landowner support for the project is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- Replacing and upgrading diversions will allow for easier maintenance of structures, improved water management and delivery consistency, and an opportunity to measure flow at each diversion structure.
- The applicant has a proven track record in the community for building partnerships and recruiting participation from private landowners.
- The design detail provided in this application provides insight on the proposed approach and technique.
- This project builds off a recently completed OWEB technical assistance grant that funded engineering and planning to a 60% design level.

Concerns

- Project designs in the application do not include ODFW fish passage approval; this would have been helpful to determine whether ODFW will consider the project technically sound.
- The application includes little discussion about adjacent land use and riparian health. Riparian enhancements were discussed but not elaborated on. It would have been helpful to understand how this investment will be protected from from adjacent land use impacts.
- The design includes large wood placements on the floodplain and bank log jams. Ballast rock and existing vegetation will be primary anchors for this material. It is unclear from the application what the potential is for this material to mobilize downstream and whether this could be tolerated, particularly given a major highway crossing is downstream of the majority of the work being proposed.
- Including detail in the application on how the stream's hydrology was calculated and analyzed would assist with evaluating the design features and their ability to accomplish the project goals and objectives.
- A completed design set would have provided more confidence that this project could attain necessary permits and meet the desired passage and habitat objectives state in the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant was awarded a technical assistance grant from OWEB to bring each of the water users together to determine how best to collaborate in seeking solutions for fish passage and improved water delivery. As a result of this technical assistance work, this restoration project proposal includes all the water users on Cogswell Creek in voluntary conservation work that will provide a meaningful cost-benefit for the watershed investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$366,518

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$366,518

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4017-16663

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Dee Irrigation District Water Conservation Project

Applicant: DEE Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $303,981

Total Cost: $2,823,515

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will take place within 840 acres of Dee Irrigation District (DID), located between the West and East forks of the Hood River in the upper west side of the Hood River Valley. The purposes of this project are to conserve water instream and eliminate sources of pollution to the West and East forks of the Hood River. DID's unpressurized, partially open distribution system is prone to leaks and breaks, and the system includes seven end spills, which result in DID diverting more water than is necessary from the West Fork Hood River. (An 'end spill' occurs when water not utilized for irrigation returns to the river, several miles downstream of the diversion, at the end of each distribution line.) The end spills also cause chemical (nutrients, sediment, bacteria, and pesticides) and thermal pollution to the West Fork and East Fork Hood River. Low flows in the West Fork Hood River are a limiting factor for threatened Chinook, steelhead, and coho populations. In addition, both the West Fork and East Fork have temperature TMDLs. Upgrading DID's distribution system to a pressurized pipeline will save an estimated 2 cfs (1 cfs of which will be protected through a Conserved Water Allocation). This will increase instream flows on approximately 6 miles of the West Fork Hood River and will eliminate chemical and thermal pollution of the West and East Fork Hood River from DID's distribution system. Project partners include Dee Irrigation District, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Hood River Watershed Group.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed canal and ditch piping will complete the modernization of the Dee Irrigation District's distribution system.
- The project will result in 1 cfs permanently protected in the West Fork Hood River.
- A flow meter will be installed on each turnout, which will allow the District to carefully monitor water use.
- The new piping infrastructure will eliminate all of the end spills, which are speculated to increase sediment and pollutant run-off, degrading water quality.
- The applicant addressed previous review team comments regarding the permanent protection of water instream.
- The OWRD match funding source, has been awarded to the District so the project is ready for implementation.

Concerns

- The project is anticipated to save 2 cfs; however, the District is only committing 1 cfs to be permanently protected instream. The full ecological potential of this project will not be realized.
- The water quality benefits may be overstated as these are not based on actual data comparisons; however, piping will fully eliminate all end spills, which will eliminate any potential pollutants that could be degrading water quality.
- The overall project costs seem expensive for the ecological value that will be gained.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the last phase for the Dee Irrigation District to become fully modernized by piping the entire distribution system. The District has a history of conservation practice, and with flow meters installed at each turnout, the District will have the capability to monitor water use that may offer potential to realize water savings on farm.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$303,981

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$303,981

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4018-16698

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Deep Creek Restoration Project – Phase 2 (2019)

Applicant: Discover Your Northwest DBA: Discover Your Forest

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $211,151

Total Cost: $323,976

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Deep Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (Phase 2 - 2019) will be a continuation of in-stream and riparian restoration activities that were implemented in the summer of 2018 (Phase 1). This application seeks additional funding to continue a more involved project restoration approach and increased community engagement through partnership with Discover Your Forest. Feedback received by the US Forest Service (USFS) and its partners in the months leading up to Phase 1 implementation, resulted in an adaptive management hybrid design that created more immediate habitat features, relative to the initial design of 2015. This has been deemed a more desirable project design for all partners involved. Phase 2 will complete a series of treatments planned and implemented to improve aquatic habitat conditions and riparian function within the Deep Creek watershed. This watershed represents the most interconnected habitat for Redband trout in the Crooked River basin. Proposed activities would occur in the lower half of Deep Creek and dovetail with recently completed work including Crazy and Jackson creeks (see map – Jackson Creek is the upper half of Deep Creek). The purpose and need for these restoration activities is to enhance and recover habitat for Redband trout, Columbia spotted frog and other riparian dependent aquatic, wildlife, and plant species. Currently, untreated floodplain habitat is deficient in the quantity and quality of large woody debris and pools, and exceeds standards for bank stability and width/depth ratios. As with Phase 1, this project phase will match OWEB funds with significant USFS and partner funding and includes placement of large woody debris complexes in 6 distinct stream segments, and plug and fill work to aggrade the channel in the lower reach, Phase 2 include planting of additional native riparian plants across impacted floodplain, and the installation of cattle guards to protect this significant restoration investment.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Deep Creek is a high priority for fish habitat restoration. The system is a stronghold for redband trout and offers larger base flows than the neighboring North Fork Crooked River.
- The applicant and their partners have applied lessons learned from other Stage 0 restoration projects in the region.
- The approach and technique proposed had local peer review.

- Phase I implementation was delayed, which allowed for more lessons learned and local peer review to be incorporated into the implementation of phase I and the design approach for the proposed phase II construction.
- The applicant has a public awareness plan.

Concerns

- Without allowing time to observe how the stream system will respond to the new approach applied during phase I implementation (completed October 2018), the sense of urgency for moving forward with phase II is not justified.
- The project site is part of a grazing allotment. The application lacks sufficient detail to help understand how these investments will be protected. For example, no specifications or locations are identified for the enclosures discussed and cattle guards to be installed are not identified on a map. The impact of these actions on the project site are unclear without further information.
- The maps included in the application suggest there will be restoration in Middle and Upper Deep Creek, yet there is no detail or designs provided that describe what types of actions are proposed in these locations. More detail on these proposed actions and the ecological benefit these actions will provide would have been helpful.
- Dispersed camping is a known problem in this area and has occurred on the project site, yet the application fails to articulate how the Forest Service will manage this to ensure restoration investments made will be protected from dispersed camping

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes a continuation of instream and floodplain restoration actions on lower Deep Creek in the Ochoco National Forest. Phase I was partially funded by OWEB in 2015, yet implementation was delayed till fall 2018 due to fire concerns, solar eclipse activity, and USFS personnel changes. The delay turned out to be advantageous for the USFS as new information about Stage 0 restoration was emerging, which allowed for more dialogue with local restoration practitioners. Given this, USFS revamped the approach and technique during implementation of phase I. However, this new approach forced construction to move slower than initially anticipated, leaving roughly half the initially planned restoration site un-touched, hence the proposed phase II to finish the work. Understanding the landscape and biological responses along with the ecological benefit from phase I implementation will provide information to determine whether the proposed phase II approach is likely to succeed. The applicant is encouraged to reapply when benefits of phase I can be reported on, in addition to including a detailed grazing management plan demonstrating how restoration investments will be protected over time.

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 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4019-16699

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Trout Creek Upland Habitat Improvement

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Jefferson

OWEB Request: $417,333

Total Cost: $623,166

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project lies within the Trout Creek Watershed, an east side tributary to the Deschutes River. Located in Jefferson County, the project sites are located south of Ashwood on two tributaries of Trout Creek; Calf Gulch and Thompson Creek. These two tributaries are critical to one of the very few perennial reaches of Trout Creek. Both of these creeks are intermittent on the surface, but provide much needed subterranean flow to Trout Creek, keeping a 4 mile reach with surface water year round. With water flow being listed as one of the major limiting factors in the East side tributaries of the Deschutes River, this particular stretch of creek is very important to the survival of ESA listed Mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead. The Stenersen property includes two tracts of land totaling 2250 acres. 1445 acres are located in Calf Gulch and 805 acres in Thompson Creek, both of which have an overabundance of western juniper. The understory throughout the property is in relatively good shape with diverse perennial bunchgrasses, forbs and shrubs, lending itself to high upland restoration potential. Removing the junipers, enhancing the herbaceous and shrubby vegetation will significantly improve the wildlife habitat and provide an increase in much needed water to both creeks as well as Trout Creek itself, increasing summer flows and potentially extending the perennial reach downstream, increasing usable summer habitat for steelhead juveniles. The landowner plans to cut a portion of the junipers with chainsaws and remove others with an excavator. The Ashwood-Antelope Rangeland Fire Protection Association will then perform prescribed burns to the area, while ODFW and the Jefferson SWCD will re-seed the areas cleared with the excavator. The SWCD will also plant willows along the two creeks to provide habitat and food for potential beaver relocation in the future.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project actions are timely given the current vegetation understory is in relatively good condition and the juniper encroachment is in phase I and II.
- A reduction in tree canopy will increase precipitation infiltration, which could increase local water tables and stream flow.
- The wildlife habitat should improve with less juniper density and reinvigorated grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

- The applicant has worked in the Trout Creek watershed for many years and is well aware of the issues and opportunities impacting fish and wildlife habitat resources.

Concerns

- The landowner is listed for completing the entire juniper cutting on 2,008 acres, which is a significant undertaking. The application lacks details on how well equipped, committed, and experienced the landowner is to complete this work.
- The cost per acre for juniper cutting seems low, which may be a result of relying too heavily on the landowner and could cause fatigue before accomplishing the entire scope of acres proposed for treatment.
- The proposal does not include a burn plan for the prescribed fire. Prescribed fire has risks associated with igniting high intensity crown fires. Without a burn plan, it is challenging to evaluate this activity due to the lack of understanding on how outreach, communication, smoke management, contingency planning, and monitoring will be implemented.
- It is unclear whether any outreach to adjacent neighbors has been completed, particularly regarding the prescribed fire component and whether or not neighbors support this type of management. Documenting support from adjacent landowners would have been helpful.
- The commitment in providing long term management of juniper encroachment is not well articulated in the application. The application points to long term prescribed fire, but offers no details on how this will be carried out.
- The Trout Creek watershed is heavily plagued with juniper encroachment, and this property represents a very small percentage of the overall problem. The application failed to explain the importance of juniper removal in this location within the context of the watershed.
- The local Rangeland Fire Protection Association (RFPA) is listed as the lead for the prescribed fire component, yet there is no letter of support pledging their partnership, capabilities, and interest in this project.

Concluding Analysis

This application proposes upland habitat restoration in two small tributary drainages of Trout Creek. Restoration activities include juniper cutting, prescribed fire, invasive species control, and riparian planting. The applicant has significant experience working in Trout Creek, and has spent the last 20 years partnering with ODFW implementing fish habitat and floodplain restoration projects to benefit mid-Columbia steelhead. This project with one landowner will remove juniper from the property and restore conditions more favorable for wildlife. The scope and scale of this project may be difficult to accomplish by only landowner labor alone. Additionally, without a burn plan in place, evaluating this component of the project is challenging to determine whether the project is technically sound and likely to succeed.

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 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4020-16537

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: $74,995

Total Cost: $95,214

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) requests $74,991 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

-
- This project will focus on an area of the Columbia River that has a known data gap regarding fish and habitat restoration opportunities.
- The project will build off similar work that occurred on the Washington side of the Columbia River along this reach.
- The emphasis on cold water refugia areas and the work currently being done in conjunction with the EPA will complement and support this effort.
- The restoration plan to be developed could strongly benefit fisheries, given that numerous species migrate up and down this corridor of the Columbia River.

- This area tends to get overlooked by federal and regulatory entities; the project will raise attention and identify opportunities to benefit listed salmonids.
- The applicant is well suited and experienced to complete the work proposed.

Concerns

- Given the large focus area and complex issues, the number of stakeholder meetings may not be enough to provide understanding and gain consensus moving forward.
- The applicant has project support documented in Multnomah and Hood River Counties, but no support documented in Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam Counties.
- There is a lack of details on how project development will occur after the restoration plan is completed. More information on this would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal for the third consecutive cycle. The applicant provided answers to previous review team comments. Habitat concerns in this portion of the Columbia River are not well known, notwithstanding the numerous ESA-listed salmonids that migrate up and down this corridor. The project will help bring attention to this area, engage appropriate stakeholders, characterize the resources based on constraints and opportunities, and develop a restoration plan to move forward. This portion of the Columbia River appears overlooked by many; the applicant is attempting to change that. The degraded and modified river corridor presents challenges, but without such a plan as the applicant proposes, opportunities may be getting overlooked as well.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,995

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 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4021-16606

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Thomas Creek Watershed Forest Health Mapping & Inventory

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $51,150

Total Cost: $83,650

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Thomas Creek Watershed Forest Health Project (TCWFHP) encompasses 46,266 acres of private, non-industrial forestland in Lake County, west of Lakeview. This landscape scale project is tied directly to Fremont-Winema National Forest's Thomas Creek Integrated Landscape Restoration Project, totaling 116,947 acres and is adjacent to the North Warner Forest Health Project where current treatment is underway. Through a century of fire suppression, the forests of this region have increased in density, lost diversity, and altered the structure and hydrologic function of watersheds. This loss from historic conditions has increased the scale and risk of fire severity, and reduced forest resiliency to drought, insects, and disease. High priority resources and habitat such as waterways and associated sensitive species, homes, ranch land, and private/industrial timberland are currently in jeopardy. The goal of the TCWFHP is to initiate a landscape-level forest management effort aimed at improving forest health conditions that will reverse the current fire trend and increase ecosystem resiliency.Based on similar efforts in Lake County, the TCWFHP uses an 8 step model founded on personal connections with informed and engaged private landowners. A comprehensive outreach, mapping, and inventory effort will inform and facilitate cross-boundary planning and implementation of forest health practices. Technical Assistance will be used to conduct targeted outreach to private landowners, including phone calls, mailings, site visits, forest management planning sessions, and educational workshops. Landowner education efforts will include two OSU Extension workshops for forest ecology/management, fire science and prioritization planning. Project partners include the Fremont Winema National Forest, ODF, NRCS, ODFW, and members of the Klamath- Lake Forest Health Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will build off similar successful efforts employed in the adjacent North Warner focus area.
- The approach is methodical and utilizes an eight-step model that has been successful in achieving desirable goals and objectives.
- The project is well supported with all appropriate entities participating.
- The timing of this project is critical, given the massive impacts the 2018 Watson Creek fire had on the neighboring watershed.

- The need and resource concerns are well described.
- The engagement with private landowners could spawn additional opportunities to benefit fish and wildlife.
- The applicant has a strong track record of working in the Thomas Creek watershed, previously implementing a variety of fish passage and instream habitat projects

Concerns

- There is no discussion or detail provided in the application on project alternatives.
- The application lacks information on the anticipated timeline of the Fremont-Winema National Forest's work proposed for this geography. They are NEPA ready, but a timeline of activities would have been helpful to understand the timeframe associated with proposed cross-boundary forestry treatments.
- Project success is dependent on landowner awareness and interest; however, not all landowners had been contacted at the time of application.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal builds off recent local efforts and synergy around dry forest restoration. The tactic taken by the applicant and partners will work sequentially through a model to engage and inform landowners, and characterize timber and other natural resources on-site to develop site specific management plans to achieve desirable results for forest health. This effort will complement a ridgetop to ridgetop approach for overall watershed health in the Thomas Creek benefiting a variety of fish and wildlife resources.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$51,150

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$51,150

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4022-16629

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fish Passage and Screening in the Upper Ochoco Creek Watershed

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $74,871

Total Cost: $98,875

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Our project area is anchored by the confluence of Ochoco and Marks Creeks in the Upper Ochoco Creek watershed. Ochoco Creek is a significant tributary to the Crooked River east of Prineville, OR.These streams exhibit rich ecological potential but past management and barriers to fish migration and survival have fettered their productivity. With proper fish passage and screening this lush valley has the opportunity to offer high value spawning and rearing habitat for redband trout while continuing to provide excellent big game habitat and agricultural production.This application seeks to secure funds to engage a professional engineer who will conduct necessary surveys and develop design packages needed to address 11 fish passage barriers and 9 fish screening locations to restore passage along 20.3 miles of Ochoco and Marks Creeks. The project includes two land ownerships, with both landowners excited to continue their work to improve fish habitat and overall watershed conditions. The designs produced through this project will be used to apply for available restoration funds. The combination of willing landowners, motivated agency staff, and high site potential make this an excellent opportunity to improve fish habitat while increasing the efficiency of agricultural operations. The project team, partnering with ODFW, NRCS, US Forest Service, OWRD and The Crooked River Watershed Council, has identified this application as a necessary step in a larger effort to restore this landscape and waterway to a fully functioning ecosystem.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application presents a methodical approach for addressing fish passage and screening on Ochoco and Marks Creeks, starting at the first known barrier above Ochoco Reservoir and moving upstream.
- The proposal will develop designs for 11 barriers and 9 associated screens to a 50% level, which should provide enough detail to build landowner and partner support for a chosen alternative.
- The watershed above Ochoco reservoir is a stronghold for Redband trout; this project presents an opportunity to restore habitat connectivity.
- The applicant has established working relationships with private landowners involved in the project.
- The proposal is cost effective, achieving 50% designs for the number of proposed barriers and screens.

- The level of detail in the application justifies the approach, methodology, and reasoning for the project.

Concerns

- The match listed from the Forest Service is based on a projection of potential restoration investments that may occur upstream of the project area. The applicability of this match to the proposed project is unclear.
- Since stream corridors in the project area have been negatively impacted by livestock use, restoring passage to areas with poor riparian habitat may limit the ecological benefit of the resulting restoration projects. It would be helpful to learn whether there is interest and future plans to protect and or enhance riparian areas from adjacent land use practices.
- The proposed budget may be inadequate to achieve 50% designs for all 11 diversions and 9 screens.

Concluding Analysis

The project will engage landowners and resource entities to partially design fish passage and screening solutions at 11 diversion structures upstream of Ochoco reservoir. The proposal presents a methodical approach, has garnered local support, and developed a cost effective budget from a qualified engineer. The applicant is strongly encouraged to coordinate closely with OWRD throughout the design process regarding potential impacts to their existing stream gage located at one of the diversions on Ochoco Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,871

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$74,871

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4023-16630

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Thomas Creek & Tributaries Streams - Restoration and Fish Passage Reconnaissance and Design

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $56,934

Total Cost: $71,434

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This stream reconnaissance & design project, located northwest of Lakeview seeks to improve stream channel function and fish passage on 4 priority streams in the Goose Lake Basin. In addition to Thomas Creek, the project will also develop fish passage solutions for 3 tributary streams including Bauers, Cox , and Camp Crks (collectively known as the project area). This project will involve site survey, project alternatives plan, and conceptual design for 5 diversion structures located on four adjoining private properties. The irrigation diversion structures currently affect stream corridor connectivity and fish passage. Additionally, historical channel straightening, livestock grazing, and resulting channel incision have impacted stream corridor and wetland function. One new property owner and three existing generational ranching families have come together to address these issues. The Goose Lake Fishes Conservation Strategy, 1995 and Goose Lake Tributaries Reconnaissance and Fish Passage Plan, 2017 identify these projects as high priorities with the potential to improve stream function and fish passage. Addressing the diversions, stream conditions, and land use will improve migration corridor connectivity between upper valley stream segments that provide spawning and rearing habitat, and highly productive Goose Lake. This project has opened the door to address issues associated with these important streams that affect all 9 Goose Lake fish species Modoc Sucker, Goose Lake Redband Trout, Goose Lake Tui Chub, Pit Sculpin, Pit-Klamath, Brook Lamprey, Speckled Dace, Pit Roach, Pit Sculpin, and Goose Lake Sucker. While sections of these streams are degraded, the majority of Thomas Creek and sections of Camp, Bauers, and Cox crks have all been improved through stream restoration and fish passage improvement efforts in the last 10 years. The current projects will add to past efforts and further benefit the watershed. Partners: USFWS, ODFW, DU, 4 landowners, SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project includes three adjoining private properties, two of which have worked on previous restoration projects with the applicant. The other parcel of private land has a new owner, which until now, had never been accessible for conservation work.

- The project will greatly benefit fish habitat connectivity; the project area provides habitat for up to nine species of fish, some of which are endemic to this basin.
- The outcome of the project will be 60% project designs that address each fish passage barrier on the creek.
- Access to private lands offers an opportunity for fish surveys to be completed that will provide a better understanding of fish species use and their distribution in the system.
- Adjacent land use will be addressed by developing a grazing plan for the new landowner, and plans to comprehensively address resource concerns along these stream corridors.
- The project is cost effective for the deliverables described.
- The applicant has demonstrated success in this type of work.
- The maps and photos provide clarity about the project area and its context in the watershed.

Concerns

- The application states this project will benefit nine different species of fish. However, no data or information of known presence, use, or distribution of these fish in the Thomas Creek watershed is provided, making it hard to evaluate how valuable this project will be to fish.

Concluding Analysis

The project presents an exciting opportunity to work with a private landowner that is new to voluntary conservation. The project will provide significant benefit for improving fish passage, connectivity, and riparian management along these high priority drainages. This project will complement previous fish passage projects in Thomas Creek completed by the applicant, which increases the benefit-cost ratio of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$56,934

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$56,934

Staff Conditions

As part of the project completion report, the applicant will provide fish survey data that was collected as part of this effort.

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

Application Number: 219-4024-16703
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Eastside Lateral Pipeline Design
Applicant: Hood River SWCD
Region: Central Oregon
County: Hood River
OWEB Request: $35,090
Total Cost: $504,400

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 6-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. Combined with evaporation and potential seepage loss, the canal loses 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

- The applicant addressed all of the previous review team comments, particularly regarding the design costs and breakdown of match funding.
- The proposed instream benefit from piping this lateral is ~10cfs, which will provide a strong boost in summer base flows on the East Fork Hood River. The increased streamflow is estimated to provide a 12% increase in available habitat, and up to a 25% increase under climate change scenarios.
- The added instream benefit from flow restoration for fish is well described and documented.
- The justification provided for piping this lateral is articulated well.

Concerns

- The benefits to spring Chinook may be overstated in the application.
- There is no discussion regarding any on-farm efficiencies that may be taking place in the service area of the East Fork Irrigation District. It would be helpful to know what landowners are doing to be more efficient.
- The application lacks information regarding how the District will manage operations during times of drought.

Concluding Analysis

The water savings from future piping of this lateral will provide a significant uplift to stream flows in the East Fork Hood River, which is designated habitat for ESA listed salmonids. The East Fork Irrigation District has implemented previous water conservation and fish passage projects with OWEB and tribal partners. The District and its partners are well suited to be successful at achieving the desired goals and objectives of this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$35,090

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$35,090

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4025-16685
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Lundy Ditch Feasibility
Applicant: Deschutes SWCD
Region: Central Oregon
County: Deschutes
OWEB Request: $45,851
Total Cost: $89,708

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed study would comprehensively examine the feasibility of converting a private open lateral (Lundy Ditch) to pipe. In addition examine potential of consolidating other private laterals into the Lundy Ditch and upgrading all on-farm irrigation systems. The study would assess the potential water and energy savings, technical feasibility, estimated costs and financial incentives with the goal of future on demand pressurized irrigation water that will reduce water usage and increase on-farm irrigation water efficiency and management. The potential water savings will contribute to the goal of maintaining and sustaining Spotted Frog habitat in the upper Deschutes River system as addressed in the Upper Deschutes Basin Study.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- All of the private landowners served through the Lundy Ditch are engaged and willing to participate in this project.
- The Deschutes SWCD has committed to developing on-farm plans with each landowner.

Concerns

- The application states that 42.1% of water is lost through seepage; however, no data is provided to support this.
- It is unclear what the ecological benefit of this project will be. The intent appears more to support landowners accessing their water than providing watershed value.
- There is no letter of support from the irrigation district indicating their support for this effort and whether they would be interested in conserving water instream.
- The application has inaccuracies regarding ditch capacity and potential water savings through piping; the numbers provided were incorrect.
- Project management is budgeted for 310 hours, which is unusually high given that a consultant is tasked with the majority of the project deliverables.
- The overall project costs for engineering services on 3,996 ft. of ditch seem high and unjustifiable.
- The application fails to articulate how the Lundy ditch ranks and prioritizes for modernization within the Arnold Irrigation District.

- Without a commitment to implement the Allocation of Conserved Water Statute, there is low likelihood that conserved water will be available for in-stream uses.

Concluding Analysis

The Lundy ditch is a private lateral that is fed from Arnold Irrigation District's main canal, which diverts water from the Upper Deschutes River. It is documented that the conveyance of water through this ditch does not always reach every patron who has legal access to withdraw water. The Deschutes SWCD has completed significant outreach and awareness to all the patrons on the ditch, resulting in this application to fix delivery issues. Unfortunately, the application presented a series of inaccuracies that caused confusion regarding water calculations, potential savings, and seepage loss. There is low confidence in the engineering approach and high costs estimated for such a small ditch. The application fell short on justifying the ecological value to be gained and how modernizing this ditch fits in with local priorities.

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 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4026-16677

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Recovery of a threatened amphibian after invader removal

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $195,483

Total Cost: $294,672

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Invasive species are important drivers of declines for many amphibians, including the threatened Oregon Spotted Frog (Rana pretiosa; OSF). This project will monitor the recovery of an OSF population during and after removal of invasive American Bullfrog (Lithobates catesbeianus; BF). We will collect pre- and post-treatment data on abundance, distribution, and habitat use by OSF and BF in wetlands near Fort Klamath, Klamath County. Bullfrog removal will begin late in year 1 and continue during the second year of the study (2020). This removal (i.e., restoration) will target vulnerable BF life stages and maximize the effect on the local BF population. Removal of BF from our study area should both reverse local decline of OSF and eliminate BF colonists that could reach upstream wetlands that BF do not currently occupy. We will work with neighbors and area agencies to confirm BF have not yet colonized those habitats in the northern Wood River valley and provide tools for BF detection and control locally. Deliverables include meetings with landowners and agencies in the Wood River/Upper Klamath lake area, annual updates to two OSF working groups, presentation of results at a regional conference of biologists and wetland managers, and publication of results in peer reviewed journal. This project addresses limiting factors, recommended conservation actions, and information needs for the study region and across the range of the OSF: it contributes information toward recovery of an ESA-listed species via improved local status and better understanding of effects and management of an important invader. The project capitalizes on an experienced team, matching resources, and a key location for limiting BF invasion in the valley. Partners include owners of the ranch where monitoring and removal are conducted, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and US Bureau of Land Management.Invasive species are important drivers of declines for many amphibians, including the threatened Oregon Spotted Frog (Rana pretiosa; OSF). This project will monitor the recovery of an OSF population during and after removal of invasive American Bullfrog (Lithobates catesbeianus; BF). We will collect pre- and post-treatment data on abundance, distribution, and habitat use by OSF and BF in wetlands near Fort Klamath, Klamath County. Bullfrog removal will begin late in year 1 and continue during the second year of the study (2020). This removal (i.e., restoration) will target vulnerable BF life stages and maximize the effect on the local BF population. Removal of BF from our study area should both reverse local decline of OSF and eliminate BF colonists that could reach upstream wetlands that BF do not currently occupy. We will work with neighbors and area agencies to confirm BF have not yet colonized those habitats in the northern Wood River valley and provide tools for BF detection and control locally. Deliverables include meetings with landowners and

agencies in the Wood River/Upper Klamath lake area, annual updates to two OSF working groups, presentation of results at a regional conference of biologists and wetland managers, and publication of results in peer reviewed journal. This project addresses limiting factors, recommended conservation actions, and information needs for the study region and across the range of the OSF: it contributes information toward recovery of an ESA-listed species via improved local status and better understanding of effects and management of an important invader. The project capitalizes on an experienced team, matching resources, and a key location for limiting BF invasion in the valley. Partners include owners of the ranch where monitoring and removal are conducted, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, US Geological Survey, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and US Bureau of Land Management.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed project will provide an important test of hypotheses relating to the effectiveness of bullfrog removal and Oregon spotted frog recovery in the Wood River Valley.
- This application will address several Oregon spotted frog data gaps and conservation actions described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and inform future bullfrog and Oregon spotted frog management actions.
- The application has a good description of the frog monitoring study design, sampling methodology and citation of protocols.
- The applicant provides evidence of landowner willingness, strong interagency support and collaboration, secured match and research permits.
- The applicant has a good track record and an experienced project team that proposes to collect, analyze, and report the data over a 5-year period, which helps place the overall expense of the project in context.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked a proper explanation of methods to collect water temperature, water level, and fish data; no protocols were cited.
- The application briefly mentioned fish monitoring, but its context was not addressed in the application.
- The application could have provided more information about how and what information will be disseminated to various landowners that will enable them to perform specific management actions on their property.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Incorporate continuous loggers to monitor water levels in the ponds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project team includes representatives from local, state, and federal entities who are well versed with Oregon spotted frog biology and conservation in this geographic area, and are being led by a researcher who is highly regarded by peers as an expert in this field.
- The landowner has participated in other conservation efforts on the property and is willing and engaged in this project.
- The project site represents an array of habitat features and distribution for bullfrogs and Oregon spotted frogs, including areas where bullfrogs do not currently exist. This presents an opportunity to be successful at bullfrog removal as well as yield valuable data on each species, which could be beneficial for future management considerations.
- The budget proposed provides detail and justification on need and expenses necessary to deliver on project goals and objectives.

Concerns

- The application provides detail on known bullfrog distribution in the Wood River valley; however, it fails to describe how bullfrogs are managed on public and private lands outside of this project site. The project site could be recolonized with bullfrogs over time if source populations are not managed or monitored.

Concluding Analysis

The Oregon spotted frog was federally listed in 2014, the Wood River valley is thought to be a stronghold for the species, second only to the Upper Deschutes River basin. One of the threats to the species viability is the invasive bullfrog. This project represents a combination of understanding Oregon spotted population, distribution, and survivability in direct correlation to aggressive bullfrog control on private land. One of the key attributes this project will determine is how well Oregon spotted frog recovers after bullfrog removal. This project will add valuable insight and data for conservation managers.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

$195,483

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$195,483

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-4027-16686

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Klamath Anadromous Reintroduction Monitoring

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $170,248

Total Cost: $261,838

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Following the removal of the four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in 2021, over 400 miles of habitat (Klamath County, OR, Lake County, OR, and Siskiyou County, CA) will be available for fall and spring-run Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, steelhead trout, and Pacific Lamprey. Currently, staff from ODFW located in Klamath Falls and The Klamath Tribes are developing the Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin (Reintroduction Implementation Plan), which will be complete by summer of 2019. The purpose of the Reintroduction Implementation Plan is to guide the monitoring activities associated with volitional recolonization of fall-run Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, and steelhead trout and the active reintroduction of spring-run Chinook Salmon. The Reintroduction Implementation Plan identifies the types of monitoring facilities and activities that will be needed to evaluate recolonization. The Reintroduction Implementation Plan also recommends baseline studies to occur prior to the removal of the dams, including genetically characterizing resident Redband Trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) prior to dam removal.The proposed monitoring project will fund ODFW and TU fish biologists to conduct pre-dam removal, baseline-monitoring activities, and identify locations and establish methods for monitoring facilities in preparation for the recolonization of anadromous fishes. These activities will be beneficial to establish monitoring activities that will need to occur immediately following dam removal in the year 2021, inform the active reintroduction of spring-run Chinook, and collect time-sensitive data that will only be useful if obtained before dams are removed.Project Partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, and California Depart. of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and The Klamath Tribes. Following the removal of the four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in 2021, over 400 miles of habitat (Klamath County, OR, Lake County, OR, and Siskiyou County, CA) will be available for fall and spring-run Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, steelhead trout, and Pacific Lamprey. Currently, staff from ODFW located in Klamath Falls and The Klamath Tribes are developing the Implementation Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fishes into the Oregon Portion of the Upper Klamath Basin (Reintroduction Implementation Plan), which will be complete by summer of 2019. The purpose of the Reintroduction Implementation Plan is to guide the monitoring activities associated with volitional recolonization of fall-run Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, and steelhead trout and the active reintroduction of spring-run Chinook Salmon. The Reintroduction Implementation Plan identifies the types of monitoring facilities and activities that will be needed to evaluate recolonization. The Reintroduction Implementation Plan also recommends

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- N/A

Monitoring Team Concerns

- N/A

Monitoring Team Comments

N/A

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

Application withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Withdrawn

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

Withdrawn

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

Application Number: 219-4028-16719

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Measuring the effects of beaver dam analogs for restoration on the South Fork of the Crooked River.

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $44,801

Total Cost: $77,418

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The South Fork of the Crooked River is a tributary of the Crooked River near Paulina, Oregon (Crook County). It is disconnected from portions of its floodplain and lacks woody riparian vegetation. We propose to monitor five beaver dam analogs (BDAs) that we installed on the South Fork in 2016. We will monitor geomorphology, vegetation, and stream temperatures using RTK-GPS, drone imagery, vegetation measurements, and temperature probes. Although a BDA study on nearby Bridge Creek shows promising results for BDAs as a restoration tool, rapid implementation of BDAs in Western drainages exceeds follow-up monitoring. Our site offers an opportunity to monitor BDAs in a low-gradient system with no extant woody riparian vegetation, which differs from the steeper gradient and intact riparian woody communities on Bridge Creek. The low gradient and lack of woody riparian vegetation on the South Fork raises these questions: (1) At what rate does aggradation occur behind BDAs when a low gradient may have limited capacity to transport sediment? (2) Can BDAs aid restoration practitioners to actively reestablish riparian woody species where none currently occur? (3) What is the effect of BDAs on stream temperatures without riparian shade? An understanding of aggradation is related to restoring vegetation because as streams aggrade they reconnect with their floodplains, thus raising the water table and supporting plants. Vegetation growth and stream temperature monitoring will be conducted by OSU-Cascades students with quality control administered by OSU-Cascades professors. Aggradation measurements will be done by Anabranch LLC. Deliverables include growth rates of woody riparian vegetation planted for restoration adjacent to and distant from BDAs, changes in green zone areas measured from drone imagery, temperature data above and below each structure, and measurements of sediment gains and losses in stream channels and banks near structures and in control reaches.The South Fork of the Crooked River is a tributary of the Crooked River near Paulina, Oregon (Crook County). It is disconnected from portions of its floodplain and lacks woody riparian vegetation. We propose to monitor five beaver dam analogs (BDAs) that we installed on the South Fork in 2016. We will monitor geomorphology, vegetation, and stream temperatures using RTK-GPS, drone imagery, vegetation measurements, and temperature probes. Although a BDA study on nearby Bridge Creek shows promising results for BDAs as a restoration tool, rapid implementation of BDAs in Western drainages exceeds follow-up monitoring. Our site offers an opportunity to monitor BDAs in a low-gradient system with no extant woody riparian vegetation, which differs from the steeper gradient and intact riparian woody communities on Bridge Creek. The low gradient and lack of woody riparian vegetation on

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous review comments and refined the scope of work and budget to focus the monitoring efforts proposed in this application.
- The application has a good justification of the data they propose to collect based on what information is available in the literature.
- The project leverages existing baseline and post-project data to collect additional years of data to understand longer term effects of BDAs.
- The application contained uploads illustrating data that have been collected in the past, and demonstrates the applicant's ability to adequately collect, manage, and report the information.
- The applicant is partnering with an experienced consultant to work on this project

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked an adequate description and citation of monitoring methods.
- The application lacked a description of how the data will be managed, analyzed and interpreted.
- The application states that they will generate a sediment budget by surveying cross sections. This approach does not take into consideration suspended sediment transport and should not be considered a true sediment budget.
- The application describes the limited information available on effects of BDAs, yet the schedule and application narrative does not indicate the development of a final report to produce findings associated with the monitoring actions proposed in the application

Monitoring Team Comments

Include in the schedule and application the development of a final report to interpret and report the monitoring findings.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant and landowner have a long history working together and are committed to conservation and understanding the effectiveness of beaver dam analogues (BDAs) installed on the property.
- The contractor implementing the work has significant experience implementing BDAs and conducting ecological response monitoring.
- Impacts of ongoing CREP plantings along the project site will be characterized in relation to BDA placement, allowing both the applicant and CREP planners to learn and adapt to changing conditions.
- The applicant addressed previous review team comments and submitted a refined approach and budget from the last submission.

Concerns

- The South Fork of the Crooked River has unique qualities compared to other nearby drainages, making the applicability of utilizing this project to inform other similar projects challenging.
- It is unclear how the applicant will draw conclusions and transfer this data that will result in future restoration.
- The monitoring protocols lack sufficient detail to determine technical soundness of the approach, specifically in providing information to understand whether BDAs actually raise and hold local water tables.

Concluding Analysis

The use of BDAs in stream restoration is growing, and the applicant seeks to fill key knowledge and information gaps with the proposed monitoring. The monitoring results would be difficult to apply elsewhere due to the unique hydrologic setting of the South Fork Crooked River. The lack of details about monitoring protocols and the relatively small cluster of BDAs included in the application limit the cost-benefit of this investment. The pathway leading to future restoration is unclear.

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 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4029-16584

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Continuation Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $130,876

Total Cost: $163,320

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) will merge the objectives and priorities of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in a collaborative effort to correct, update, and supplement the ODF Steam Classification Database with field-based data regarding stream and fish presence, fish passage barriers, and habitat restoration potential in Klamath and Lake Counties. This proposal is a continuation of status and trend monitoring funded through OWEB 217-4040-14296 in 2017. The Stream Classification Database is the basis on which ODF enforces Water Protection Rules of the Oregon Forest Practices Act as it regulates forestry on private and state-owned lands. The data for the ODF Klamath-Lake District is inaccurate and insufficient due to poor modelling and inadequate capacity to support a concerted ground-truthing effort. Consequently, piecemeal investigations for fish presence delay projects, frustrate partners, consume State resources, and ultimately do not provide sufficient assurance that aquatic resources are being adequately protected. The proposed project will provide a 3rd and 4th field season of data collection and ground-truthing to correct and confirm the highest priority areas based on ODF and ODFW objectives. Potential areas include the upper North Fork Sprague, upper Sycan, and upper Williamson watersheds. Surveys will include field verification of stream classification for 300 miles of streams, and physical habitat assessments for fish presence on 120 miles of streams. Project partners include ODF and ODFW. KWP is also working with ODFW and Trout Unlimited to ensure that data collection efforts regarding fish passage barriers are complementary, and not duplicative.Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP) will merge the objectives and priorities of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in a collaborative effort to correct, update, and supplement the ODF Steam Classification Database with field-based data regarding stream and fish presence, fish passage barriers, and habitat restoration potential in Klamath and Lake Counties. This proposal is a continuation of status and trend monitoring funded through OWEB 217-4040-14296 in 2017. The Stream Classification Database is the basis on which ODF enforces Water Protection Rules of the Oregon Forest Practices Act as it regulates forestry on private and state-owned lands. The data for the ODF Klamath-Lake District is inaccurate and insufficient due to poor modelling and inadequate capacity to support a concerted ground-truthing effort. Consequently, piecemeal investigations for fish presence delay projects, frustrate partners, consume State resources, and ultimately do not provide sufficient assurance that aquatic resources are being adequately protected. The proposed project will provide a 3rd and 4th field season of data collection and ground-truthing to correct

and confirm the highest priority areas based on ODF and ODFW objectives. Potential areas include the upper North Fork Sprague, upper Sycan, and upper Williamson watersheds. Surveys will include field verification of stream classification for 300 miles of streams, and physical habitat assessments for fish presence on 120 miles of streams. Project partners include ODF and ODFW. KWP is also working with ODFW and Trout Unlimited to ensure that data collection efforts regarding fish passage barriers are complementary, and not duplicative.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application helps fills data gaps related to the current stream network, fish presence, and potential fish barriers that exist.
- The application proposes to collect information that could inform restoration actions associated with future anadromous fish reintroduction plans.
- The application was well written, contains achievable goals and objectives and letters of support demonstrating coordination among the partners, and proposes a reasonable timeline to complete the proposed activities.
- The examples of data collected that were provided as uploads to the application describe the information gathered and how it can inform forest management and future restoration actions.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was unclear how intensive the forest management operations are in this region to gauge the importance and need for the data.
- There was not a strong description of the data quality assurance and quality control.
- The OPMT questioned if the information is communicated to USGS to update the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

Monitoring Team Comments

Report the updated stream layer to the USGS to help incorporate into the NHD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This proposal is a continuation of a currently funded OWEB grant, which thus far has been successful at achieving the desired goals and objectives.
- The project fills key data gaps in a database that is inaccurate for characterizing stream networks and associated fish use.
- Most of the project will take place on large industrial forest lands, which makes securing property access for the majority of the study area feasible.

- The current grant has already spawned a restoration project to be implemented in 2019 on Spencer Creek, which according to local resource biologists may be one of the first streams recolonized by anadromous fish post-dam removal on the Klamath River.

Concerns

- The survey approach taken in summer 2018 in which surveys were stopped when field crews discovered a fish barrier and anything upstream was categorized as “non-fish” may have limited opportunities. While this determination may be applicable for anadromous fish, opportunities may be missed for other native fish by disregarding drainages above known barriers. More information regarding this protocol and justification would have been helpful.
- While one opportunity for potential restoration is discussed, the application generally lacks a clear plan on how information collected will be used to inform future restoration.

Concluding Analysis

This project will support the continuation of updating the stream classification database. Currently, the applicant has an OWEB grant and has completed one field season (2018) with one more to go (2019) with this funding. The database employed by ODF and ODFW are grossly inaccurate as it was developed at a coarse scale for landscapes on the west side of Oregon. The applicant reported a successful first year in 2018, reaching more stream miles than anticipated. However, this was achieved due to the approach of discounting drainages above discovered barriers to fish. The pathway of this monitoring effort leading to restoration has resulted in one opportunistic project thus far.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$130,876

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 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 219-4030-16647

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Conserving Mussels in Aquatic Restoration--Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: The Xerces Society

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $55,167

Total Cost: $66,384

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Freshwater mussels provide an essential contribution to Oregon's freshwater quality and biodiversity, yet they frequently go unnoticed. They are sensitive to disturbance, and many of Oregon's native mussel species are at risk of extinction. Aquatic habitat restoration poses a significant emerging threat to mussels. These cryptic animals are often discovered by restoration practitioners only when sites are dewatered, at which point, their chance of survival is limited. When mussel beds are lost, it can take decades to restore this resource, and the ecological condition of an otherwise restored site devoid of mussels may be poorer than the site was prior to restoration.We will address this problem by engaging more than 400 restoration practitioners statewide in learning about how to protect mussels during restoration projects. We will reach people through presentations, day-long workshops, and site visits. Through each of these levels of engagement, we will provide information on surveying for mussels and implementing best management practices during restoration planning, and we will recruit stakeholders to be part of our complementary Technical Assistance project. We have identified priority regions to target for engaging stakeholders in mussel conservation, based upon the predicted location of climate refugia for these animals over the next 50 to 100 years. These priority counties include: Baker, Clackamas, Coos, Crook, Deschutes, Douglas, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Multnomah, Tillamook, Union, Wallowa, and Wasco.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposed will deliver revealing and useful information regarding the safeguarding of freshwater mussels, a suite of species that often are overlooked and unintentionally harmed during restoration projects.
- The benefits of this engagement will have impacts statewide.
- The Xerces Society is well suited and equipped to deliver on project goals and objectives.
- The emphasis on targeting engagement to restoration practitioners should raise awareness to provide guidance and technical resources in order to carefully craft salvage plans for future instream work.
- The project is well supported by a variety of appropriate partners.

Concerns

- It is unclear how this engagement will lead to actual eligible restoration projects, which is a requirement of the Stakeholder Engagement offering.
- Engagement with regulatory or permitting personnel is not mentioned in the application. The applicant may be missing an opportunity that could provide more substantial, long-term protection of freshwater mussel species.

Concluding Analysis

Freshwater mussels tend to be a lesser known part of the ecosystem, yet provide essential value in rivers and lakes. They also can be used as a key indicator species of water quality and fish habitat suitability. As instream and wetland restoration continues to thrive in Oregon, freshwater mussels can often be overlooked and inadvertently harmed or destroyed by activities striving to benefit overall aquatic health. The applicant is looking to build off their recently developed Best Management Practices for freshwater mussels by engaging restoration practitioners in informative and thoughtful workshops and providing resources to safeguard these species in future restoration projects. This project presents a great opportunity to fill information gaps and provide pathways forward to protect and promote these species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$55,167

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

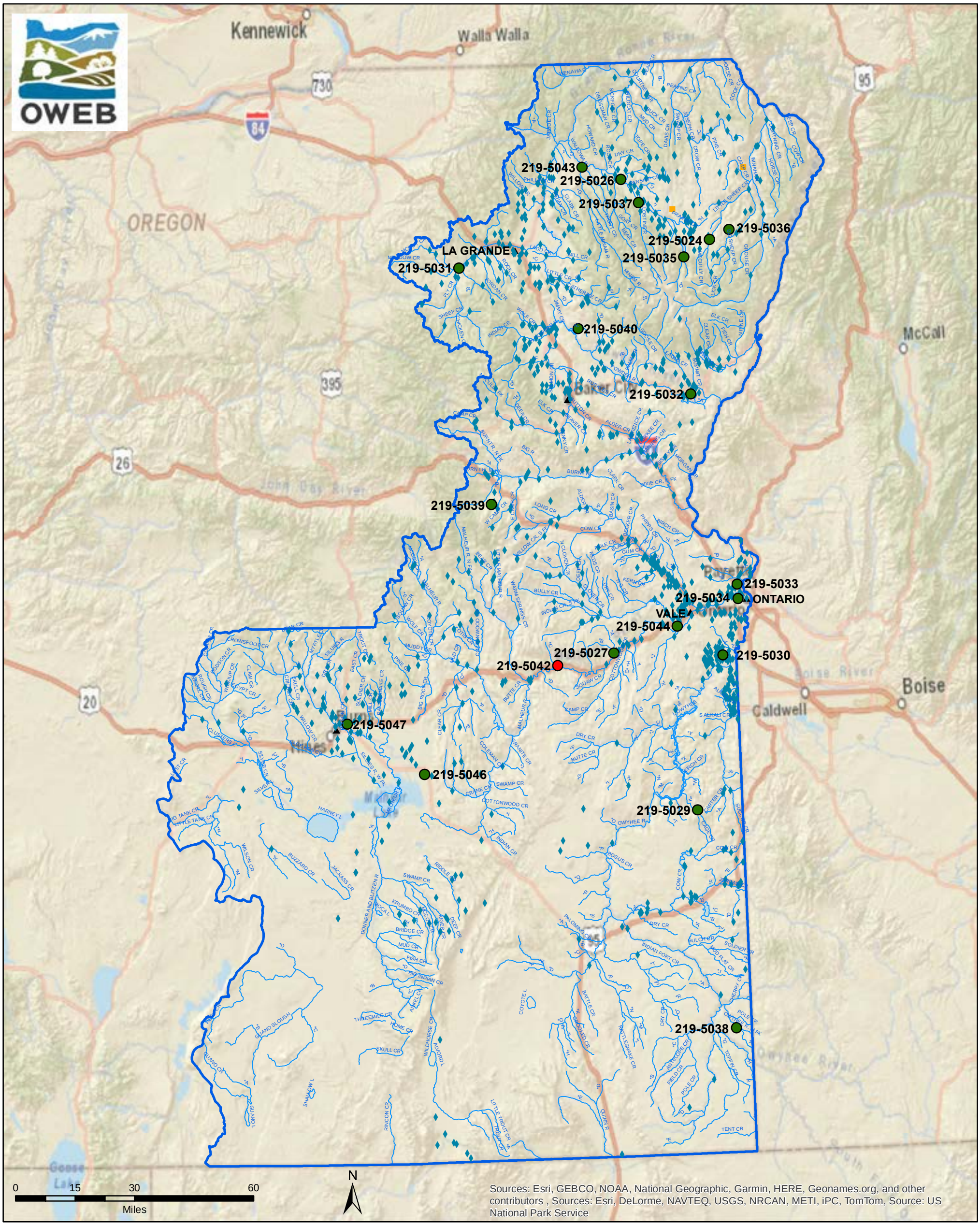
Staff Recommended Amount

$55,167

Staff Conditions

None

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Fall 2018 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 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/

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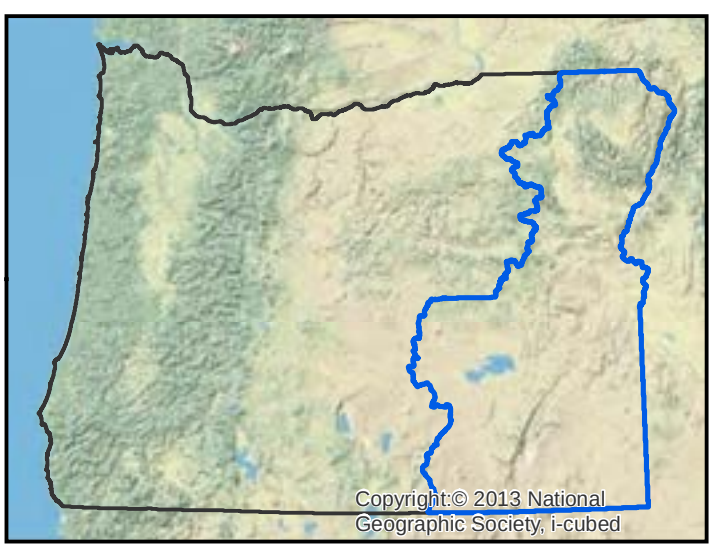

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5026	Nez Perce Tribe	Tamkaliks Side Channel and Wetland Complex	A culturally signficant section of the Wallowa River will be enhanced by installing off-channel wetland nodes, alcoves and large woody debris to improve ESA-spawning and rearing habitat; and wetland and floodplain connectivity.	235,097	Wallowa
219-5024	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Wallowa Mountain Loop Road Reconstruction	A culvert in Little Sheep Creek in the Imnaha basin is a velocity barrier to ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout and will replaced with a bridge.	118,096	Wallowa
219-5030	Malheur SWCD	Bishop Drain: Checkmate	Flood irrigation on 80 acres will be converted to sprinklers by installing 2 pivots. Field runoff into Bishop Drain will be eliminated to improve water quality in the nearby Owyhee River.	40,223	Malheur
219-5031	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase IV	Spotted knapweed and leafy spurge will be treated along 192 acres of the upper Grande Ronde riparian area that provides habitat for ESA-listed spring Chinook and steelhead. Project will treat known sites and survey new infestations.	25,024	Union
219-5029	Owyhee WC	Springing into Action on Mahogany Mountain	Core sage-grouse habitat in the Owyhee basin will be enhanced by constructing seven spring developments and troughs to pull livestock away from riparian areas.	20,797	Malheur
219-5035	Wallowa Resources	Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project	Bull trout and kokanee spawning and rearing habitat will be improved along 1/3 miles of the Wallowa River above Wallowa Lake. Channel complexity and bank stability will also be improved.	250,726	Wallowa
219-5027	Malheur WC	Water Quality Improvement at River Mile 56 or Making Life Better on the Canal	A 59-acre field near Harper will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality and prevent runoff flowing directly into the Malheur River. The project will install 1,200 feet of mainline, big guns, pump and a pivot.	62,330	Malheur
219-5036	Wallowa SWCD	Wallowa Front Forest Health Improvement Partnership-Divide Extended	Overstocked mixed conifer stands with altered fire regime in the Divide Area will be mechanically or hand thinned. Prescriptions prepared by ODF will open stands for larch, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir regeneration.	134,987	Wallowa

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order *(Continued)*

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5034	Malheur SWCD	Foraged in Fire	Multiple project components including permanent firebreaks, green stripping, medusahead treatment, reseeding and spring developments will be implemented to improve core and general sage-grouse habitat in a remote area of Malheur County.	149,912	Malheur
219-5032	Eagle Valley SWCD	Whitnah Irrigation	Flood irrigation on 30 acres will be converted to sprinklers by installing two wheel lines. Field runoff into Powder River will be eliminated to improve water quality in Powder River nearby.	27,156	Baker
219-5033	Malheur SWCD	Mr. Rogers Neighborhood	Flood irrigation on 27 acres will be converted to sprinklers eliminating tailwater from entering the Snake River. Owyhee Irrigation District will install 1,380 feet of 12-inch conveyance pipe and orifice box which will eliminate evaporation and seepage and improve irrigation water conveyance.	36,062	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,100,410**	

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				**1,100,410**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-5025	Burnt River SWCD	Bootjack Irrigation	109,353	Baker
219-5028	Malheur WC	Makin' Things Better on the Powder: Phase II Movin' the Power Lines	59,539	Baker

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

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5037	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Lostine River - River Mile 5.7 Floodplain and Side Channel Enhancement Project	A future restoration project will benefit Chinook salmon and steelhead-rearing habitat and bull trout migration. Potential design elements will create side-channels incorporating pools, alcoves, and LWD to increase habitat complexity.	73,040	Wallowa
219-5039	Malheur WC	Let's Make the Bull Run Run Again: Da Do RunRun	Bull Run, a tributary to South Fork of the Burnt River near Unity dredged in 30's or 40's, has subsurface flow and impaired aquatic and wildlife habitat. A design will reconnect Bull Run to the South Fork; improve aquatic habitat; and enhance wet meadow for brood-rearing sage-grouse addressing 30 acres of habitat and 1.0 mile of stream.	39,850	Baker
219-5040	Malheur WC	Cusick Creek: The Restoration Continues Phase II	Located in core sage-grouse habitat, a future restoration project will improve a wet-meadow complex to enhance late-season, brood-rearing habitat by improving riparian conditions. Components include a topgraphic survey; geomorphic analysis; hydrologic and hydraulic analysis to produce a 60% design and three alternatives.	29,488	Union
219-5038	Owyhee WC	A Difficult Survey and Design Round 2	A project within the Three Forks Conservation Opportunity area, one of the largest remaining blocks of high-quality sagebrush, will improve sage-grouse habitat. Design addresses grazing on 15,748 ares and enhancing 82 acres of wet-meadow habitat.	28,930	Malheur
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**171,308**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5042	Burns Paiute Tribe	Malheur Watershed Habitat Connectivity Assessment and Enhancement Plan	Highway 20 between Juntura and Ontario experiences high wildlife mortality caused by vehicle collision. Burns-Paiute Tribe proposes to develop a landscape-scale assessment of wildlife and habitat connectivity; evaluate measures to address connectivity; and prepare a design and implementation plan.	73,875	Malheur
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**245,183**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-5041	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin Groundwater Records Review	29,610	Baker

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

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-5047	Harney County WC	Stakeholder Engagement in Groundwater Conservation in the Harney Basin	Harney basin experiences significant groundwater decline. This effort engages stakeholders in compiling water-resource information to develop realsitic conservation measures. Outcomes will provide a better understanding of what domestic well-users experience with groundwater.	42,609	Harney
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**42,609**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**42,609**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
None					

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

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-5043	Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation Water Years 2019 & 2020	Streamflow gauges at 12 existing stream gauges in Union and Wallowa County will continue to operate to inform irrigation water management, fisheries management, long-term flow and trend analysis, water quality mgt plans and determine cumulative effects of conservation measures.	101,002	Wallowa
219-5044	Malheur WC	Kumbaya 2020: Monitoring in Malheur and Owyhee Basins	Water quality monitoring will continue at 12 sites inform trend analyses; determine if water quality is improving as a result of project implementation and compile a comprehensive report. Agricultural drain monitoring will continue at 11 sites to evaluate water quality.	91,880	Malheur
219-5046	Harney County WC	Towards Sustainable Groundwater Management - Monitoring Evapotranspiration in the Harney Basin	This project will determine actual ET (evapo-transpiration) rates of irrigated crops and native phreatophytes (groundwater-dependent plants). Actual measured ET data will help ground-truth satellite ET Models and improve estimates for irrigation efficiency.	146,670	Harney
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**339,552**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
None					
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**339,552**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-5045	Harney County WC	Harney Groundwater Monitoring Phase 3	20,235	Harney

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,653,879**	**16%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**10,554,731**	

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

Application Number: 219-5024-16570

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wallowa Mountain Loop Road Reconstruction

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $118,096

Total Cost: $8,010,736

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Location: The proposed project is located in Wallowa County, Oregon, east of Joseph, along Forest Highway 248 (Wallowa County Road 4602, NFSR 39) from MP 0.0 to MP 5.0.Project Need: The roadway within the project area hosts a diversity of traffic ranging from Forest Service and natural resources personnel to recreation and logging vehicles. The overall roadway width is narrow, and existing pavement is in poor condition with much of the surface exhibiting potholes and severe alligator cracking. A few areas of fill slope instability have been identified and will be corrected. Many rock cut slopes adjacent to the roadway are raveling, and the associated rock fall is a maintenance issue. Maintenance funds are dwindling and the county and Forest Service can no longer keep the roadway in a serviceable condition. A structural asphalt concrete pavement overlay is needed to increase the service life and to improve the driving surface.Fisheries are a priority in the project area, with great emphasis being placed on restoration and improving access to habitat. ESA listed bull trout and steelhead occupy Little Sheep Creek and measures to reduce road derived sediment contribution and improve passage conditions will benefit both species. Many culverts along the roadway are damaged or buried and require maintenance or replacement. A double culvert installation in Little Sheep Creek near Highway 350 and at the beginning of the project is a long standing and known passage barrier.Proposed Work: Road surface work will consist of reconstructing or rehabilitating pavement that is in poor condition and exhibits alligator cracking, longitudinal edge cracking, potholes, and minor rutting along 5-miles of Wallowa County Road 4602. The double culvert will be removed and replaced with a bridge.Project Partners: Project partners include Federal Highway Administration, Oregon Department of Transportation, US Forest Service, Wallowa County and Grande Ronde Model Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and provides excellent detail and maps.
- The double culvert is a well-known passage barrier on Little Sheep Creek.
- Project implementation will benefit salmonids, including Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.
- There is 11 miles of stream habitat above the barrier that will be accessible to fish once the culvert is replaced.

- The culvert removal is part of a larger infrastructure improvement project that will provide benefits to the local community. In addition to the bridge installation, five miles of road will be improved that accesses a recreational area and is part of a scenic byway.
- There will be a positive cost-benefit to the watershed with project implementation.
- Replacing this culvert is identified in the Wallowa Atlas, the local recovery plan for anadromous fisheries.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project will replace a double culvert with a channel-spanning bridge. The current culvert does not meet fish passage requirements because jump height and water velocity are too high for fish to successfully move through the culvert. Replacing the culvert will improve aquatic passage for all life stages of steelhead, specifically juvenile-rearing. Steelhead will be able to move upstream as stream temperatures increase in the summer, and downstream in the winter as stream temperatures decrease. The project is a part of a multi-million dollar road improvement of the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway between Joseph and Halfway. Project partners include ODOT, Federal Highway Administration, and Wallowa County. The overall budget for the restoration project is reasonable for the resulting high ecological benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$118,096

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$118,096

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5025-16580
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bootjack Irrigation
Applicant: Burnt River SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $109,353
Total Cost: $185,320

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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: an estimated 224 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 30 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 30 acres of flood irrigated pasture to sprinkler irrigation. Project partners include the Burnt River SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project provides an opportunity to return water to the West Fork of the Burnt River.
- Implementation of the project will benefit 1.5 to 2 miles of the Burnt River.
- The applicant has permission and support secured for project implementation from all landowners affected by the ditch easement.

Concerns

- Concerns from the previous application evaluation are not addressed.
- There is no confirmation that the landowner will leave a certain amount of water in the West Fork of the Burnt River.
- A water management plan is needed.

- The ecological uplift needs to be more clearly defined in the application.

Concluding Analysis

The landowner has water rights to divert the entire West Fork of the Burnt River into Thompson Ditch. Replacing the open ditch with the 5,420 feet of HDPE provides opportunity for unused water to remain in the West Fork of the Burnt River. Currently up to 2.6 cfs is diverted. If the conveyance pipe is installed, 1.5 cfs is needed to operate the gated-pipe and 0.5 cfs is needed for the pivot. Potentially 1.1 cfs to 2.1 cfs can remain in the West Fork if a water management plan is developed, and irrigation to the pivot and gated-pipe is non-concurrent. However, it is not clear if the landowner is willing to return a portion of the unused water to the West Fork. The applicant should consider developing a water management plan that addresses needs for the pivot and gated-pipe and has an irrigation schedule that provides for returning water to the creek. The project potentially has merit but needs additional clarification of aquatic benefits and water savings that will remain in the West Fork.

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 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5026-16587

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tamkaliks Side Channel and Wetland Complex

Applicant: Nez Perce Tribe

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $235,097

Total Cost: $461,377

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project site is located adjacent to the Wallowa River, in the town of Wallowa, and is part of a 320 acre parcel belonging to the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. (the Homeland Project). The local non-profit organization, chartered in 1995, is supported regionally by private citizens, local government, and representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. This land provides a place for Nez Perce people ranging from Washington, Oregon and Idaho, to exercise traditional cultural practices – such as the annual Tamkaliks Celebration – in their historical homeland territory.Due to extensive channelization in the project area habitat for juvenile salmonid rearing and spawning is severely limited. This project seeks to address multiple habitat, water quality, and stream function deficiencies associated with this middle reach of the Wallowa River. Proposed work includes constructing a multi-connection side channel, installing large wood , inlet boulders, and alcoves, and enhancing and creating emergent wetland communities. Three recent habitat restoration projects (Wallowa-Baker, McDaniel, and 6-Ranch) have been completed within 15 miles both upstream and downstream of the project reach to increase fish habitat. This project will further enhance the Wallowa River by increasing habitat quantity in the form of back water pools, large wood debris, and re-connection of the river to the existing floodplain, providing year round juvenile rearing and potential spawning habitat for ESA listed fish species. These actions will also intercept various forms of ground water and irrigation returns helping regulate water temperature, sequester excess sediment, and improve/promote riparian vegetation establishment, and hyporheic exchange. Project partners: Nez Perce Tribe, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, USFS, BPA, and the Homeland Project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Designs provided in the application demonstrate the proposed project is technically sound. These designs were produced from a previous OWEB technical assistance grant and with oversight by local partners.
- The Tamkaliks site has high cultural significance for the Nez Perce Tribe, who purchased this property in the late 1990's.

- Implementation will provide habitat benefits for ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook salmon, bull trout, and lamprey, a culturally significant tribal food source.
- The project location is conducive to public outreach as it is highly visible and frequented by many visitors.
- There is potential for future fish monitoring by the Nez Perce Tribe at the project site.
- The project is ready for implementation with BPA funding already secured.
- The project will have measurable impacts to habitat according to researchers.
- Implementation will build on recommendations identified in the Wallowa Atlas, the local strategic action plan for anadromous fisheries.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The application describes a clear need for restoration in the mid-reach of the Wallowa River, which has been channelized by the main highway, railroad, and intensive agriculture. The site is located downstream of four previously implemented side-channel stream meander projects, and approximately two miles upstream of another side-channel project. Salmonid habitat will be significantly improved since the mid-reach of the Wallowa River lacks spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon, bull trout, lamprey, and recently re-introduced Coho. Aquatic habitat will be enhanced by the installation of large woody debris, wetland nodes, alcoves, willow clumps, and plantings. Implementation of the project will also enhance wetland and floodplain connectivity. The Nez Perce Tribe and local partners are actively engaged in this effort, demonstrating an effective project partnership and the capacity to implement a high quality project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$235,097

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$235,097

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5027-16593

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Water Quality Improvement at River Mile 56 or Making Life Better on the Canal

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $62,330

Total Cost: $149,180

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The project is located in Harper, Oregon along the Malheur River. The tail water directly enters the Malheur River near river mile 56. The slopes are steep ,and cattle are present during the late fall and early winter. It is also in an area we would like to make a "focus area " in the future. This makes this project one of the highest priorities for the Council2. Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of our top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts and private landowners has been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 18 years across the Malheur Basin. 3. This proposal will convert 59 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of a pivot system, big gun sprinklers for the corner, and related irrigation infrastructure.4. Project partners include Vale Irrigation District, landowner and Malheur Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is technically sound.
- Project implementation will eliminate all irrigation-induced return flow to the Malheur River from the project site, which will improve water quality.
- Due to the steep project slopes accelerating erosion and runoff and the site's proximity to the Malheur River, this project is an implementation priority for the watershed council.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Converting flood irrigation to sprinkler eliminates nutrient and farm chemical runoff into the Malheur

River. The watershed council has a project ranking system that gives priority to projects located in steeper slopes, in direct proximity to a water body, and within an EQIP-priority area. Flood irrigation on steeper slopes creates excessive sheet-and-rill erosion, which will be eliminated once the pivot is installed. Project implementation will improve water quality and directly benefit the Malheur River. The project is complementary to several other projects implemented in the Harper area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$62,330

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$62,330

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5028-16594 **Project Type:** Restoration

Project Name: Makin' Things Better on the Powder:
Phase II
Movin' the Power Lines

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon **County:** Baker

OWEB Request: $59,539 **Total Cost:** $69,139

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is on the Powder River, about 2.5 road miles from the town of North Powder.2) The Powder River is water quality limited for bacteria, DO, temperature, and nutrients. Keeping more water in the river will help with many of the problems. Redband use this reach of the Powder for many stages of the their life history. Having more water in the river will help them as well. 3) With the help of a previous OWEB grant we are moving the point of diversion 4.3 miles downstream, which will automatically leave 5 cfs in the river for that length. With the previous grant we will install a fish friendly diversion, and 7040 feet of pipe of various sizes to convert 116 acres of flood irrigation to pivots. The landowner will consider using the conserved water statutes to put a portion of the saved water as an instream right. However, because of the unusually high cost of removing old transmission lines and building new lines to supply power to the proposed pivots, this part of the project (irrigation efficiency) is in jeopardy. The landowner is committed to moving the diversion, installing the fence, protecting water quality, and conserving water through improved irrigation practices. But he cannot afford the cost of supplying power. We, the landowner and project managers, underestimated the costs. The landowner was not concerned based on previous recent experiences implementing a similar project . It didn't seem to a be concern because the power lines run right along the road next to the pump site.Without more assistance, he will be forced to use gated pipe to irrigate the fields. Thus not all of our goals from the original proposal will be achieved. Without the improved irrigation efficiency the landowner will use more water, and contaminated return flows from flood irrigation will still enter the Powder.4) Partners are Curt Martin, and the Malheur Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project supports a previously funded restoration project that will install a fish friendly diversion and leave 5.0 cfs in the Powder River for 4.3 miles.

Concerns

- The number of hours listed in the application as match from project management for moving the

power lines seems unreasonably high given that the OTEC (Oregon Trail Electric Co.) will be providing most of the project oversight.

- The cost to move the power lines is high for minimal watershed benefit.
- It is unclear whether the landowner will move water savings to a conserved water right.

Concluding Analysis

The previously funded project will move a point of diversion five miles downstream on the Powder River, leaving 5 cfs in the river for an additional 4.3 miles. A fish-friendly diversion and a pivot will be installed to improve water quality on 116 acres. The original application did not include the cost for moving the power lines. Based on prior experience moving power lines on another project, the applicant and landowner assumed the costs would be much lower. However, OTEC's cost estimate is higher than was anticipated. With the uncertainty in whether water savings will be moved to a conserved water right, the watershed benefit for the whole project is limited with the additional cost of this current 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 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5029-16595

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Springing into Action on Mahogany Mountain

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $53,634

Total Cost: $77,989

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. Project LocationThe "Springing into Action of Mahogany Mountain" project is located approximately 36 miles south west of Adrian in the Leslie Gulch/Mahogany Mountain area in the Owyhee Uplands.2. Briefly state the project needThis project encompasses approximately 1,863 rangeland acres in core Sage Grouse Habitat. The lack of live water sources throughout the project area limits a preferred grazing rest/rotation plan, and contributes to over/under vegetation utilization in certain areas.3. Describe the proposed workThe first element in project implementation is to develop 7 different spring sites in partnership with NRCS to provide livestock watering sources across the 1,863 acre rangeland parcel. The second implementation strategy is to install approximately 1.6 miles of cross fencing. Cross fencing will allow the landowner to split the project area into 4 different pastures instead of 3 and adopt a grazing rest/rotation management plan. 4. Identify project partnersProject partners include: Private landowner, NRCS, and Owyhee Watershed Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written, and the detailed maps, grazing plan, and photos provide helpful context of the project site. The project objectives and design are clearly articulated in the application.
- Located in core sage-grouse habitat, implementation will help further improve and enhance existing vegetation for sage-grouse. Spring sites and troughs are well-sited, located more than 1 mile away from leks.
- The landowner is participating in the Three Fingers Fuel Reduction Project with Oregon State University, which includes targeted grazing at certain times of the year to reduce invasive annual grasses.
- There are very few invasive annual grasses on the property, project implementation will help further limit the expansion of medusahead and cheatgrass.
- The applicant has successfully implemented many upland projects in the Jordan Valley area and has the capacity to oversee this project.
- The project is supported by a partnership with NRCS.

Concerns

- Cost for the tire troughs seems high compared to other projects. However, the project site is in a remote location and transportation to the site increases costs for delivery and installation.
- There is a possibility that the landowner can do a phased approach starting with the water development to ascertain whether the cross fence is needed.

Concluding Analysis

Implementation of this project will help maintain high quality rangeland in critical core sage-grouse habitat. The property has no live water and lacks sufficient livestock distribution. Expanding water sources will improve wildlife habitat and balance vegetation utilization by dispersing livestock. Annual grass invasion, combined with catastrophic wildfires across the Owyhee landscape, has created a loss in native vegetation communities and contributes to declining sage-grouse habitat. The potential for wildfire to spread increases as invasive grasses, such as medusahead and cheatgrass, increases across the landscape. The project has a high likelihood of success in achieving ecological benefits for sage-grouse.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$20,797

Review Team Conditions

Remove the cross fencing project component from the project scope and budget.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$20,797

Staff Conditions

Remove the cross fencing project component from the project scope and budget, including indirect costs.

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

Application Number: 219-5030-16633
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bishop Drain: Checkmate
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $40,223
Total Cost: $151,855

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. This project is located on the corner of Jefferson and Ivanhoe, approximately 3. 7 miles north of Owyhee Junction, 8 miles from Nyssa and 18 miles to Ontario in the Sand Hollow-Owyhee River watershed.2. Furrow irrigation from the three fields on 80 acres drain into the Bishop Drain. 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.3. Convert 80 acres from flood to pivot by installing 2 pivots, 1 rotating cleaning screen, 3 acres solid sets, 1 orifice box that will replace the junction box on the corner of Ivanhoe and Jefferson for field 1 and 2, and the neighboring farms on Ivanhoe that use the same junction box. Electrical panel, 20 hp pump, electrical wire, continue to sample Bishop Drain for analysis.4. OWEB, Oregon DEQ, landowner, and Malheur SWCD,

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and provides essential detail for understanding the project.
- The project complements several other projects previously implemented in the Bishop Drain drainshed, and will provide long-term water quality monitoring to determine the collective impacts of these efforts.
- The project is a technically sound irrigation conversion of 80 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation.
- The landowner and Owyhee Irrigation District are highly engaged.
- The total project cost is reasonable.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project addresses significant water quality concerns caused by flood irrigation in the Owyhee basin.

Three fields will be combined with the installation of two pivots, and approximately 2,180 feet of open concrete ditches will be eliminated by burying a mainline pipe to the pivots. This will reduce runoff of sediment, nutrients, and bacteria into Bishop Drain and onto the Owyhee River, which is located approximately two miles away. Producers and irrigation districts in Malheur County are making significant strides in converting cropped acreage from flood irrigation to sprinklers. Owyhee Irrigation District will install a new orifice box and headgate. Agricultural drain monitoring will continue on Bishop Drain and inform the applicant of water quality improvement for this and other projects implemented in this drainshed. The project continues on-going efforts in Malheur and Owyhee basins to improve water quality, therefore providing a significant watershed benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$40,223

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$40,223

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5031-16641

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase IV

Applicant: Tri-County CWMA

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: $25,024

Total Cost: $43,024

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Since 2016, OWEB has continuously supported Tri-County's efforts to control leafy spurge and spotted knapweed in the Upper Grande Ronde. The project located approximately 10 miles west of La Grande towards the town of Starkey. Phase IV of the project aims to intensify treatment of leafy spurge in new sites identified in 2018, and continue treatments of historic sites. The presence of leafy spurge and spotted knapweed both along the Grande Ronde River and adjacent uplands has negatively impacted the native plant diversity, increased sedimentation, and reduced viable riparian and upland fish/wildlife habitat. Landowners have expressed concern that the abundance of these species has negatively impacted their ranching operations and continuous treatment of these species has been successful. Beginning with Phase I of the project, only 63.5 net acres were treated, in Phase II 97.6 net acres were treated, and in Phase III 164.5 net acres were treated (mostly new sites). Photo point monitoring has shown that multiple treatments on the same site is critical to success and continuously surveying for new sites is critical to landscape-wide success. Phase III of this project worked to treat known sites prior to the implementation of the Bird Track Spring Restoration Project, along with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and USFS. Phase IV of the project will help to prevent leafy spurge and spotted knapweed from spreading into the restoration area and work with the CTUIR to treat known sites during the restoration process.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a long-standing programmatic weed control effort and the proposed work builds upon previous phases.
- The application has clear goals.
- Prior project completion reports and post-implementation reports document successful implementation, especially when multiple weed control treatments are implemented.
- The project cost is reasonable for a significant watershed benefit.
- Many partners in the county participate in this effort including USFS, CTUIR, Tri-County CWMA (Coordinated Weed Management Area), USFS, and landowners in the upper Grande Ronde.

- Noxious weed infestations are targeted along riparian areas where wildlife and aquatic habitat can be negatively impacted by weeds in the upper Grande Ronde, which is a priority area for ESA-listed anadromous fisheries.

Concerns

- The success of prior treatments is not described well in the application. Additional information would have strengthened the application.
- Additional quantifiable information about proposed treatments and outcomes would have been beneficial to include in the application.
- A landscape-level map depicting completed efforts and strategy for future weed control would have provided helpful context.

Concluding Analysis

The ecological benefit from this weed control work is in maintaining native plant communities by preventing their being overtaken by invasive annual plants. While weeds are never eradicated, it is important to keep infestations in check. The CWMA also treats properties adjacent to recent restoration projects, which helps reduce future weed establishment on disturbed sites and protect restored areas. This is an effective partnership with the Tri-County CWMA, USFS, CTUIR, and landowners in the Starkey area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$25,024

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$25,024

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5032-16581
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Whitnah Irrigation
Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $27,156
Total Cost: $38,526

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project site is located within the Eagle Valley Soil and Water Conservation District near Richland, Oregon and is a tributary to the Powder River Watershed. Currently the project site flood irrigates 30 acres of hay and pasture ground. Water is diverted from Eagle Creek (a fish bearing stream historically containing bull trout) to the Dry Gulch ditch where it is then applied to the project site through an earthen ditch at two locations; one 20 acre field and one 10 acre field. This project addresses water quality and water quantity by converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of two wheel lines. All tail water from the current flood irrigation system returns to the Powder River through the Waterbury ditch, a tributary to the Powder River three miles above Brownlee Reservoir; thus decreasing water quality by submitting additional sediment and debris into the watershed. The landowner is also supporting an inefficient form of irrigation. Through the installation of two wheel lines, the landowner will convert 30 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation conserving water by only using what can be held by the soil and what is required to support the crop being irrigated, leaving additional water in Eagle Creek to support aquatic species in critical bull trout habitat.The landowner has realized the watershed issues present and contacted the Eagle Valley SWCD seeking assistance to improve irrigation practices by converting to sprinkler irrigation. Project partners include the Eagle Valley SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project implementation will provide water quality and quantity benefits to the Power River basin.
- The project cost is reasonable for the watershed benefit..
- Project implementation provides an outreach opportunity to demonstrate benefits of irrigation conversion work to other nearby landowners.
- The application is clear.
- There is an existing flow meter located near the project area that can measure reduction in future water use.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project complements other work recently implemented in this area of the Powder basin. Slopes are steep at the project site, which accelerates erosion rates and makes this location a priority for irrigation conversion. Tailwater currently returns to the Waterbury ditch and onto the Powder River. Installing the wheel lines will reduce the amount of runoff entering the waterways. Project implementation will improve water quality by reducing the amount of sediment and farm chemicals conveyed to the Powder River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$27,156

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$27,156

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5033-16659
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Mr. Rogers Neighborhood
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $36,062
Total Cost: $81,613

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. This project is located approximately 5.5 miles north of Ontario, on the edge of Bellows subdivision next to the freeway in the Buttermilk Gulch-Snake River Watershed (Please see location Map). 2. This grant application has a twofold that is combined in one grant. Malheur SWCD is requesting $37,677 to fund 1380 feet of open lateral, and conversion from flood on 27 acres to three different types of sprinkle irrigation system. 3. The conversion from flood to sprinkle will consolidate 4.4 acres of dry ground that has water rights transferred, but is unusable due to the current delivery system with field 1 with an open lateral that divides the 20 acre field. Field 1 will have 2 wheel lines running north and south, with 13 risers for hook up. Field 2 and 3, will have a conversion from flood to solid sets (22 solid sets and 4 big guns) for a conversion of 7 acres total due to shape and size of the two fields.The second part; Owyhee Irrigation District who will dig and bury 1380 feet of 12 inch mainline to convert from an open lateral to a buried mainline that divides field 1. The irrigation district will also install an orifice box that has the capability to measure water delivered to their patrons for this project, next door neighbor and further down the lateral. Project Partners are the landowner, Owyhee Irrigation District and the Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project implementation will provide water quality benefits to the Snake River. Runoff from the site currently flows into a natural drain that crosses underneath I-84 and is conveyed directly to the river.
- The budget provides an appropriate level of descriptive detail.
- Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) and the landowner’s support is demonstrated by match contributions.
- The project cost is reasonable for the watershed benefit.
- Installation of the 12-inch pipe by OID will connect to an existing pipe and eliminate evaporation and seepage along 1,380 feet of an existing ditch.

Concerns

- The 27-acre project footprint is fairly small.
- Parts of the application were unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The Snake River is listed on the DEQ 303(d) list for sediment, nutrients, toxics, dissolved oxygen, temperature, and bacteria. The fields in the project area are used as winter-feeding areas. Tailwater flows into the Snake River approximately two miles from the project site. After the first flood irrigation in the spring, tailwater deposits excess amounts of bacteria directly into the natural drain that flows directly to the Snake River. By converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation, tailwater will be eliminated. This project will improve irrigation delivery to three separate fields and is complementary to other projects nearby in this area of the Snake River. While the project will result in significant watershed benefits for the cost, the overall impact is somewhat limited by the small project footprint.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,062

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,062

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5034-16667
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Foraged in Fire
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $149,912
Total Cost: $240,877

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Foraged in Fire Project is located within Malheur county and is approximately 36 miles from Rome, Oregon. Fire return intervals within the area are relatively short and have resulted in vegetation loss surrounding the property and threatening known active sage grouse leks within the vicinity. Permanent fire breaks have been established to protect the lek and ranch facilities located in the northern portions of the property but additional protection is required to stop fast moving fires from jumping the breaks. Additionally due to flooding during spring runoff, riparian degradation is beginning to occur resulting in erosion and water table loss. Other issues within the property include small Medusa patches along fire breaks as well as a depleted historic crested wheat field that was heavily grazed due to grazing restrictions on fire damaged allotments. Project components include:- Decrease the fire return intervals on private land with fire breaks and controlled grazing- Protect sage grouse Lek (from fire/invasive)- Herbicide treatment-Reseeding depleted uplands-Provide alternate watering locations for cattle and protect spring heads- Convert old crested wheat seeding used as sacrifice area during adverse conditions to desired upland species.- Establish check dams along riparian area to slow spring flows and raise water table- Mark existing fence near Lek to reduce the risk of strike mortality

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in a remote area with few opportunities for restoration.
- Seeded areas will be rested from active grazing for two years, which will allow the native bunchgrass community to become more viable.
- Preliminary baseline monitoring for treatment effectiveness is completed.
- The spring site will be protected.
- Planned restoration work will improve core sage-grouse habitat.
- The landowner project support is demonstrated by a letter of intent (LOI) to enroll in the CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) and significant project match.

Concerns

- The application lacks a landscape map that places project components into a watershed context.

However, because of confidentiality restrictions that must be followed for landowners participating in a CCAA, exact project locations are not provided on submitted maps.

- Site preparation planned for the seeded area is unclear.
- Idaho fescue is not an appropriate choice in the seed mix since this is a low elevation site with minimal precipitation. Germination rates may be low.
- Applying seed at 18 pounds per-acre is excessive and should be no more than 12 pounds per-acre.
- The viability of the proposed check dams and how the sites for these dams were selected is uncertain. This approach could transfer the problem elsewhere rather than addressing the core issue.

Concluding Analysis

The application has multiple project components to address sage-grouse habitat improvement on a large ranch in remote Malheur County. The various project elements proposed will be incorporated into a site-specific map (SSP) that is anticipated to be approved by USFWS in late winter. The project area experiences frequent landscape fire-return intervals that adversely impact sagebrush and perennial bunchgrass necessary for sage-grouse brooding and rearing habitat. Landscape-level fire threatens the active sage-grouse leks. Permanent fire breaks are proposed to keep fast-moving fires from jumping existing breaks. In addition, the spring developments and troughs will provide upland water to aid grazing management and improve upland vegetation for sage-grouse. The budget is reasonable given the remote location and the proposed project components will benefit core sage-grouse habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$149,912

Review Team Conditions

Reduce seed application rate to 12 pounds per acre; and modify the seed mix to include a native species alternative to Idaho fescue. Applicant must seek engineering advice from NRCS to evaluate the effectiveness of the two check dams.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$149,912

Staff Conditions

Reduce seed application rate to 12 pounds per acre; and modify the seed mix to include a native species alternative to Idaho fescue. Applicant must seek engineering advice from NRCS to evaluate the effectiveness of the two check dams, and provide a letter from NRCS approving the final design for check dams prior to payment on this project component.

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

Application Number: 219-5035-16673

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Wallowa River Restoration Project

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $250,726

Total Cost: $1,109,741

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Wallowa River Restoration (UWRR) Project encompasses 1 1/2 miles of the Wallowa River and the 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.This grant covers the first two reaches of the four-reach project area, from Wallowa Lake upstream to the Bailey Lane Bridge. Natural floodplain function along the reach has been degraded by encroachment and development, thereby reducing the habitat quality and quantity. The planned habitat improvements will:1) enhance and restore spawning and rearing area habitat for kokanee salmon and bull trout;2) improve habitat while protecting private and public property from the effects of 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.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 creates an opportunity for significant outreach to a diverse group of Oregonians.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clear and has a reasonable budget with clearly defined costs.
- Previous application evaluation concerns were addressed by providing detail on implementation sequencing and consistent units across the budget and narrative sections.
- The project builds on two previously funded OWEB technical assistance grants that provided designs for the proposed work.
- The project provides an opportunity to reactivate the floodplain within the project area.
- The project location at Wallowa Lake State Park will be highly visible and provide an opportunity to demonstrate environmental restoration practices to a diverse audience. The park has over 500,000 visitors annually.

- Private landowners above the project reach have the opportunity to expand restoration. The project design funded by two previous technical assistance grants extends approximately 900 feet south of the proposed project. The DSL permits encompasses the entire reach of the technical assistance design.
- Proposed restoration will benefit kokanee and bull trout.
- A planting plan is provided and addresses future plant maintenance.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore natural watershed functions impacted by stream alterations made to channelize the river and protect private properties and infrastructure. Also, a significant high flow event approximately 15 years created significant challenges to this section of the Wallowa River . The proposed actions could become an example for restoration in a semi-developed floodplain due to the project site's high visibility and accessibility to the public. The resulting habitat restoration will benefit kokanee spawning and all life stages of bull trout in a cost-effective project with a likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$250,726

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$250,726

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5036-16700

Project Type: Restoration

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

Applicant: Wallowa SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $134,987

Total Cost: $191,987

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Wallowa Front Priority Area project is a multi-agency, multi-landowner effort to reduce fuel loads and improve the overall forest health of the Wallowa Front. Alder Slope, Divide, Lostine, and Bear Creek focus areas located on the north face of the Wallowa Mountains encompass the Wallowa Front. The Divide Extended Project Area is located northeast of the Divide area, between the towns of Joseph and Imnaha, and is in the headwaters of Little Sheep Creek and Big Sheep Creek in Wallowa County. In its current state, the Divide Extended is at high risk for catastrophic fires, insect and disease infestations, and continued deteriorating health due to overstocked stands and high treatment costs. The Divide Extended is an addition to the Wallowa Front which includes landowners and six partnering entities: SWCD, NRCS, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, OWEB, and Wallowa Resources; who are concentrating funding and implementing on-the-ground projects over the next five years to improve the health of these stands. As more projects in the Wallowa Front are completed it continues to be evident that due to the steep slopes and heavy fuels, higher rates per acre are needed to complete additional contracts. While funding has been obtained for the Wallowa Front a small portion of landowners positioned across the road were not initially included in project area when lines were drawn. The Divide Extended project will expand the work being completed in the greater Wallowa Front Priority Area. Landowner incentives are needed to help pay the high costs to complete thinning and slash treatments. OWEB funds in this application will be used to provide cost share to complete forest thinning and slash treatments on 200 acres in the Divide Extended project area, with heavy ratings being the highest priority.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project extends fuel reduction efforts into an area not previously targeted in the adjacent multiple agency RCPP. OWEB funding will enable landowners not included in this RCPP to treat their overstocked stands.
- ODF and the applicant have the capacity to oversee this effort and have a proven track record with similar projects.
- The project provides an opportunity for landowners to access funding for upland thinning, which is typically challenging to secure.

- Overstocked stands will be treated, which leads to a decreased threat of wildfire.

Concerns

- Treatment cost per-acre is somewhat high compared to similar projects. However, the stands proposed for treatment have a high number of trees per-acre (TPA) and are located on steep slopes. TPA is over 1,000 stems within some stands.
- The stands may need to be retreated in the future.

Concluding Analysis

Combined with previous efforts, a significant amount of the upland portion of Divide Area in the Sheep Creek drainage will have treated stands after this project is completed. Reducing high TPA reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfire spreading to or from nearby USFS lands. While the unit costs appear high, topographic constraints due to steep slopes, excessive stand density, piling, and mastication costs are the reason for higher per-acre treatment costs. Reducing stand density to a more historic level will improve forest health and vigor, and help alleviate the threat of insect and disease outbreak. Improved spacing reduces the threat of a ground fire crowning. In addition, hydrologic conditions are improved by increasing snow accumulation to improve groundwater recharge. More snow is able to reach the ground, reducing sublimation and evaporation. If wildfire were to occur on the steep, overstocked stands, high amounts of sediment could reach Sheep Creek and the Imnaha River. The resulting impaired water quality from such an event could adversely affect habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. All of these factors combined ensure that the project has the potential for high ecological uplifts and a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$134,987

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$134,987

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5037-16535

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lostine River - River Mile 5.7 Floodplain and Side Channel Enhancement Project

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $73,040

Total Cost: $121,508

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located on the Lostine River at the town of Lostine, Oregon. The project reach is from river mile 5.7 to river mile 6.3. The Lostine River joins the Wallowa River near the town of Wallowa and the project area is in Wallowa County Oregon.The lower 10-miles of the Lostine River has been channelized, straightened and is kept in place by dikes built as a response to flood events in the 1960's and 1970's. These actions have greatly simplified aquatic habitat conditions in the river by reducing the number of pools, increasing riffles, increasing stream velocity, reducing habitat complexity, eliminating side channels, and disconnecting the river from its floodplain. Increased water velocity, specifically at high spring flow, has degraded water quality by increasing bank erosion contributing to fine sediment deposition in the river.The strategic action plan for aquatic restoration in Wallowa County, Wallowa Atlas, identifies limiting habitat factors for the lower Lostine River to be addressed by this project: 1. Floodplain condition, 2. Instream structural complexity, 3. Instream sediment quantity, 4. Stream temperature, and 5. Riparian vegetation.This proposed technical assistance application seeks funding to complete project design, environmental compliance requirements, and construction bidding documents. Deliverables include complete 100% design, ESA Consultation, removal/fill permits, cultural resources survey and report, and construction request for proposal package.Project partners include Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Nez Perce Tribe, and 10 landowners in the project reach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site along the Lostine River has braided channels that can readily re-activate the floodplain, and has significant existing vegetation. This technical assistance will result in a cost-effective restoration project since habitat will not be artificially created and instead will build on these existing stream conditions.
- Landowners are engaged in every aspect of the project. The application includes cooperative agreements signed by all landowners, which speaks to the level of their commitment.
- Proposed actions for a future restoration project will provide high ecological uplift.
- The application is detailed, clear, and well-written with clear objectives.
- The project location is highly visible, and future implementation provides high potential for outreach.
- Secured match was recently approved by the Grande Ronde Model Watershed board.

- Restoration project designs will be developed with regulatory agency involvement and stakeholder engagement. This will result in secured permits and implementation-ready final designs by the end of this technical assistance project.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This section of the Lostine River was channelized, straightened, and diked in the 1960's and 1970's. With the old braided channels still present, reactivating them will alleviate the need for large quantities of riprap that would further degrade habitat. A future restoration project will increase floodplain connectivity, provide side-channel habitat, and improve spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon, and recently introduced Coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$73,040

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$73,040

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5038-16562

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: A Difficult Survey and Design Round 2

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $28,930

Total Cost: $42,380

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 mesic 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

- The application is well-written and provides detailed answers to the concerns raised from the previous review including clarity regarding the wet-meadow habitat expansion project component. Detailed maps, photos, and water-right information are also provided in the application.
- The future restoration project will benefit sage-grouse habitat at a location with active nearby leks. Restoration implementation will also benefit redband trout, mule deer, elk, and the Columbia spotted frog.
- The project is located in the Three Forks Conservation Opportunity area considered to contain one of the largest blocks of remaining high quality sagebrush habitat in Oregon.
- A grazing plan and an irrigation water management plan will be developed through this technical assistance project.
- Topographic surveys and development of an implementation plan will be coordinated with input from numerous partners.
- Appropriate partners and agencies are participating in this effort including, DSL, Trout Unlimited, OWRD, USFWS, NRCS, Owyhee Watershed Council, and the landowner.

- DSL will provide in-house cultural resource surveys on the trough pipeline route and trough locations.

Concerns

- The restoration phase of this project may be a high cost for the expected ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis

There is currently significant water loss from evaporation and seepage in the ditch, resulting in limited amounts of water conveyed to the meadow site. The proposed pipeline will expand the wet meadow site to provide mesic sage-grouse brood-rearing habitat. This wet-meadow expansion combined with improved grazing management will enhance high quality sagebrush habitats and ensure this area remain viable for many wildlife species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$28,930

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$28,930

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5039-16591
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Let's Make the Bull Run Run Again: Da Do RunRun
Applicant: Malheur WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $39,850
Total Cost: $48,100

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Location: The project is a 1 mile stretch of Bull Run Creek a tributary to the SF of the Burnt River. It is 4 air miles to downtown Unity and 12 air miles to Hereford.2) In the 1930's, Bull Run was dredged and the tailings were left in place. The creek is not functioning because most of the water runs below ground. There is little to no aquatic or wildlife habitat, no connection to the flood plain, riparian vegetation is inconsistently present, and water quality is degraded. The creek needs lots of help to become a creek again.Bull Run Creek is a tributary to the South Fork Burnt River. The upper SFBR has the best flow, temperature and riparian habitat in the Burnt River subbasin (personal communication Dadoly, DEQ). Based on visual inspection, the creek immediately downstream and upstream from the project site are in excellent condition. Thus restoring the connection to the South Fork would expand suitable aquatic habitat beyond the 1 mile project reach. We estimate about 5 miles total or an increase of 2.9 miles of connected habitat after successful rehabilitation of the site.The Bull Run is potential redband habitat and is within core sage grouse habitat. The owner plans to enroll the stream in CREP once the project is complete and has an approved CCAA plan for his property.3) We are applying for funds to hire an engineer to complete a survey, hydro-logic analysis, develop alternatives, and to develop a 60% design from the selected alternative. The selected alternative must be cost effective and approach the problem in a way that maximizes the benefits to aquatic habitat. 4) Partners are the landowner, Malheur WSC, AP engineering, and design reviewers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Three design alternatives to reconnect floodplain habitat will be developed for the landowners and technical team to consider.
- Storing floodwaters and runoff will raise the water table, which will improve mesic conditions and late-season, brood-rearing sage-grouse habitat. Reconnecting the floodplain will also improve habitat for other aquatic species.
- Once the earthwork and stream restoration work is completed, the area will be enrolled into CREP.
- The landowner has an approved CCAA plan.
- Restoring the proposed mile of Bull Run will connect three miles intact habitat on the Bull Run, and benefits sage-grouse habitat in low-density core area.

Concerns

- The restoration project will require substantial earthwork, which will need to be permitted and the application does not address this need. The earthwork will also result in a high cost restoration project for the expected watershed benefit.
- A phased approach may be needed for the restoration project due to the potential cost and with the landowner providing the sole match.
- Redband trout presence in the Bull Run is not substantiated.

Concluding Analysis

The technical team comprised of NRCS, DEQ, TU, ODFW, USFWS, Malheur Watershed Council, and landowner will determine which alternative is feasible and most cost-effective. The resulting restoration project addresses 30 acres of habitat that will benefit brood-rearing sage-grouse and aquatic species in the Bull Run will benefit from improved floodplain connectivity.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$39,850

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$39,850

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5040-16592

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

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 (~6,000 feet stream length) 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 project reach is located in core sage-grouse habitat with nearby active leks. Future restoration will enhance the wet-meadow complex to improve riparian conditions and increase late-season, brood-rearing habitat for sage-grouse.
- The proposed project builds upon successful implementation of a previously funded restoration project. This first phase withstood a high-flow event of over 1,000 cfs with minimal damage, and is now enrolled in CREP.
- Future restoration will improve wildlife and other aquatic habitat.
- The budget is clear and rates are reasonable.
- Budgets will be provided for three restoration design alternatives.

Concerns

- The technical assistance will provide a 60% design. However, achieving the full 100% design requires additional match, which can be challenging to obtain in remote rural areas.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance project will provide designs for the second phase of a three-phase effort. These designs will help further restoration efforts along Cusick Creek, and address stream channel instability resulting from impacts to streambanks by historic grazing, an active headcut, and a volatile hydrograph ranging from 2 cfs to 1,258 cfs. Improvements to Cusick Creek will be beneficial to sage-grouse and will enhance wet-meadow habitat by reconnecting the floodplain.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$29,488

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$29,488

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5041-16671

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Powder Basin Groundwater Records Review

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: $29,610

Total Cost: $37,787

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

There is growing concern that areas within the Powder Basin may be at risk for declining groundwater levels. This has been found in neighboring basins and since groundwater is managed similarly in the Powder Basin, it is presumed that problems will arise eventually, if not already. Based on conversations with the public and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) staff, it was determined that the most logical first step in assessing the current status of groundwater in the Powder Basin was to review existing data that is stored by OWRD. The goal of this project is to summarize existing data, identify trends in groundwater levels over time, extract geologic data that is relevant to groundwater storage where possible and determine where further data collection is needed. This effort will include summarizing all existing groundwater records within the entire Powder Basin and compiling all geologic information from well logs in the Baker Valley. This project is a collaboration between the Powder Basin Watershed Council, the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed effort could be successful if the applicant works closely with OWRD and DOGAMI, and there appears to be positive initial coordination with these agencies.
- The applicant is proactively anticipating and mitigating potential groundwater issues by using and analyzing existing data.

Concerns

- The technical soundness is unclear without information in the application explaining who will provide oversight and interpretation of the data, and how the data will be used.
- Special rules regarding groundwater use will need to be adopted for the basin before a project could lead to management changes.
- The project provides no clear path to accomplishing restoration in the basin.

Concluding Analysis

Existing data will be used to determine whether groundwater decline is a threat to the Powder Basin. Data collected from well logs and geologic data will be used to determine trends and groundwater-holding capacity. By compiling and summarizing existing groundwater data, a framework for better groundwater management will be provided. Since it is difficult to ascertain how this project leads to future restoration efforts, the cost-benefit for this technical assistance investment is unclear.

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 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5042-16684

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Malheur Watershed Habitat Connectivity Assessment and Enhancement Plan

Applicant: Burns Paiute Tribe

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $73,875

Total Cost: $93,414

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project is located in the Malheur watershed along U.S. Highway 20 (US 20) between Juntura and Ontario, Oregon. In this region, US 20 lacks dedicated elements to facilitate wildlife and habitat connectivity and fragments important habitats in the watershed by imposing a large physical barrier to wildlife and habitat connectivity. This fragmentation impairs wildlife and habitat connectivity and limits wildlife access to important resources along the Malheur River riparian corridor which compromises watershed function and resiliency. Additionally, attempts by wildlife to cross the highway to move between habitats often results in a myriad of wildlife-vehicle collisions that pose risk to wildlife and humans alike. For these reasons, connectivity enhancement measures (i.e., counter-measures) to address the many issues related to the fragmentation of habitat by US 20, are warranted. In order to identify connectivity enhancement measures, we will implement a Habitat Connectivity Assessment and Enhancement Plan in the Malheur watershed which will include the following: 1) development of a landscape-level assessment of wildlife and habitat connectivity including identification of limiting factors, 2) evaluation of potential connectivity enhancement measures to address connectivity and vehicle collisions, 3) selection and prioritization of feasible connectivity enhancement measures, and 4) preparation of preliminary design, estimated cost, and implementation plan for selected connectivity enhancement measures. We will develop this Habitat Connectivity Assessment and Enhancement Plan through a collaborative partnership with 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

- Concerns from the previous application evaluation are addressed, including expanding the area on the Highway 20 corridor to assess conditions from Juntura to Ontario. ODFW is also added as a project partner.
- The application is detailed and provides significant data, including additional information regarding retrofit solutions, sites for guide fencing, and potential pathways.
- Multiple partners and agencies are involved in the project. Project support from these organizations is demonstrated by the number of letters of support included in the application.

- The Burns-Paiute Tribe project support is demonstrated by significant match.

Concerns

- A recommended outcome may not be supported by ODOT.
- It is possible that this project could lead to another design phase rather than restoration.

Concluding Analysis

Highway 20 is the main travel corridor between Bend and Boise and has high amounts of truck traffic. The section of Highway 20 between Juntura and Ontario experiences unusually high wildlife-vehicle collisions. Highway 20 fragments habitat and is a physical barrier to wildlife accessing riparian habitat along Malheur River. The project will develop a landscape-level assessment of wildlife and habitat connectivity, including identification of limiting factors. This analysis will evaluate measures to address connectivity, prepare a design, and provide an implementation plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$73,875

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

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

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5043-16511

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation – Water Years 2019 & 2020

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $101,002

Total Cost: $313,982

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Grande Ronde Basin (GRB) covers over 5,000 square miles and includes several thousand miles of perennial flowing streams. This project is in place to operate 12 existing stream gauges in combination with USGS (3 gauges), Idaho Power (1 gauge) and OWRD (one gauge) who, independent of this project, operate five additional gauges (Grande Ronde at Troy, Imnaha R. at Imnaha, Minam R. at Minam, Lookingglass Creek, and Upper Catherine Cr.) to characterize flow in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. These gauges are intended to inform and provide data for irrigation water management, fisheries management, long term flow and trend analysis, TMDL and SB1010 water quality management plan effectiveness, subbasin plan implementation, restoration project development and provide essential information regarding cumulative effects response to conservation in the Grande Ronde Basin (GRB). Stream flow characteristics including headwater contribution, land management influence, and basin outlet data are all selectively collected in this network of 17 flow gauges. Production partners include Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) with funding partners being BPA, OWEB and OWRD. The Grande Ronde Basin (GRB) covers over 5,000 square miles and includes several thousand miles of perennial flowing streams. This project is in place to operate 12 existing stream gauges in combination with USGS (3 gauges), Idaho Power (1 gauge) and OWRD (one gauge) who, independent of this project, operate five additional gauges (Grande Ronde at Troy, Imnaha R. at Imnaha, Minam R. at Minam, Lookingglass Creek, and Upper Catherine Cr.) to characterize flow in both the Grande Ronde and Imnaha subbasins. These gauges are intended to inform and provide data for irrigation water management, fisheries management, long term flow and trend analysis, TMDL and SB1010 water quality management plan effectiveness, subbasin plan implementation, restoration project development and provide essential information regarding cumulative effects response to conservation in the Grande Ronde Basin (GRB). Stream flow characteristics including headwater contribution, land management influence, and basin outlet data are all selectively collected in this network of 17 flow gauges. Production partners include Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) with funding partners being BPA, OWEB and OWRD.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- Many local, tribal, state, and federal organizations use the data collected with OWEB funds in the past.
- OWRD has a proven track record maintaining gages and sharing real-time and published data.
- The application broadly describes how the data are used to identify, plan, and prioritize restoration projects.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The activities described in the schedule will not achieve the broader objectives stated in the application. The project funded under this application will provide the data to organizations that will actually use it for these purposes.
- The application is not clear on how proposed monitoring aligns with the place-based planning effort that is underway.
- The application does not adequately describe the need for funding and it is unclear what would happen if this project was not funded in the future.

Monitoring Team Comments

• The objectives described in the application would be better described in the Wrap-up Section questions designed to understand how the data will be reported and applied to inform future actions.

• This project would benefit from working with the DEQ Basin Coordinator to look at long-term data to understand trends in flows and relationships to water quality.

• Letters of support from Nez Perce Tribe and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife should be provided to describe how they currently use the data and describe specific projects that would benefit from it in the future.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will continue long-term monitoring that has occurred on some gauges since 1997; and continues maintenance, review, and operations of the 12 streamflow gauging stations.
- Data collected from the stream gauges are used broadly and regularly. The data is informative for many entities and users.
- The operation of the gauges ensures that irrigation water management and agreements are supported and can be enforced.
- Collected data is connected to various on-line systems.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application how the applicant will complete a cumulative-effects response

analysis.

- USGS protocols are followed and the applicant has a proven track record collecting high quality data. The quality of data collected at these sites continues to increase with new technology and continuing years of record establishes excellent history for each site.

Concluding Analysis

There is a long-term need for the collected data that is critical to designing future restoration projects. Gauges are located strategically throughout the Grande Ronde basin to document the effects of irrigation withdrawal. This is critical for irrigation water management and to enforce water right leases, especially during low-flow periods. The information provides an important data set used by OWRD, local river guides, and others as a management tool. There is substantial ecological benefit in maintaining gauges for consistent data.
This long-term project provides valuable data to multiple stakeholders working in the basin to manage fisheries, irrigation, and watershed restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$101,002

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$101,002

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5044-16590

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Kumbaya 2020: Monitoring in Malheur and Owyhee Basins

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $91,880

Total Cost: $124,096

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This application is being submitted jointly by the Malheur Watershed Council and the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District. These two entities will pool their resources to carry out the project proposed in this application. The proposed monitoring will occur in both the Malheur and Owyhee River Basins of eastern Oregon.In the past 20 plus years landowners, agencies, and irrigation districts have invested millions of dollars improve water quality in the Malheur and Owyhee Watersheds. In conjunction with these efforts, a comprehensive water quality monitoring program was begun to determine the extent and cause of water quality degradation and measure progress in correcting those problems. As the monitoring program progressed, it was refined to provide better detail on both problem areas and areas where best management practices have been applied. At this point, a substantial amount of data has been collected and analyzed to show that some areas are reducing sediment and phosphorus loads and water quality is improving. Continued monitoring is necessary, however, to verify water quality improvements and to characterize further changes in water quality related to changes in land and irrigation management over time. Most importantly, continued monitoring is critical to show agricultural producers that current agricultural practices are contributing to water quality impairment and to demonstrate that their efforts to improve land and irrigation management can be effective and worthwhile. The proposed monitoring program will continue to monitor 48 existing sites including 29 agricultural drains and 19 stream locations. (Please see attached Table 1.0). The collected data will be combined with historical data collected over the last 20 years and be statistically analyzed to determine trends.This application is being submitted jointly by the Malheur Watershed Council and the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District. These two entities will pool their resources to carry out the project proposed in this application. The proposed monitoring will occur in both the Malheur and Owyhee River Basins of eastern Oregon.In the past 20 plus years landowners, agencies, and irrigation districts have invested millions of dollars improve water quality in the Malheur and Owyhee Watersheds. In conjunction with these efforts, a comprehensive water quality monitoring program was begun to determine the extent and cause of water quality degradation and measure progress in correcting those problems. As the monitoring program progressed, it was refined to provide better detail on both problem areas and areas where best management practices have been applied. At this point, a substantial amount of data has been collected and analyzed to show that some areas are reducing sediment and phosphorus loads and water quality is improving. Continued monitoring is necessary, however, to verify water quality improvements and to characterize further changes in water quality related to changes in

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Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant has established competency, and it is beneficial for the SWCD and watershed council to pool their sampling efforts. This coordination should lead to improved coordination and analysis of the data.
- The co-applicants are working under DEQ approved SAPs, and using a reputable lab to analyze water samples.
- The data is beneficial for TMDL implementation tracking.
- Sampling incorporates the continuous flow gages to develop loads.
- The project will compare current and future data to historic data from the 1980s, and could provide some insight on longer term trends associated with BMP implementation and changes in land use.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Letters of support are not included in the application.
- The application would have benefited from describing if and how the past sampling network has been analyzed and sites were prioritized. It is unclear if all of the sampling sites are still needed given the large data set that has been produced.
- It is unclear why additional data are needed to demonstrate agricultural water quality issues based on current land management practices; this has been shown with previously collected data.
- It is unclear whether there is a need to continue collecting Upper Malheur phosphorus data and how DEQ will use this data for TMDL purposes.
- The sampling frequency (1 time per month) in the drains is inadequate to answer the applicant's questions.
- DEQ operates ambient water quality monitoring sites in this area and the application does not describe how the applicant is coordinating with DEQ's water quality lab or basin coordinator to share data and analyze trends.
- The application describes that the drain sampling will be accompanied by an analysis to track changes in land use, but no details are provided on how this land-use/management tracking will be done or the changes tracked.
- Many challenges are laid out around the drain flow monitoring sites, yet the application does not describe how these challenges will be addressed.
- The budget is inadequate to complete all the analyses described in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Drop the Upper Malheur phosphorus monitoring and perform drain monitoring 2 times per month.

• Require a communication plan to increase communication with local representatives of partner state agencies, along with reporting of incremental progress via annual progress reports.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring is a joint effort with the Malheur Watershed Council and the Malheur SWCD.
- There is strong partnership with Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and their mapping is readily accessible on-line.
- The project builds on prior work, and the partners have a proven track record of completing similar projects.
- The monitoring program guides future restoration efforts. The results can also substantiate past efforts to ascertain effectiveness of implemented restoration and conservation projects.

Concerns

- Coordination with additional partners, including ODEQ and ODA, is needed.
- The application needs clarification with a more refined scope of work.

Concluding Analysis

The Snake River Agricultural Drain (SRAD) project has been ongoing with over 12 years of data. Data collected is used by the Owyhee Watershed Council, Malheur Watershed Council (MWC), and Malheur SWCD to prioritize and implement restoration projects that focus on specific drainsheds with impaired water quality. The recently added flow data further enhances the monitoring and will help calculate pollutant loads. This effort also helps to successfully track the progress of restoration projects. The Malheur and lower Owyhee basins have high phosphorus levels, and collected data is essential to help inform the overall TMDL monitoring. One of the monitoring goals is to identify total phosphorus and sediment throughout the basin. Synthesis of existing data is an essential part of this project and will help make those determinations

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$91,880

Review Team Conditions

Prepare a communication plan to increase coordination with local representatives of partner state agencies and require the technical team to meet.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$91,880

Staff Conditions

Provide a communication plan prior to first payment that includes plans for increasing coordination with project partners, specifically local representatives of partner state agencies, and plans for maintaining engagement with a technical team. Progress reports will be scheduled for the project and should include an update on actions taken to implement this communication plan.

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

Application Number: 219-5045-16628

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Harney Groundwater Monitoring Phase 3

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $20,235

Total Cost: $30,955

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project area is located in the Malheur Lakes Basin, south east Oregon within Harney County known as the Harney Basin. In 2015, Oregon Water Resources Department placed a moratorium on processing groundwater irrigation permits due to possible over-allocation. With reports of declining water levels over several areas of the basin, OWRD and USGS launched a groundwater study in the project area known as the Greater Harney Valley Area of Concern. In two previous phases of this project we received funding first to have a local technician monitor 30 wells (10 within each of three areas reporting groundwater declines). The second project increased the number of wells to a total of 60 wells to be monitored. Increased response by local landowners wanting their wells monitored has enlarged the project to a total of 102 wells to be monitored quarterly. Project partners include Oregon Water Resources Department, Harney County, the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee and the Community Based Water Planning Collaborative.The project area is located in the Malheur Lakes Basin, south east Oregon within Harney County known as the Harney Basin. In 2015, Oregon Water Resources Department placed a moratorium on processing groundwater irrigation permits due to possible over-allocation. With reports of declining water levels over several areas of the basin, OWRD and USGS launched a groundwater study in the project area known as the Greater Harney Valley Area of Concern. In two previous phases of this project we received funding first to have a local technician monitor 30 wells (10 within each of three areas reporting groundwater declines). The second project increased the number of wells to a total of 60 wells to be monitored. Increased response by local landowners wanting their wells monitored has enlarged the project to a total of 102 wells to be monitored quarterly. Project partners include Oregon Water Resources Department, Harney County, the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee and the Community Based Water Planning Collaborative.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposed monitoring will build on past groundwater monitoring efforts and continue to contribute to the ongoing groundwater study.
- The application has a broader purpose to engage landowners as part of the place-based planning effort.
- The project will produce consistent data because it will be collected by the same technician that has sampled the existing well network.

- Applicant addressed previous reviewer comments and described the monitoring methods well in the application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT debated the need to expand the monitoring network with one year remaining and how much these data would or could be incorporated into the groundwater study to improve current understanding of the heterogeneity of the aquifer.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring project builds upon past efforts and includes an increase in the sample size of wells to be monitored.
- Engaging additional landowners is part of the OWRD's placed-based planning effort.
- Utilizing local staff ensures consistency in data collection, and builds trust with landowners that enable the council to monitor wells that out-of-area agency staff may not be granted access.

Concerns

- During previous phases of this monitoring project, data was not reported back to OWRD in a timely manner, and OWRD protocols may not have been followed to provide quality data.
- Some of the previously collected data may not be available to use in the groundwater study due to data quality concerns.
- The applicant has not provided data analysis from Phase 1 of the project.

Concluding Analysis

Due to results from previous phases of this monitoring project, the technical soundness of this next phase of the project is uncertain and is not likely to succeed until the concerns are addressed.

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 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 219-5046-16676

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Towards Sustainable Groundwater Management - Monitoring Evapotranspiration in the Harney Basin

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $146,670

Total Cost: $268,475

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Location: Harney Basin, including the Silver, Silvies, and Donner und Blitzen, Rivers and Harney-Malheur Lakes in Harney County; nearest cities are Burns and Hines. See Figure 1 for a map of the basin.Issue: Groundwater levels are declining in the Harney Basin largely due to a rapid increase in groundwater pumping for irrigation over the last 30 years. A Groundwater Study and local water planning effort are both working to develop an accurate groundwater budget. A major gap exists in the ability to quantify basin-wide groundwater use by crops and groundwater reliant plants (known as phreatophytes). The most cost effective and accurate method for monitoring historical and current basin-wide consumption of water by plants is to use remotely sensed evapotranspiration (ET) measurements (Mapping ET at high Resolution with Internalized Calibration [METRIC]). Proper calibration of the METRIC model relies on measurements of actual ET, which do not currently exist in the basin.Project: This project will collect baseline ET data and use that data to validate the METRIC model to estimate past ET and support ongoing ET monitoring efforts (Figure 2). All data and products will be maintained online and will be publicly available through a web visualization tool. A technical report will be developed that provides ET measurements developed using METRIC from 1984-2020. Outreach activities will connect local partners to the information and help them understand how they can use it in planning and management activities.Partners: This project leverages expertise and resources from several partners to inform studies, planning efforts, management decisions, and projects. Partners include the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada-Reno, University of Idaho, Oregon Water Resources Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee, the Community Based Water Planning Effort, County Court, and local landownersLocation: Harney Basin, including the Silver, Silvies, and Donner und Blitzen, Rivers and Harney-Malheur Lakes in Harney County; nearest cities are Burns and Hines. See Figure 1 for a map of the basin.Issue: Groundwater levels are declining in the Harney Basin largely due to a rapid increase in groundwater pumping for irrigation over the last 30 years. A Groundwater Study and local water planning effort are both working to develop an accurate groundwater budget. A major gap exists in the ability to quantify basin-wide groundwater use by crops and groundwater reliant plants (known as phreatophytes). The most cost effective and accurate method for monitoring historical and current basin-wide consumption of water by plants is to use remotely sensed evapotranspiration (ET) measurements (Mapping ET at high Resolution with Internalized Calibration [METRIC]). Proper calibration of the METRIC model relies on

measurements of actual ET, which do not currently exist in the basin.Project: This project will collect baseline ET data and use that data to validate the METRIC model to estimate past ET and support ongoing ET monitoring efforts (Figure 2). All data and products will be maintained online and will be publicly available through a web visualization tool. A technical report will be developed that provides ET measurements developed using METRIC from 1984-2020. Outreach activities will connect local partners to the information and help them understand how they can use it in planning and management activities.Partners: This project leverages expertise and resources from several partners to inform studies, planning efforts, management decisions, and projects. Partners include the Desert Research Institute at the University of Nevada-Reno, University of Idaho, Oregon Water Resources Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Geological Survey, the Groundwater Study Advisory Committee, the Community Based Water Planning Effort, County Court, and local landowners

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The proposal is well-written and describes a clear need for why the data is needed and why existing data are not sufficient.
- The meteorological data will be real time and publicly accessible.
- The project will help with the existing and proposed ground water monitoring grants, and the ongoing groundwater study.
- The project includes outreach component to work with stakeholders and references possible uses of data to aid landowners in crop irrigation.
- The budget is detailed and organized by objective, which addresses previous project review concerns.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application is unclear on the number of years data are needed to adequately calibrate the model.
- The OPMT questioned what the long term plan is for monitoring needs for these data in support of the model.
- Working with this equipment and data requires a high level of expertise. The application does not include a description on who has the expertise to calculate actual ET.

Monitoring Team Comments

• The application describes the other eddy covariance ET station in the basin and it would be good to incorporate and compare these results as part of the modeling effort, if the data can be acquired.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written.
- This project will complement on-going OWRD monitoring in the region.
- This application addresses previous project evaluation concerns, including describing the need for the data and providing budget details.
- Previously identified data quality issues may be mitigated with the additional partners now participating in the project.
- The project includes an outreach component and work with stakeholders.
- The information can be used to help inform crop irrigation scheduling.
- Data will be available through a Web visualization too

Concerns

- The number of years of data needed to adequately calibrate the model is unclear.
- Project costs are high compared to similar work, and it is unclear how the costs for travel, maintenance, calibration, and troubleshooting were determined.
- It is unclear how this project will inform management decisions and future restoration efforts.

Concluding Analysis

OWRD and USGS are participating in an ongoing groundwater study in the Harney basin that will produce a water budget to estimate recharge, discharge, and change in storage. The information collected from the eddy co-variance will help quantify basin-wide groundwater use by crops and groundwater-dependent plants (phraetophytes). The proposed project may offer a cost-effective and accurate method for monitoring historical and current basin-wide water consumption by plants using remotely sense evapotranspiration (ET) measurements. This technology will provide ways to calibrate actual ET. While the monitoring data will be useful to OWRD, the cost-benefit of this investment is uncertain without more information on how the data can be used to inform future restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$146,670

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$146,670

Staff Conditions

None

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

Application Number: 219-5047-16586

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Stakeholder Engagement in Groundwater Conservation in the Harney Basin

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $42,609

Total Cost: $53,909

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Harney Basin is located in Harney County, and encompasses a significant aquifer as well as surface drainages from the Silvies , Donner und Blitzen Rivers, Silver Creek, and the direct drainages to Harney and Malheur Lakes. Burns and Hines as the area's two major towns. The basin is experiencing significant groundwater declines resulting in regulatory curtailment of new groundwater permits and stimulated the interest in a planning initiative, the Harney Community-Based Water Planning (CBWP) Collaborative. The CBWP has engaged local community members and other interested stakeholders in a collaborative group that is open to the public. Declining groundwater levels can inhibit access to water for drinking, domestic, and agricultural use, and can affect groundwater-dependent ecosystems and species. Additionally, arsenic levels above the 10 ppb drinking water standard have been measured in groundwater wells.Some of the domestic well users are experiencing difficulties in obtaining potable water. Since domestic wells are "exempt" uses under state law, there is little information about their condition or use. The proposed work in this application entails: 1) conducting a statistically-valid, mailed survey -- to be designed and conducted by OSU -- of what rural domestic well users are experiencing with their water; and 2) effectively engaging stakeholders in water-resource information compiled by and solutions developed by the CBWP. These efforts will better enable the Collaborative in developing realistic conservation strategies that are well-matched for the basin, such as voluntary approaches for significant reduction in groundwater use and ecological restoration projects.Our project partners include all the organizations associated with the place-based water resource planning project, and particularly: OSU, Harney County Court, HCWC, OWRD, USGS, Oregon DEQ, Water Watch, The Nature Conservancy and Crane High School.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will broaden the group of stakeholders engaged in groundwater conversations and involve more than the agricultural community.
- Engaging high school students from Crane creates a high likelihood that parents will become involved with this effort.
- Public engagement in the Harney basin may ultimately provide a larger benefit than the data collected from the mailed survey.

- Stakeholder engagement will aid in the development of a water budget, which will be developed as part of the community-based planning effort that is co-convened by Harney County Court and Harney County Watershed Council.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the project will lead to further study and analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The project has high potential to engage different segments of stakeholders in the Harney basin. There are several on-going efforts in Harney County, including the placed-based planning effort with OWRD and groundwater studies with USGS and OWRD. The outcomes generated by this stakeholder engagement will help stakeholders more broadly understand the magnitude of the issues. It will help various groups target solutions that will resolve conflicts and help to decrease water use. Materials will be provided for stakeholders to develop short-term conservation strategies, understand the basin's water-resource issues, and determine strategies to reduce groundwater use. Conservation strategies recommended can be incorporated into future restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$42,609

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$42,609

Staff Conditions

None

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Fall 2018 Funding Recommendations



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2018FallCycle\Projects\Region6_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2018Fall.mxd
ESRI ArcMap 10.6 NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20190314

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Spring 2017

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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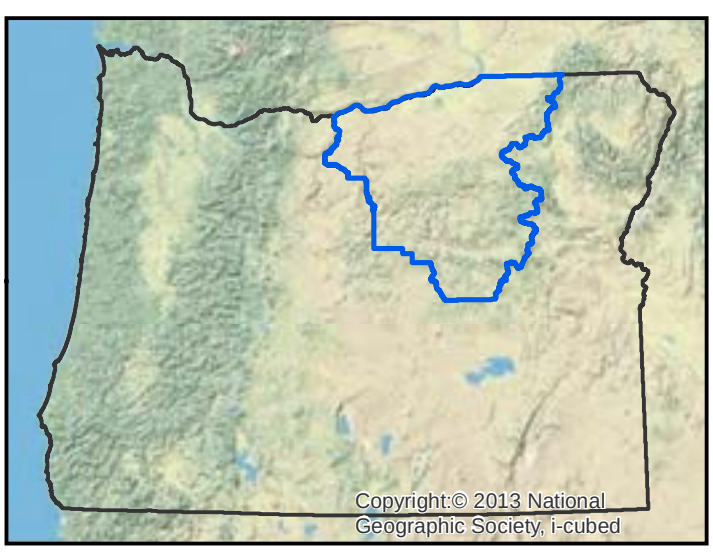

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6017	North Fork John Day WC	Clear Creek Restoration	Multiple old log weirs and historic road berms that keep fish from swimming upstream on Clear Creek will be removed.	59,893	Grant
219-6029	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Couse Creek Confluence Fish Passage Construction	This project will remove old concrete rip rap that blocks fish from swimming up Couse Creek to cooler water and good habitat. Wood and other natural structures will be added along 3/4 mile of Couse Creek to improve fish habitat.	117,992	Umatilla
219-6019	Umatilla Basin Watershed Foundation	Wildhorse Creek Dam Removal & Bridge Replacement	A major barrier that blocks fish from accessing 15 miles of Wildhorse Creek will be corrected by removing a four-foot high concrete diversion under a too-narrow bridge and replace it with a structure that allows fish to swim upstream to cooler and better habitat.	103,290	Umatilla
219-6016	Monument SWCD	Rudio Headwaters Meadow Restoration	Dense forest will be thinned around Rudio Creek headwaters then set into the stream to catch and build up an eroded channel. Additionally, a wildlife friendly fence will be built around the site to keep cattle from the restored site.	99,764	Grant
219-6024	Gilliam SWCD	Hewes Diversion Removal	This project will remove a huge abandoned concrete diversion, add habitat instream for fish, and plant riparian shrubs for future shade.	76,921	Gilliam
219-6025	Monument SWCD	Cavender Wetland Habitat Improvements	This project will control weeds and plant important wetland shrubs and grasses to provide good habitat for birds and wildlife that call Cavender Pond home.	17,029	Grant
219-6022	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	Upper Fox Creek Fish Passage and Instream Habitat Enhancement Project	Two culverts will be replaced with a bridge so steelhead and other fish can swim upstream to cooler water; habitat will be improved on two miles of Fox Creek; encroaching juniper will be removed; and riparian shrubs will be planted and protected along Fox Creek.	167,801	Grant
219-6026	Grant SWCD	McGirr Fox Creek Passage and Habitat Project	This project will remove a concrete diversion that currently blocks most fish from swimming upstream to critical habitat in Fox Creek.	176,522	Grant
219-6023	North Fork John Day WC	Camp - Lick Restoration	This project will remove non functioning log weirs, berms and rip rap that impair both Camp and Lick Creek; large wood and other natural structures will be added to the streams to improve fish habitat; and riparian shrubs and trees will be planted and protected with fencing.	167,452	Grant

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order *(Continued)*

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6027	North Fork John Day WC	Eight Mile Headwaters Upland Improvement Project	Six springs will be developed for wildlife and livestock water; and thirsty juniper and crowded timber will be removed upslope of the spring sites.	86,763	Grant
219-6028	North Fork John Day WC	Fox Creek Upland Restoration Project	Encroaching juniper will be thinned and seven declining aspen stands will be protected with buck and pole fencing.	120,570	Grant
219-6015	North Fork John Day WC	Big Flat Pasture Enhancements	Removing juniper upslope from Flat Creek compliments water developments for both livestock and wildlife.	54,315	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,248,312**	

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				**1,248,312**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-6018	Wheeler SWCD	Pine Hollow Middle and Upper Restoration	167,873	Wheeler
219-6020	Wheeler SWCD	Badger Creek Forest and LWD Restoration	56,423	Wheeler
219-6021	Grant SWCD	Greenwood Upland Improvements	246,093	Grant

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6030	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Desolation Reach 3 Design	This proposal would result in designs to restore and improve two miles of fish habitat in Desolation Creek.	45,110	Grant
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**45,110**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
219-6031	Umatilla Basin Watershed Foundation	Reith Dam Removal Design	Construction ready designs will enable removing an abandon full channel-spanning concrete irrigation dam on the Umatilla River.	27,500	Umatilla
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**72,610**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
219-6032	Umatilla Basin Watershed Foundation	Umatilla River Floodplain Assessment & Action Plan	55,000	Umatilla

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-6037	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement	Healthier streams and better habitat for fish and wildlife in the Walla Walla Basin will result from landowners and partners collaborating on restoration.	27,522	Umatilla
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**27,522**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**27,522**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-6036	North Fork John Day WC	John Day Basin Partnership Outreach		36,974	Grant

Region 6 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring Grant Offering

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
219-6035	Gilliam SWCD	Adult Steelhead Migratory Routes Investigation	Over 50% of fish native to the John Day River swim past the mouth of the river, reducing the numbers of steelhead that make it back to their home streams to reproduce. This proposal monitors water temperature and tracks steelhead as they return from the ocean to the John Day River.	223,232	Gilliam
219-6033	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Hydrological Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin	This monitoring proposal will collect stream temperature, flow and ground water levels at numerous long-term monitoring locations. This information will inform both the effectiveness of existing restoration and help prioritize locations for future restoration.	108,944	Umatilla
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**332,176**	
Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**332,176**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
219-6034	PSU- Portland State University	Utilizing multispectral UAV-imagery to monitor stream and riparian restoration effectiveness		81,680	Grant
Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,653,120**	**16%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**10,554,731**	

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6015-16582
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Big Flat Pasture Enhancements
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $54,315
Total Cost: $135,538

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The area know as Big Flat is located in the Southwestern corner of Grant County, in the Upper South Fork John Day River Watershed, on the Keerins Ranch. Big Flat is at the headwaters of many redband bearing streams, but closest to Flat Creek and Brisbois Creek. In the both watersheds, streamflows are very low or even non-existent during summer months. Flat Creek is on the 303 (d) list for temperature. This area is also considered winter range habitat for elk, and mule deer. In order to continue efforts to enhance Flat Creek, and to enhance the habitat of Big Flat, mitigate the effects of Juniper, and provide critical water for wildlife and livestock, the Keerins's had a well installed, and are seeking assistance to develop a watering system from this well, and also to remove 183 acres of Western Juniper. Prior to this well, the only water available for the pasture was located at a spring development, previously developed by the Keerins and Izee Ranch, which is dry most of the year. To accompany the well and spring development, and assist in providing improved habitat in the Big Flat pasture, we are requesting OWEB support to remove 183 acres of Western Juniper. This will continue work occurring at the headwaters of Flat Creek on the Kee Property, OWEB grant: 218-6005. This project will also compliment work on Spoon Creek, a tributary of Flat Creek, and Flat Creek itself, just downstream of Big Flat, OWEB grant: 217-6005. Other planned restoration for Flat Creek, and surrounding Big Flat includes Forest Health treatments in the Caribou pasture. All of these project surround Big Flat, and aim to improve the Flat Creek Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a well-written application that includes clear objectives, photos, and maps.
- Improving the ecological condition of this property will benefit elk and mule deer, as well as other wildlife that live in the basin.
- The project compliments previous restoration work completed in the area.
- Improving water sources in the pasture will help reduce use of pastures that now solely rely on Flat Creek.

Concerns

- Including a grazing management strategy would be helpful to the review.
- It is not clear whether the project will continue if match dollars are not secured.

Concluding Analysis

Numerous restoration projects have been completed in this high elevation private lands to improve wet meadows and forest health, protect aspen, remove encroaching juniper, and improve water quality of Flat Creek and other redband trout tributaries to the South Fork John Day River. This project builds on those efforts by utilizing a new well for livestock water development in a dry pasture. This area is critical deer and elk wintering area with abundant bitter brush and mountain mahogany communities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$54,315

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$54,315

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6016-16600

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Rudio Headwaters Meadow Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $99,764

Total Cost: $145,592

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Rudio Headwaters Meadow Restoration project is located in the upper portions of the Rudio Creek drainage (HUC 12 -170702021005), a tributary of the North Fork John Day River, near the town of Kimberly in Grant County, Oregon. Rudio Creek is listed as critical spawning and rearing habitat for both Chinook salmon and ESA listed (Threatened) Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Past management activities under previous ownership has resulted in severely overstocked forest stands that have encroached upon, and degraded the condition and function of, historic wet meadows in the headwater reaches of Rudio Creek.This project will address the following watershed management objectives:1) Forest Stand Improvements: 137-acres of mixed conifer forest will be pre-commercially thinned, primarilyeliminating lodgepole pine. This restoration action will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and restore hydrologic functions within the headwater wet meadow habitat of Rudio Creek.2) Exclude Cattle from Wet Meadow and Riparian Habitats: Approximately 6,000 feet of wildlife friendly fence will be installed to create a 27-acre exclosure around 13 acres of wet meadow and riparian habitat. This restoration action will prevent trespass cattle from adjacent properties from accessing the site. Cattle exclusion will result in reduced trampling of hydric soils, decreased soil compaction, increased soil porosity, and accelerated recovery of sensitive plant communities.3) Accelerate Wet Meadow Recovery:16 beaver dam analogue (BDA) structures will be installed within Rudio Creek using onsite materials. BDAs will improve large woody debris retention, attenuate flows, improve floodplain connectivity, aggregate sediment, and increase riparian hardwood productivity.Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Monument SWCD, Jeff Maben (property manager/forester), Wildwood Investments (landowner), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site has potential for improved stream function and floodplain reconnection.
- Protecting the riparian area from errant trespass cattle will help establish riparian vegetation.
- The project compliments the landowner’s effort to improve forest health on adjacent overstocked timber stands.
- The applicant and landowner have a successful track record of restoration accomplishments.

- Catastrophic wildfire is a serious resource concern in this basin, and the proposed forest stand improvements will reduce this wildfire risk.
- Thinning will help reduce insect infestation and disease.
- Beaver dam analog (BDA) are designed to be strategically placed and incorporated into existing large wood structures located in the stream channel.
- Planting willows will improve the diversity of the existing riparian vegetation.

Concerns

- The design would be strengthened by adding additional trees to be dropped into the channel.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in the headwater meadows of Rudio Creek, an important steelhead tributary of the North Fork John Day River. This project will improve water quality and potentially increase flows for the entire stream. The landowner has a reputation of successful restoration on their other properties and has already begun forest health treatments adjacent to the project site, maximizing the overall ecological benefits of this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$99,764

Review Team Conditions

Add project component of dropping large trees in-channel along barren reaches of the stream project site.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$99,764

Staff Conditions

Add to the application scope of work a project component for dropping large trees in-channel along barren reaches of the stream project site.

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6017-16604
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Clear Creek Restoration
Applicant: North Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $59,893
Total Cost: $110,019

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Clear Creek is a perennial stream which flows into the Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) roughly 1.5 miles north of Austin Junction, OR. Beaver removal, past timber harvest, and associated railroad grade and road construction within the floodplain of Clear Creek led to channel incision which reduced the floodplain inundation frequency and connectivity of the creek to an extensive side-channel network. In the late 1970's, log weirs were installed in Clear Creek with the goal of improving degraded fish habitat by increasing pools, sorting spawning gravels, and preventing further channel incision. Many of these structures met their original intent, but also resulted in unintended consequences, creating barriers that prevent movement of fish to cooler upstream waters, overwidening channels, and forcing step pool complexes in plane-bed channels.Clear Creek is an important cool water tributary to the MFJDR and is key rearing habitat for Mid-Columbia River spring-run Chinook salmon, as well as being designated critical habitat for Columbia River bull trout and Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Recovery plans specifically identified removal of passage barrier weirs as key actions on Clear Creek to recover bull trout and steelhead. The North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), partnering with the US Forest Service (USFS) and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO), will remove log weirs, remove valley constraining berms and riprap, plant riparian hardwoods, and place appropriate in-channel and floodplain structures (large woody debris and boulders) in order to allow the stream to naturally reduce its width/depth ratio, improve water quality, increase sinuosity and pool numbers, promote spawning gravel accumulation in pool tail-outs, and restore juvenile fish passage. These actions will enhance geomorphic and ecohydraulic processes and functions to support limited over-summer rearing habitat for native fishes.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site provides high quality spawning and rearing for spring Chinook, ESA-listed steelhead, bull trout, and other aquatic species.
- The historic log weirs to be removed are confirmed barriers to juvenile fish. Removing these weir will open access to over three stream miles of Chinook habitat, nine miles of designated critical steelhead habitat, and twelve miles of designated critical habitat for bull trout.

- Years of temperature monitoring data for Upper Clear Creek indicates this stream is one of the coldest on the Middle Fork John Day River. Continued monitoring is an important addition to the project.
- The project is identified in multiple plans, including the Bridge Creek-Middle Fork John Day River Draft Watershed Restoration Action Plan and the Aquatic Restoration Environmental Assessment (Malheur Nat'l Forest 2014.)…..
- Ample match and partners with technical expertise, indicates support for the project.
- The project is shovel-ready once cultural work is completed.
- The applicant and partners have successful track records for restoration.
- The proposed work builds on other projects in the upper Middle Fork John Day River basin.
- Utilization of a nearby large wood supply reduces the cost of the project.
- Beavers will expand and increase floodplain connectivity resulting from the proposed work.

Concerns

- Additional information on the berm, such as their role as a limiting factor, the history and actual location, would have been helpful to the review.

Concluding Analysis

This project corrects historic anthropogenic structures that have outlived their original intent and now impact juvenile fish as they attempt to move upstream to high quality habitat. There is no grazing along this stream reach and the vegetation is thick. Dropping some of the large conifers instream will add complexity and cover, as well as allow riparian hardwoods to flourish. The project has a high ecological benefit-cost ratio and high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$59,893

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$59,893

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6018-16612

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Pine Hollow Middle and Upper Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $167,873

Total Cost: $244,077

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is located along Pine Hollow Creek, a steelhead bearing tributary of Rock Creek, which flows to the John Day River. Located within Wheeler County, the nearest town being Mitchell, Oregon. 2) This project is a holistic continuation of work within the Pine Hollow Creek Watershed to address the limiting factors to watershed health and fish passage. The project will provide much needed habitat complexity on the lower reach of Pine Hollow Creek, correct a significant fish passage barrier, and address juniper encroachment within the headwaters. 3)The project will install Vertical Post Structures (VPSs) and large wood on approximately ¾ miles of Pine Hollow Creek which has recently been enrolled in the ODFW Riparian Fencing Program. It will also correct a major fish passage barrier of a perch culvert. Correction of this culvert will include an additional 0.25 miles of fencing through the ODFW program. Lastly, the project will begin restoration of the headwaters of Pine Hollow Creek by the treatment of prioritized juniper in a top down manner. 4)Project partners include USFW Partners Program, the Antone Ranch(Daysprings Partners LLC), the ODFW John Day, and the Wheeler County SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project was identified from an OWEB funded assessment and follows an OWEB funded technical assistance grant for the design.
- This Pine Hollow Creek project opens access to three miles of ESA-listed steelhead habitat, and compliments other restoration work done on this stream.
- Alternative designs are discussed in the application.
- The cost rates for removing juniper appeared to be reasonable.

Concerns

- This property is in the process of a pending sale, which creates uncertainty for the project to be successfully implemented.
- It is not clear if there are remaining fish passage barriers above the project reach.

- The application does not clearly explain how the pond will not become a heat-sink that negatively impacts stream temperatures.
- Strategies explaining how the project will be sustained or improved with grazing around the site are missing from the application, further diminishing the long-term likelihood of success.
- More detail on the secondary culvert and the current condition and phases of the juniper stand would have helped the review.
- Information on the actions that will be taken to prevent juniper from re-establishing in the near and distant future is not included in the application.
- The fencing component was confusing because the maps do not show where the fencing will be located in relation to the pond, the adjacent road, and the livestock winter feed area.
- The application does not include information on how management will address livestock winter feed area runoff issues along ¼ mile of Pine Creek alongside and directly below the restoration site. The close proximity of this heavy use area negated or at best lowered the stated ecological benefits.

Concluding Analysis

Pine Hollow Creek, a tributary to Rock Creek, has potential to be valuable steelhead habitat. A lot of restoration work had been completed on this ranch and this project will build on that work. However, this project is premature with the ranch sale pending, and the application lacks critical detail necessary to determine the likelihood of success for the proposed restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6019-16644

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wildhorse Creek Dam Removal & Bridge Replacement

Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $103,290

Total Cost: $780,098

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Umatilla Basin Watershed Council (UBWC) and partners are collaborating with the City of Athena and Umatilla County Public Works to address fish passage and habitat in Wildhorse Creek near Athena, Oregon. Wildhorse Creek (HUC 17070103), a tributary of the Umatilla River originates in temperate forest at an elevation of 3,760 feet and flows 34 miles to the Umatilla River at an elevation of 1,100 feet near Pendleton, Oregon. ODFW & CTUIR biologist have identified a passage obstruction for steelhead along with resident rainbow trout, Pacific Lamprey, Coho Salmon, and several other non-salmonid fish species at the South 3rd Street Bridge in Athena, Oregon. Replacing the bridge was chosen because it was the only alternative from the feasibility study that would allow fish due to a velocity barrier and no associated jump pool. The existing bridge structure is a concrete box with winged buttress walls and a concrete floor. A channel spanning, concrete grade control wall located 10 feet upstream of the bridge creates a 4-foot drop in water surface elevation. These structures limit flow conveyance and passage during peak flows due to increased water velocity, and also contributes to habitat degradation. This project intends to remove the passage obstruction, replace the bridge with a larger structure that meets NMFS and ODFW fish passage criteria, and stabilize channel bed gradient by creating a 160-feet roughened channel. Restoring fish passage at the South 3rd Street Bridge will provide access to an additional 15.4 miles of mountain habitat for salmonid rearing and spawning. Project partners include the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, ODOT Fish Passage Compensation Program, R&E Program, Umatilla Economic Development Committee, the City of Athena, Umatilla County Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Athena Chamber of Commerce & Main Street Committee, Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant responded to all of the previous evaluation concerns.
- Project designs are 100% complete and ready for construction.
- The bridge components have been purchased by partners and are awaiting installation.
- There has been and continues to be public outreach and support for the project.

- The application includes information that validates the quality of the upstream habitat which is valuable to steelhead.

Concerns

- There are no concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The project site has a significant fish passage barrier and steelhead are known to become trapped in the pool downstream of this site because they unable to navigate the four-foot high concrete wall. The project has a high likelihood of success with strong partner support, and will provide a significant ecological benefit for the project cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$103,290

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$103,290

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6020-16650

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Badger Creek Forest and LWD Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $56,423

Total Cost: $96,023

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1)The project is S-SE of Mitchell on Badger Creek which is a tributary of Mountain Creek. The project is located in close proximity to several successful OWEB and NRCS project. 2)A recently completed NRCS pre-commercial thinning project was successfully completed, but enough funds were not available to address all of the area prioritized. Badger Creek through this reach has very little large wood, shading, and floodplain connectivity which are key limiting factors for steelhead recovery. 3) The project conducted additional pre-commercial thinning work on a small acreage to complement a recently completed NRCS pre-commercial thinning project and complete the originally planned total extent to reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfire. Vertical Post Structures (VPSs) and large wood will be installed to improve woody debris prevalence, shading, and floodplain connectivity. 4)Partners include the NRCS, USFWS, ODFW, the landowner, and the Wheeler SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is relatively straight-forward and includes detailed maps and photos.
- The project builds on and expands significant restoration investment in this basin.
- Badger Creek is an important ESA-listed steelhead stream for both spawning and rearing.
- Incorporating willow whips in the beaver dam analogs is a successful and proven technique.

Concerns

- Information on the thinning project component and timber management, including stocking level and vegetation composition, is lacking in the application.
- The lack of riparian fencing decreases the expected ecological benefits of the project.
- Including documentation that demonstrates past success of using large wood to protect riparian vegetation would have been helpful to the review.
- No grazing management strategy is included in the application to show how restoration investment will be protected from or enhanced by grazing.
- No designs are included in the application.

Concluding Analysis

Quite a bit of restoration has been implemented on Badger Creek, a steelhead tributary of Mountain Creek. This project site adjoins two other completed restoration sites that are showing habitats improvements. However, it is difficult to evaluate the project without more information and detailed designs to determine the likelihood of success in achieving expected watershed benefits. If resubmitted, it is important to address the concerns noted by this evaluation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6021-16689
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Greenwood Upland Improvements
Applicant: Grant SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $246,093
Total Cost: $344,940

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located on private property with activities in both the Isham and Reynolds Creek watersheds. The property faces numerous conservation challenges such as heavily overstocked timber, invasive annual grasses, juniper infestation, impaired riparian conditions, lack of livestock management infrastructure as well as an overall lack of late season water sources for livestock and wildlife. Late season water for 1,100 acres of pasture is currently provided by a small section of Isham Creek: a summer steelhead stream that flows year round. This project requests OWEB support to improve 4 existing stockponds, install 4 new ones, construct a solar stockwater system and 12,000 feet of cross fencing. Matching efforts will include the landowner, NRCS (forest thinning activities) and ODFW (Annual grass control and reseeding).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposes a whole-watershed approach to improvements on the property.
- Forest thinning and invasive medusahead treatments done by the landowners demonstrate their commitment to ecologic improvements on their land.
- The upper John Day River mainstem flows along the west side of the property and any improvements to water quality will benefit ESA listed steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.
- Developing upland water sources are beneficial to both livestock and wildlife.

Concerns

- There is no justification on why lining the ponds is necessary.
- Modeling the hydrology for potential overland flows to ponds and evaporation rates would have been helpful to the review.
- More detail on the grazing management would have strengthened the application.
- Watershed benefit is marginal for the amount of funds requested.

Concluding Analysis

The landowners have a history of implementing restoration projects to improve the landscape scale habitat function. However, the ecological benefits that will be realized from this proposal are low for the requested amount. If this proposal is resubmitted, the applicant should consider a phased approach, documenting the previous restoration results before moving forward on the remaining phases; including clear ecological benefits resulting from the project; and providing a grazing management strategy that informs how the investment in restoration will be protected and sustained into the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6022-16693
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Upper Fox Creek Fish Passage and Instream Habitat Enhancement Project
Applicant: Confed Tribes Warm Springs
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $167,801
Total Cost: $886,325

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Fox Creek Fish Passage and Instream Habitat Enhancement Project (Project) is located on private agricultural land approximately 2 miles south of the town of Fox, Oregon. The land in the project area is actively grazed by cattle and used for producing hay-feed. Historical land use impacts have degraded the riparian corridor and accelerated stream incision, which now isolates the stream from interaction with the floodplain. Additional impacts include an increase in stream sediment from four unimproved cattle/vehicle fords within the project area and potential fish stranding issues presented by three unscreened irrigation diversions. The project includes: reconnection of historical side channels through excavation; creation of 4 habitat alcoves; 11 bank laybacks to stabilize streambank erosion; installation of LWD and beaver dam analogues; construction of 2 improved livestock crossings to restore fish passage; planting and fencing of native grasses, shrubs, and trees in the riparian area; decommissioning and consolidation of 3 irrigation Point-Of-Diversions and the addition of a fish screen on the consolidated diversion point. The landowner is placing existing surface water withdrawal rights into an instream lease, which will increase instream flows. Project Partners include the following: Bonneville Power Administration - design and implementation funding; North Fork John Day Watershed Council - aspen stand protection; Monument Soil & Water Conservation District - monitoring; US Forest Service (Malheur) - monitoring; US Fish & Wildlife Service - permitting and implementation funding; Freshwater Trust - instream lease; Grant County Soil & Water Conservation District - pump station and water delivery system designs, overseeing the cultural surveys; Landowner - trees, fence maintenance, grazing plan; Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife - fish screen.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The ecological benefits are well-explained in the application.
- The project compliments other instream work completed downstream on Fox Creek.
- Correcting the fish passage issues at the culverts will benefit steelhead, redband trout, and juvenile Chinook by opening access to 6.8 miles of cold water habitat.
- ODFW has already approved the designs for the beaver dam analog structure.
- An instream lease is in process, which will protect stream flows into the future.

- The application is well-written, includes detailed maps and provides historic perspectives to aid in the review.
- Designs are comprehensive, construction-ready, and will result in improved water quality and fish habitat in Fox Creek.
- The proposed video will serve to help tell the story of restoration.
- Monitoring fish absence/presence and macro invertebrates will be continued, which will add to the existing baseline data.
- Using the removed juniper as instream large wood habitat structures increases the efficiencies and economy of the project.
- Project support is demonstrated by ample secured match funding.

Concerns

- The large wood placement and burying entire tree boles could result in excessive streambank disturbance. As an alternative, entire logs could be placed in the stream channel for added habitat complexity and cover with less disturbance.
- More detail relating to the livestock crossings, grazing strategies and long-term juniper management would provide helpful context to the review.

Concluding Analysis

The project will provide significant ecological benefits to this upper section of Fox Creek. It builds on extensive past and current restoration underway both up- and downstream. Fox Creek is an identified stream for steelhead and other aquatic species, including large colonies of freshwater mussels.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$167,801

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$167,801

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6023-16694
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Camp - Lick Restoration
Applicant: North Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $167,452
Total Cost: $424,016

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Camp Creek fifth field watershed has been a priority, focus area for the USFS since 2008. Camp Creek and Lick Creek, just upstream of the town of Galena, provide higher levels of steelhead spawning and juvenile rearing than most other tributaries of the Middle Fork John Day River. An intensively monitored watershed (IMW) study identified large woody debris increased channel complexity in good water years, however, water temperatures drove the magnitude of survivability in most drought years that have occurred since 2012. Watershed issues likely started with eradicating beaver by about 1823 in Camp Creek. Then, in the 1940s, railroad grades were built immediately adjacent to Camp Creek. The railroad grade levee is having the most pervasive impacts to stream processes in low gradient, unconfined valleys along Camp Creek where the valley is bisected and trapped by these levees. Historic side channels and wetlands will be connected to Camp Creek that have been blocked by old railroad grades to restore vegetative establishment and development for cottonwood, willow and dogwood plant communities that would provide for stream shading, increasing terrestrial insect production and providing for beaver over the long term. Railroad grades will be partially and/or fully removed to provide for multi-threaded channel planforms and the soil will be redistributed back across the floodplain. Wetland plants will be salvaged and replanted with more cottonwood poles, willow and dogwood whips. A split of buck and pole and metal fences will be placed around suckering mature cottonwood and disturbed areas that will provide high quality shade. Trees will be tipped and placed, improving forest structure at the stand scale and reduce wild fire threats. The North Fork John Day Watershed Council is partnering with the USFS – Blue Mountain Ranger District and the Confederation of Warm Springs Tribes to accomplish this great project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The ecological benefits are well-described in the application with detailed maps that show specific project components.
- The plans to remove the railroad grade and reconnect the floodplain will significantly improve stream function on Camp and Lick Creeks.
- Adding large wood and beaver dam analogs will add stream complexity and improve habitat for both ESA-listed steelhead and Chinook.

- The project builds on and compliments past restoration efforts in the watershed.
- The partners involved have successfully implemented numerous other restoration projects, increasing the likelihood of this project's success.
- Project support is demonstrated by significant secured match.

Concerns

- The application does not explain where the material removed from the railroad bed will end up in relation to existing wetlands on site.
- Using electric fence to protect the riparian areas will require a lot of maintenance to secure the durability around the riparian area and associated plantings.

Concluding Analysis

Camp and Lick Creek provide important habitat for both steelhead and Chinook. Malheur National Forest is partnering with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council to implement and monitor this very visible project along a well-used USFS road, offering a unique outreach opportunity on public timber land.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$167,452

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$167,452

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6024-16695
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Hewes Diversion Removal
Applicant: Gilliam SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Gilliam
OWEB Request: $76,921
Total Cost: $200,986

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

- The applicant addressed all prior evaluation concerns.
- The design is simplified and continues to meet the goals and objectives of the project.
- Secured match is provided by partners on the project, which indicates the project is ready to implement. Since impending match dollars have spending deadlines, project implementation is urgent.
- The approach for the concrete diversion disposal is innovative and economical.
- Steelhead entrapment during high flows is a known problem at this project site. Removing the abandoned concrete structure removes that hazard and improves habitat along this reach.
- The project builds on previous restoration completed on Rock Creek in the lower John Day Basin.
- Planting the riparian areas will add benefit in the long term and the contractor identified to plant trees has a successful track record on similar project sites.

Concerns

- There are no concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The grantee maintained landowner interest and engagement in the project through multiple application submissions, developed unusual partners, and simplified the design while continuing to meet the goals and objectives of reducing entrapment of steelhead, increasing habitat, and improving water quality. The resulting project after these refinements provides a significant watershed benefit at an effective cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$76,921

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$76,921

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6025-16701

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cavender Wetland Habitat Improvements

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $17,029

Total Cost: $37,328

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Cavender Wetland Habitat Improvements project is located on private property in the southwest corner of Monument, Oregon in Grant County. A 9.7-acre wetland occupies a site immediately adjacent to the North Fork John Day River. A previous OWEB restoration grant saw to multiple enhancements across this locally unique and valuable habitat. However, soil compaction from 2016 construction activities and scour from 2017 ice flows resulted in poor native plant establishment and survival in several areas. Some sites have persistent noxious weed populations that threaten the long-term trajectory of desirable plant communities. Herbivory from native ungulates and obligate wetland species (i.e., muskrat and beaver) also hinder the success of native plantings across the wetland. Therefore, additional vegetation management is required to create a stable native plant community within this rare eastern Oregon wetland.The project will address the following management objectives:1) Herbaceous Invasive Species Control: Noxious weed control with approved herbicides will be conducted across the wetland and associated upland communities to improve the competitive advantage and establishment of desirable native species.2) Establishment of Desirable Plant Communities: Areas within the wetland with poor vegetation establishment due to soil compaction will received tillage for seed bed preparation prior to aggressive application of native grass seed. Following successful weed control, 500 native shrubs and trees will be planted within the wetland.3) Protect Wetland Plantings: Seven 25-foot x 25-foot exclosures will be constructed to protect the 500 native shrub and trees plantings from native herbivory.Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Monument SWCD, Jack Eldon Cavender Trust (landowner), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and includes detailed maps and photos.
- The project adds to previous wetland restoration work completed at the site.
- The project location, adjacent to the BLM Park, offers multiple opportunities for restoration outreach.
- Lessons learned from prior restoration work are incorporated into the project, including planting older stock and ripping old road beds prior to seeding.
- Documentation of browse and mortality data is included in the application.

- Using Oregon Youth Conservation Corp for planting provides an outreach opportunity and adds to the socioeconomic benefit from the project.
- The project cost is reasonable for the proposed work and resulting ecological benefit.

Concerns

- When placing new plant cages, there should be consideration for the impacts of future ice flows when determining cage locations.
- Waiting a year before completing additional seeding could result in reducing the treatment area because of any late emergence of the prior seeding.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project follows an OWEB funded technical assistance and restoration grant that enhanced nine acres of rare wetland habitat along the North Fork John Day River. This proposal addresses two issues contributing to poor plant survival from this previous restoration: 1) actual impacts from previous restoration construction that compacted the seed bed, and 2) a natural ice flow event that caused scour and damaged previous plantings. The project cost is reasonable for the expected watershed benefit from this project since the investment will help to preserve the ecological outcomes of the original restoration project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$17,029

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$17,029

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6026-16705

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: McGirr Fox Creek Passage and Habitat Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $351,376

Total Cost: $551,952

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in Fox Valley approximately 2 miles west of Fox, Oregon. A concrete and flashboard irrigation dam was installed in the early 1980's by the SCS. The bottom-most flashboards have been left in place for many years and have checked the stream bed behind the structure; fish passage for juvenile summer steelhead moving upstream is blocked year round. The proposed project will install a combination of rootwad structures, floodplain benching, hardened rock riffle and beaver dam analogues to acheive necessary diversion head levels as well as provide year round fish passage. The existing dam will be removed. Partners include the Landowner, BOR (design), CTWSRO (design, construction and materials) and ODFW (fish screen).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Fox Creek is an important ESA-listed steelhead and Chinook stream.
- The beaver dam analogs will add habitat value and the sites selected for these structures are appropriate for increasing stream function.
- Improving Fox Creek habitat builds on numerous restoration projects, past and current, upstream and downstream in this watershed.
- This is an opportune time for the project because the landowner that has not previously been interested in restoration now wants to see improvements along his section of Fox Creek.
- The project addresses one of ODFW's highest priority passage and screening sites on Fox Creek.
- The applicant has a successful track record of restoration implementation and landowner relations.
- The project is technically sound and will provide significant ecological benefits.
- Protecting and enhancing wetlands in the upper section of the project reach adds additional watershed benefit.

Concerns

- Given the history of reluctance by the landowner for considering restoration, there is some risk for this project to not be successful if the landowner decides to not implement the work.

Concluding Analysis

This project addresses a major fish barrier on Fox Creek, adding to numerous large-scale projects that enhance this critical ESA-listed steelhead habitat. Design improvements by BPA's technical review provide a cost effective project that continues to align with the original goals and objectives of the application while providing significant watershed benefits. Successful implementation with this landowner is an opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of voluntary restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority
8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$176,522

Review Team Conditions

Accept BPA's technical adjustments to design and reduce the budget accordingly.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$176,522

Staff Conditions

Adjust the application scope of work and budget to reflect BPA's technical adjustments to design.

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6027-16708

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Eight Mile Headwaters Upland Improvement Project

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $86,763

Total Cost: $132,589

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located on two private properties (Eight Iron Ranch and Eight Mile Basin, LLC) in Ritter, Oregon. Eight Iron Ranch and Eight Mile Basin, LLC together cover approximately 5,200 acres in the headwaters of Eight Mile Creek. The two properties together take in just over 5 miles of Eight Mile Creek. Eight Mile Creek is a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River (HUC #1707020305). It drains 60,605 acres, and consists of 157 stream miles. It provides critical rearing habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead and threatened Chinook salmon.2) Historic and current land use practices on the Eight Iron Ranch and Eight Mile Basin, LLC have left springs and their surrounding ecosystems degraded. Eight Iron Ranch has been actively working to fence off Eight Mile Creek and provide alternative upland water sources for livestock. Eight Mile Basin, LLC has been incrementally removing juniper property wide and also working to provide alternative upland water sources for livestock. These restoration efforts are to both manage grazing more effectively and preserve water quality and quantity. The limiting factors this project addresses are: altered hydrology, sediment routing, degraded vegetation, and degraded water quality.3) This project will (1) develop 6 springs within the sub-basin and install 6 watering sources for livestock, (2) cut and burn 140 acres of juniper in priority areas surrounding the developed springs, and (3) thin 20 acres of over stocked forest surrounding one of the developed springs (targeting the optimal canopy cover of 50-60%).4) Partners for this proposed project are the private landowners (Doug Leach and Shannon Rust), North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written, and includes photos and maps that show both previous and proposed work.
- The application clearly describes benefits to the watershed.
- Comprehensive grazing management plans are provided in the application for both ranches.
- The project will improve water quality in Eight Mile Creek, an identified steelhead stream.

Concerns

- The application does not include any long-term commitment to weed control.
- More information on the culvert replacement would have been beneficial to the review.

Concluding Analysis

This straight forward project is on two adjoining private ranches located in headwater drainages of Eight Mile Creek. The work from this proposal compliments other restoration completed on both ranches, including riparian fencing and forest thinning. On the site visit, the landowners were enthused and showed results from their prior restoration projects. To increase the ecological benefit, the applicant should consider placing juniper carcasses in gullies and ephemeral channels to help catch sediment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$86,763

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$86,763

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6028-16714

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fox Creek Upland Restoration Project

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $120,570

Total Cost: $168,608

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located on private property (MGN, LLC) in Grant County, approximately 1 mile south of Fox, Oregon. This 2,600 acre property takes in just under 2 miles of Fox Creek (HUC #1707020209). Fox Creek becomes Cottonwood Creek and is a tributary to the North Fork John Day River (HUC #17070202). Fox/Cottonwood Creek originates on US Forest Service approximately 6 miles above the MGN, LLC property , drains 149,063 acres, and consists of 273 stream miles. It provides critical spawning, rearing, and migration habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia Steelhead and threatened Chinook salmon.2) Steelhead and salmon are distributed throughout Fox/Cottonwood; productive streams provide refugia from warming water temperatures in the summer. The properties juniper infestation and overstocked, unprotected aspen stands reduce the availability and capacity for upland water. A reduction in upland water storage decreases the amount and quality of late season cold water deliveries to Fox Creek. The limiting factors this project addresses are altered hydrology, sediment routing, channel stability, floodplain and riparian area degradation and water quality.3) This project will (1) install a total of 5,600 ft of buck and pole fencing to protect 8 acres of aspen, a rare and declining habitat, (2) assess and cage aspen saplings in another 4 acres of aspen, and (3) remove 150 acres of juniper in priority areas that have been identified as "areas beneficial to cut juniper for water" within the Fox Creek/Cottonwood watershed. This project is intended to compliment instream restoration work proposed on Fox Creek by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) in 2019.4) Partners for this proposed project are the private landowner (Mark Crissman of MGN, LLC), CTWS, North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC), and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Aspen and juniper treatment site prioritization is well-explained in the application.
- The treatment locations selected are adjacent to Fox Creek tributaries and will improve water quality.
- The property offers an opportunity to treat the watershed at a landscape scale.
- The project compliments and builds on other restoration taking place on this property.
- Including the Oregon Youth Conservation Crew in restoration activities will provide both restoration and socioeconomic benefits.

- The application is well-written and provides detailed maps for a comprehensive review.

Concerns

- There are no concerns, but dropping junipers into ephemeral gullies to catch sediment from overland flows is suggested.

Concluding Analysis

The property owner is new to the restoration community and is one of the few private holdings on the upper reaches of this watershed. The methodology in selecting the treatment sites is well-explained in the application and shows how these efforts will build on other restoration occurring on this same property, as well as on downstream reaches. Improving upland conditions near the headwaters will have positive impacts to improving the limiting factors of reduced flow and degraded water quality in Fox Creek, an important steelhead stream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$120,570

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$120,570

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6029-16709

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Couse Creek Confluence Fish Passage Construction

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $117,992

Total Cost: $337,066

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Couse Creek is a tributary of the Walla Walla River located 1.5 miles upstream from the town of Milton-Freewater, in Umatilla County. This stream is used by ESA listed summer steelhead and redband trout, and occasionally ESA listed bull trout and reintroduced chinook salmon. There is a fish passage barrier near the confluence of Couse Creek and the Walla Walla River when steelhead are returning to 8 miles of spawning/rearing areas. Couse Creek transitions from a natural bedrock-controlled channel, past an old concrete and riprap pipe protection structure, and then onto the gravel bed of the Walla Walla River. A 3-4 foot, slanted drop exists at this transition point. Steelhead cannot navigate this drop in late winter and early spring when discharges from the Creek are high, and also at low flows in late spring and early summer. An engineering assessment, survey, and 60% designs have been completed. BPA funds have funded design work with technical support provided by fisheries co-managers. Following a site assessment and an alternatives analysis, a preferred approach was selected. Final designs will be completed this winter. BPA funds have been secured to cover much of the construction project costs; however, OWEB funds are needed to cover the total cost of the project construction. Construction is scheduled for summer of 2019. The work consists of removal of old concrete structures and riprap from Couse Creek, construction of a new 400-foot- long lower gradient Couse Creek channel that includes roughened riffles and step pools; placement of habitat boulders, and revegetation of one acre with native trees, shrubs, and grasses. Couse Creek was described in the Walla Walla Subbasin Plan, 2004, as a Priority Protection Area, and fish passage barriers are a priority limiting factor. Recent restoration investments in Couse Creek have included fish passage and habitat work. A Couse Creek watershed habitat assessment is underway. Partners include BPA, ODFW and CTUIR.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will open access to eight stream miles of ESA-listed steelhead habitat, critical to spawning and rearing.
- Ample cost share along with involvement by appropriate partners indicate this project has a strong likelihood of success.
- The project site is an ODFW priority for passage in the Walla Walla River system.

- Reconnecting an acre of floodplain to the river on a leveed system will provide additional habitat and benefit to the Walla Walla River and Couse Creek.
- The project is located in a rural residential area and has landowner commitment.
- The design is comprehensive.
- The applicant has a proven track record for successfully completing restoration.

Concerns

- Inclusion of an overview sketch of all project components on one map would have provided helpful context.
- More detail on the berm and levee system would have benefited the review.

Concluding Analysis

ODFW noted steelhead regularly spawn in the pool below the barrier and then die when that pool dries up later in the season. Removing this barrier and re-meandering Couse Creek to increase its length and complexity as it joins the Walla Walla River downstream allows steelhead to move upstream to cooler spawning and rearing habitat. Also, connecting an acre of tree-covered floodplain to the leveed Walla Walla River is a rare opportunity and will result in added benefit to steelhead, Chinook, bull trout, and other aquatic species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$117,992

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$117,992

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6030-16578

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Desolation Reach 3 Design

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $45,110

Total Cost: $121,075

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This application supports the Desolation Creek Reach 3 design located between RM 2.6 and 4.4 on Desolation Creek approximately 20 miles south of Ukiah, Oregon (Figures 1&2). The property is owned and managed by Desolation Creek LLC who has worked collaboratively to improve land management strategies, infrastructure, and physical/biologic process, in part, for the benefit native wildlife. The CTUIR and collaborators developed the Desolation Creek Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan (GAAP) in 2017 to guide future restoration efforts. The GAAPs implementation addresses ecological concerns using a tiered ATLAS derived ranking system. To date, a portion of its highest priority reach was implemented with the rest pending a final road relocation design. Collaborators include the landowner, Umatilla National Forest, Grant SWCD, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). In the meantime, the CTUIR shifted to the GAAP's second highest ranked priority, Reach 3, to implement a design supporting the landowner's needs and desires and the CTUIR's First Foods Policy under the Umatilla River Vision. To date, a qualified contractor has been selected for Reach 3's design development and data collection and analysis has begun and a 30% conceptual design will be produced by 31 January 2019. Work supported by this application will produce 80% and 100% designs to be developed under BPA's HIP III programmatic biological opinion. Collaborators currently involved in the Reach 3 design include the Landowner, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and CTUIR. The design will address the influence of historic timber harvest and grazing which reduced the effectiveness of peripheral and transitional habitats, channel structure and form, water quality, and riparian condition. Reach 3's ability to support spring Chinook salmon, Threatened Mid-Columbia steelhead trout, bull trout, Pacific lamprey, and resident species was subsequently compromised.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written and provides useful maps and photos.
- Project cost estimates are reasonable for a complex design.
- The resulting restoration will provide fish habitat benefits for spring Chinook, ESA-listed steelhead, and bull trout.

- Site selection resulted from a comprehensive Geomorphic Assessment and Action Plan (GAAP) for Desolation Creek – this stream section was deemed the second highest priority reach for restoration.
- This work will compliment numerous other restoration projects completed on this large private property that contains over ten miles of Desolation Creek.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Numerous upland, riparian, and instream restoration projects have been successfully implemented, including: restoring and protecting high elevation wet meadows; riparian fencing the entire ten miles of Desolation Creek; protecting aspen communities, and developing strategic upland water for both livestock and wildlife. Following a comprehensive assessment of the entire Desolation Creek, Reach 3 was identified as the second highest priority for restoration benefit. This leveraging of previous restoration investments on a priority stream results in a high cost-benefit ratio for this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$45,110

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$45,110

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6031-16646
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Reith Dam Removal Design
Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Umatilla
OWEB Request: $38,500
Total Cost: $71,100

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Umatilla Basin Watershed Council and partners at The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation seek technical funding for the completion of 100% construction ready dam removal and restoration designs. The designs will serve to remove the major fish passage barrier located at RM 42.3 on the Umatilla River at the town of Reith, Oregon. The barrier known as the Reith Dam/Brownes Dairy Dam is a full river spanning irrigation diversion dam that blocks passage for federally protected aquatic species. The barrier ranks high on local assessments as well as the Oregon statewide priority list for fish passage barriers. Reith dam is located on the mainstem of the Umatilla River; removal of this barrier will provide major uplift for the entire system. The project site has an existing landowner agreement in place to remove the Reith barrier as well as complete a conservation easement on the adjoining 372.2 acres for future restoration projects. Additional Technical team partners include the Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District, the Umatilla County Department of Public Works, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- One of the landowners has agreed to lease water instream and signed a conservation agreement that includes removing the dam.
- Removing this barrier will benefit multiple fish species, including steelhead and Chinook, and will have the greatest impact on juveniles during low flow periods.
- The dam is on ODFW's statewide priority list of barriers.
- Project costs are reasonable for the work and location.
- Project support is demonstrated by match.

Concerns

- The application does not include letters of support from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation nor the Bureau of Reclamation.
- The schedule appears to be overly ambitious with implementation planned for the 2019 instream work window. This leaves very little time for survey work, design, and permitting to be completed.

- The technical assistance request includes costs for construction oversight, which is not a necessary expense for achieving the proposed design objectives.
- Since separate landowners own the properties adjacent to the dam on each side of the river, the application would be strengthened by including letters of support from both landowners for the dam removal.
- The exact scope of the design work is vague, and it is unclear whether the resulting project will simply remove the concrete dam or if additional habitat or substrate work will be included in the final restoration project design.
- Clear photos of the dam during high and low flows would be helpful context for the application review.
- Inclusion of the referenced scoping report would provide helpful context.

Concluding Analysis

While this dam removal project has potential for providing significant ecological benefit at a reasonable cost, the lack of detail in the application results in an uncertain scope of work for the proposed technical assistance. Without additional information on project timing, costs, and the tasks to be completed, it is difficult to determine the likelihood of success for this technical assistance design project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$27,500

Review Team Conditions

Remove $10,000 for construction oversite and associated indirect cost; and require agreements from the landowners from each side of the river along the project site.

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 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6032-16648

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Umatilla River Floodplain Assessment & Action Plan

Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $55,000

Total Cost: $217,000

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Umatilla Basin and partners seek funding for an assessment and stream prioritization along the mainstem of the Umatilla River from the North and South Forks to the town of Nolin, Oregon. This assessment will provide partners with a guide towards prioritizing future restoration efforts on the mainstem of the Umatilla River. Currently, no such document exist for the Umatilla River and partners in the basin feel that it is critical for strategic project implementation in order to provide effective uplift to the system. The project partners are the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla Soil & Water Conservation District, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Umatilla County Public Works.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The assessment will incorporate climate change in the proposed modeling and analysis.
- There is a clear need for a comprehensive action plan that prioritizes restoration activities on the Umatilla River.
- Project partners have experience completing a similar assessment on Birch Creek, a tributary of the Umatilla River.
- The cost is appropriate for a two to three year study.

Concerns

- The project is poorly planned and the application has limited information on the project activities.
- There is no justification on why some tributaries were not included in this assessment.
- It is unclear whether uplands will be included and if so, what will be assessed.
- The budget has lump sums with no detail on what expenses and activities are included in these sums.
- Descriptions of the assessment components and tasks to be completed by various contractors would have strengthened the application.
- The application does not provide a clear sequence of activities and lacks a comprehensive timeline.

- There are no letters of support from the Bureau of Reclamation or USFS.

Concluding Analysis

An updated assessment of the Umatilla River would be useful to partners collaborating on restoration on the Umatilla River. However, it is difficult to determine the likelihood of success for the proposed project without more information in the application. If resubmitted, the application should include information that addresses the concerns noted above as well as provide more detail on why the identified section of the Umatilla was selected, whether the lower section will be a future phase, and work already completed in the headwater sections on public land.

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 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6033-16615

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Hydrological Monitoring in the Walla Walla Basin

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $108,944

Total Cost: $152,844

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Basin in Umatilla County near the town of Milton-Freewater. The project will focus on the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and the surface water connection with the underlying shallow alluvial aquifer. Stream flow monitoring is needed to ensure migratory passage has been maintained for ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, and reintroduced spring Chinook. Monitoring will evaluate, at different spatial scales, the effectiveness of restoration projects intended to improve hydrological conditions which directly or indirectly influence fish habitat. Streamflow and water temperature monitoring will assess the effectiveness of basin-wide streamflow and rearing habitat enhancement projects that have been implemented over the last 17 years by the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC). Data will be obtained for two years at varying frequencies for key parameters such as water temperature, stage, discharge, and groundwater elevations. The effectiveness of restoration projects on a landscape scale will be based on evaluating changes over time (relying on dataset of past conditions along with data gathered through this project) in groundwater elevations, Walla Walla River flow and water temperature, and hydraulic gradients between water elevations in surface waters and nearby groundwater. BPA will be the source of match for this project (see attached match document) and project partners (non match) include ODA (Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Project), ODEQ (Couse Creek Assessment Project along with the Heat Source Modeling Project), (tentatively) CTUIR Walla Walla RM&E program (Walla Walla River Stream Gauge Monitoring and Data Distribution Project), and the Bi-State Flow Enhancement Study (WDOE and USBR). Additional project partners consisting of state, local, and federal agencies can be found in the attached letters of support. This project is located in the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Basin in Umatilla County near the town of Milton-Freewater. The project will focus on the Walla Walla River, its tributaries and distributaries, and the surface water connection with the underlying shallow alluvial aquifer. Stream flow monitoring is needed to ensure migratory passage has been maintained for ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, and reintroduced spring Chinook. Monitoring will evaluate, at different spatial scales, the effectiveness of restoration projects intended to improve hydrological conditions which directly or indirectly influence fish habitat. Streamflow and water temperature monitoring will assess the effectiveness of basin-wide streamflow and rearing habitat enhancement projects that have been implemented over the last 17 years by the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC). Data will be obtained for two years at varying frequencies for key parameters such as water temperature, stage,

discharge, and groundwater elevations. The effectiveness of restoration projects on a landscape scale will be based on evaluating changes over time (relying on dataset of past conditions along with data gathered through this project) in groundwater elevations, Walla Walla River flow and water temperature, and hydraulic gradients between water elevations in surface waters and nearby groundwater. BPA will be the source of match for this project (see attached match document) and project partners (non match) include ODA (Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Project), ODEQ (Couse Creek Assessment Project along with the Heat Source Modeling Project), (tentatively) CTUIR Walla Walla RM&E program (Walla Walla River Stream Gauge Monitoring and Data Distribution Project), and the Bi-State Flow Enhancement Study (WDOE and USBR). Additional project partners consisting of state, local, and federal agencies can be found in the attached letters of support.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application addresses concerns raised in the previous project evaluation and is well-written.
- The applicant highlights how flow is a major issue in this basin and that ongoing monitoring is needed to make decisions.
- The various letters of support demonstrate there are numerous agencies and organizations that value these data.
- This application adequately documents the monitoring methods, data management, analysis, and reporting procedures.
- The applicant has a proven track record of collecting and reporting the data on past monitoring grants.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The applicant is using unvented pressure transducers to measure groundwater levels, and these could have accuracy issues. They could look into using vented loggers to determine if there is a difference.
- There is a lack of clarity on how the specific targets were established to answer the monitoring questions, an explanation of how they arrived at the values would have been helpful.
- The applicant has a high number of monitoring sites and it is not clear how each site's data set is evaluated to ensure ongoing data collection is needed.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes multiple letters of support from a diverse array of partners indicating their support for the project.
- The application is well-written and provides maps that reference existing and proposed monitoring sites.
- The monitoring will cover approximately 20 miles of the Walla Walla River and the locations selected are strategic.
- The project builds on an existing 20 year dataset that will inform management decisions related to ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, and re-introduced spring Chinook.
- The proposed methodology is an adaptive approach to determine effectiveness of past restoration in a unique hydrologic system, as well as prioritizing locations for future watershed projects.
- Monitoring is clearly needed, both spatially and temporally, to fill existing data gaps.
- The proposed activities and timeline are technically sound, and descriptions or references to monitoring quality assurance and quality control protocols are included in the application.
- The applicant has a proven track record with previous monitoring work.
- Access to monitoring data is available to the public through a user-friendly website.
- Over 100 landowners continue to allow monitoring to occur on their land.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on who will complete the data analysis.
- A listing of specific data gaps would have been beneficial to the review.
- The application lacks a clear explanation of how long-term data will provide information on project effectiveness and how future monitoring will inform specific types of restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The watershed council has provided multiple stakeholders quality data for more than 17 years to inform management decisions related to flows, fish, levees, and agriculture. This long-term data set is an unusual and valuable resource to various partners in the basin. A significant number of restoration projects have been completed and continues to occur in this basin. Analyzing the effectiveness and impact of these projects will be useful for prioritizing future projects. The data will also be used in ongoing discussions with Washington’s Department of Ecology to help protect resulting savings in water flows.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

$108,944

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$108,944

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6034-16658

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Utilizing multispectral UAV-imagery to monitor stream and riparian restoration effectiveness

Applicant: PSU - Portland State University

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $81,680

Total Cost: $95,431

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project will focus on the Vincent to Caribou reach on the upper Middle Fork of the John Day River. The site is located in Grant county and is approximately 13 miles northeast of Prairie City. The location is scheduled for a large-scale restoration project focused on benefiting anadromous salmonids, mainly Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) and steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss). Restoration at the site is planned between 07/15/2019 and 09/20/2019. The restoration site encompasses .7 river miles. The site is located on Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWSR) property and they have agreed to allow the monitoring efforts at the location as well as provide data they have from the project location. The project location has been heavily altered via human activity. The river has been channelized with large boulders and rip rap, which has locked the channel in place, disconnected from the floodplain. Grazing has impacted riparian vegetation growth throughout the project location. The proposed restoration will remove most of the placed boulders while adding wood placements. The projects primary goal is “to restore instream habitat conditions and structure for salmonid production, and set the stage for processes needed to sustain habitat features.” The project description also states that there will be “an extensive vegetation plan, which promotes stream shading and appropriate channel widths on the constructed channel segments” (CTWSR 2017). The restoration project pairs perfectly with our proposed monitoring effort, which will collect pre- and post-restoration data at the restored reach as well as a similar unrestored control reach nearby. We will be utilizing an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) equipped with a high-resolution multispectral sensor to gather monitoring data on stream and riparian characteristics between 06/01/2019 and 07/14/2020. We will produce a technical report describing the complete procedure for future, continuous monitoring of the projectThe project will focus on the Vincent to Caribou reach on the upper Middle Fork of the John Day River. The site is located in Grant county and is approximately 13 miles northeast of Prairie City. The location is scheduled for a large-scale restoration project focused on benefiting anadromous salmonids, mainly Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha) and steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss). Restoration at the site is planned between 07/15/2019 and 09/20/2019. The restoration site encompasses .7 river miles. The site is located on Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWSR) property and they have agreed to allow the monitoring efforts at the location as well as provide data they have from the project location. The project location has been heavily altered via human activity. The river has been channelized with large boulders and rip rap, which has locked the channel in place, disconnected from the floodplain. Grazing has

impacted riparian vegetation growth throughout the project location. The proposed restoration will remove most of the placed boulders while adding wood placements. The projects primary goal is “to restore instream habitat conditions and structure for salmonid production, and set the stage for processes needed to sustain habitat features.” The project description also states that there will be “an extensive vegetation plan, which promotes stream shading and appropriate channel widths on the constructed channel segments” (CTWSR 2017). The restoration project pairs perfectly with our proposed monitoring effort, which will collect pre- and post-restoration data at the restored reach as well as a similar unrestored control reach nearby. We will be utilizing an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) equipped with a high-resolution multispectral sensor to gather monitoring data on stream and riparian characteristics between 06/01/2019 and 07/14/2020. We will produce a technical report describing the complete procedure for future, continuous monitoring of the project

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- There is an increased use of UAV technology to monitor changes associated with restoration actions.
- The applicant proposes to establish a “workflow” for processing the drone imagery data that could prove useful for other organizations interested in collecting similar data.
- The applicant proposes to create a semi-automatic tool for processing drone imagery data for others to use.
- The applicant lists a variety of staff that have expertise in working with drone imagery and collecting field habitat data.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The monitoring study design includes one treatment site and is only measuring 0.7 stream miles. In addition, it is not clear if the short monitoring time period will allow for vegetation changes associated with the restoration actions. If there are no changes, it may be difficult to compare the images to test the tool they hope to develop.
- The application does not describe the physical habitat metrics to be collected in the field and subsequent drone metrics they plan to measure and generate.
- Additional explanation on the monitoring methods and site selection for the control site would have been helpful for understanding this project. To be valuable, multiple sites could be incorporated that represent a gradient of different vegetation composition and structures to test the UAV methodology.
- The application lacks letters of support and it is unclear if the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon is going to use the data to track the changes at their restoration project.
- While the proposed monitoring project will take place in the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) study area, it is unclear from the application how the applicant will work with the IMW working group to incorporate these findings.
- The application timeline is tight; the last flight is scheduled the same month in which they plan to submit the final report.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Developing a drone work-flow process could result in a concept used by others in the restoration community.

Concerns

- The timing of the restoration project does not align with the proposed pre- and post-restoration flight schedule.
- One year of data is not enough time to gauge vegetation change.
- The application does not clearly describe the work flow process.
- The likelihood of success for this monitoring project dissipates if the associated restoration project is delayed.

Concluding Analysis

Many in the restoration community are utilizing drones or UAV in monitoring their projects. It is not clear if the techniques noted in this proposal are new or if this technique is already being used by others in the restoration community. Including alternative restoration sites for the monitoring project would have provided a higher likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

None

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6035-16666

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Adult Steelhead Migratory Routes Investigation

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: $223,232

Total Cost: $626,866

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Approximately 60% of adult steelhead returning to the John Day River "overshoot" the John Day River mouth and are detected 119 km upstream in the Columbia River at McNary Dam. After crossing McNary Dam, John Day adult steelhead must "fallback" in order to return and spawn in the John Day River. Adult overshoot past a hydroelectric dam can directly (via physical injury during fallback) and indirectly (via increased energy expenditure) reduce the survival and reproductive capacity of returning adults. The current proportion of adult steelhead overshooting the John Day River contributes to a 7-year mean Bonneville Dam to South Fork John Day conversion probability of 50%. This means that only half of the adult steelhead arriving at Bonneville Dam survive and return to their natal stream to spawn. Life-cycle models indicate substantial risk of quasi-extinction for a John Day steelhead population if this status quo conversion probability continues. The quasi-extinction risk diminishes to near zero if conversion rate increases to 70%.A first step toward increasing conversion rate is to map the migratory routes of John Day adult steelhead from the mouth of the river upstream to Tumwater Falls. To do this, we will leverage the existing infrastructure and returning Passive Integrated Transponder tagged adults (originally tagged as parr or smolts in John Day tributaries) by capturing known origin adults in the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility. Recaptured adults will be tagged with acoustic transmitters. An array of acoustic receivers positioned in the Columbia and John Day rivers will detect tagged adults and allow us to map migratory routes to elucidate where and when adult steelhead are migrating. We will compare fate of each tagged individual by migratory route to identify relationships between migration route and population performance. Gilliam SWCD and ODFW will be the lead partners, and will coordinate with other agencies as appropriate.Approximately 60% of adult steelhead returning to the John Day River "overshoot" the John Day River mouth and are detected 119 km upstream in the Columbia River at McNary Dam. After crossing McNary Dam, John Day adult steelhead must "fallback" in order to return and spawn in the John Day River. Adult overshoot past a hydroelectric dam can directly (via physical injury during fallback) and indirectly (via increased energy expenditure) reduce the survival and reproductive capacity of returning adults. The current proportion of adult steelhead overshooting the John Day River contributes to a 7-year mean Bonneville Dam to South Fork John Day conversion probability of 50%. This means that only half of the adult steelhead arriving at Bonneville Dam survive and return to their natal stream to spawn. Life-cycle models indicate substantial risk of quasi-extinction for a John Day steelhead population if this status quo conversion probability continues. The quasi-extinction risk diminishes to near zero if conversion rate increases to 70%.A first step toward increasing conversion rate is to map the migratory

routes of John Day adult steelhead from the mouth of the river upstream to Tumwater Falls. To do this, we will leverage the existing infrastructure and returning Passive Integrated Transponder tagged adults (originally tagged as parr or smolts in John Day tributaries) by capturing known origin adults in the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility. Recaptured adults will be tagged with acoustic transmitters. An array of acoustic receivers positioned in the Columbia and John Day rivers will detect tagged adults and allow us to map migratory routes to elucidate where and when adult steelhead are migrating. We will compare fate of each tagged individual by migratory route to identify relationships between migration route and population performance. Gilliam SWCD and ODFW will be the lead partners, and will coordinate with other agencies as appropriate.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application has specific objectives to manage and report the data, and an explanation of the audience with which the data will be shared.
- The applicant is working with the ODFW research station and they have a proven track record of performing fish monitoring efforts in the Mid-Columbia.
- This application addresses a key limiting factor for the viability of Mid-Columbia steelhead populations – tributary overshoot and low conversion during fallback.
- Management solutions to this problem could substantially increase long-term viability projections for John Day steelhead with possible application to other populations experiencing similar issues.
- The applicant proposes a technically sound use of the dual acoustic-radio capabilities and provides some versatility for detecting adult fish moving through the system.
- The proposed project will use existing PIT tag arrays in the hydropower system and John Day River populations.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks a description of the methods to collect water temperature data.
- There is no letter of support submitted by tribes, and it would have been helpful to understand how they value this data.
- Connecting the resulting data and how it could affect future management actions in the John Day River to address the overshoot issue would strengthen the application.
- The application could be strengthened by more comprehensively outlining the monitoring questions, explicitly stating the hypotheses, and explaining how the monitoring could inform specific management options.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application provides clear goals and objectives.
- While the acoustical pit tag technologies have not been utilized as described in the application, they have proven to be successful in other venues for comprehensive tracking of fish.
- The proposal is well-written with maps to help explain the proposed work.
- Utilizing existing infrastructure at the Bonneville dam to tag fish realizes efficiencies and lowers the overall project cost.
- The Mid-Columbia Recovery plan identifies the overshoot threat as significantly impacting the John Day major population group (MPG) - the only wholly wild MPG in the Mid-Columbia steelhead distinct population segment (DPS), and therefore is limiting John Day population, John Day MPG, and Mid-Columbia Steelhead DPS.

Concerns

- There is a risk that the data may not result in clear answers.
- It is unclear how management or restoration options will result from the proposed data collection.

Concluding Analysis

Tributary overshoot by migrating fish is an emerging threat identified after the Mid-Columbia Recovery plan was finalized. Fish research in Oregon, Washington, and Columbia River mainstem indicates this is a primary threat to steelhead recovery. The John Day consistently exhibits the highest overshoot and mainstem loss rates annually due to mortality. This project is the first step to better understand fish migration patterns at the mouth of the John Day and why they are occurring. The data will inform future John Day Basin FIP efforts to address this migration concern so that native John Day fish can spawn in their natal streams.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

$223,232

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$223,232

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2018 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6036-16665

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: John Day Basin Partnership Outreach

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $36,974

Total Cost: $65,140

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1.) The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) is a collaborative of 28 organizations working to enhance the pace, scale, and impact of restoration that benefits aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, agriculture, and economic opportunities for communities in the John Day River Basin. Over the course of three years, the JDBP has become a high-functioning joint venture. It has forged new and strengthened existing relationships with constituents across the basin, developed internal communication protocols, and established operating norms. The JDBP is finalizing a Strategic Action Plan (http://nfjdwc.org/nfjdwcmedia/John-Day-Basin-Partnership-SAP_FIP_proposal_062918.pdf) that identifies and prioritizes restoration activities “from ridge-to-ridge” throughout the basin. 2.) The JDBP recognizes that landowner and public involvement are vital to sustaining the forward movement of restoration in the basin. In order to better connect the communities, people, and projects impacted by restoration, the time has come for more deliberate efforts dedicated to increased public relations. Initiating a basin-wide outreach campaign will help the JDBP accomplish two primary basin-wide goals: - Generate increased partner cooperation, project prioritization, and joint fundraising among diverse interests in the John Day River basin.- Conduct public outreach on watershed restoration that is taking place and its value to the community. 3.) Project activities will focus on diversifying communication pathways to the public by developing outreach materials such as regular newsletters and informational handouts, hosting informative presentations about projects and partners, and organizing a series of restoration service events for assisting landowners. Through these avenues, the JDBP will receive and respond to community input as well as deliver targeted messaging to constituents about restoration and how to get involved.4.) Please see attached list of 28 partners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Outreach is a valuable tool to engage landowners new to restoration.
- As a partner, Blue Mountain Land Trust’s (BLMT) successful outreach experience will be beneficial to the proposed project.
- This proposal complements the newly awarded John Day Basin Partnership FIP by targeting areas within the basin that are outside of the FIP focus areas.

Concerns

- Since this is an ambitious, large scale project, the application would have been stronger with more detailed strategies for achieving the stated goals.
- Including examples of BMLT products or other communication tools would have been helpful in the review.
- Methodologies on how actions will be developed are vague or missing from the application.
- The application would be stronger with more detail on how sensitivities dealing with private lands will be handled.
- It is unclear how the wolf conflict workshop will result in restoration.

Concluding Analysis

The John Day Basin Partnership was recently selected as a recipient of the next round of OWEB's Focus Investment Partnership. They will be working in three geographic areas in the John Day Basin. The proposed project will expand the landowner outreach work to cover the rest of the basin. If the applicant decides to resubmit, effort should be made to address the concerns noted in this evaluation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

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 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 219-6037-16678

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Walla Walla Basin Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $27,522

Total Cost: $42,367

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) seeks to engage stakeholders in and around Milton-Freewater, Oregon in the Walla Walla River (WWR) Basin, with a focus on the upper WWR, Couse Creek, Little WWR system and connected alluvial aquifer. Engagement activities will support projects aimed at addressing some of the basin's hydrological and ecological issues, including, degraded stream flows, floodplain connection, surface water to groundwater interaction, water quality, fish passage, riparian conditions, and in-stream habitat complexity. To address fish passage and habitat issues, the WWBWC and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will engage directly with landowners to identify potential project partners on the upper WWR and Couse Creek. WWBWC will engage with individuals throughout the basin who possess senior water rights in order to develop partners for irrigation efficiency projects directed at permanently protecting water in-stream via Oregon's Allocation of Conserved Water program. Stakeholders will be sought to develop potential projects aimed at advancing the WWBWC's aquifer recharge program. Additionally, various stakeholder engagement activities will be carried out to familiarize potential stakeholders with the WWBWC's work, the basin's hydrological and ecological issues and the potential for projects, with the aim of developing future partners and projects necessary to address the basin's degraded hydrological and ecological systems. In various capacities, the WWBWC will seek to partner with landowners, holders of water rights, CTUIR, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Little WWR Working Group, local irrigation districts and other stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The intent of the project is clearly stated in the application and directly relates to specific restoration types and locations.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully implementing restoration, monitoring, and community outreach for near to 20 years, indicating a high likelihood of success for this project.
- Maintaining landowner relations is vital to continuing restoration. ODFW depends on the council's outreach to landowners for the work they do on private lands.

- The proposed stakeholder engagement compliments assessment work being completed on Couse Creek, as well as in other areas.

Concerns

- The project description focuses more on resulting watershed restoration expected from this project instead of details on the proposed stakeholder engagement activities.
- More information on how senior water rights factor into the prioritization and selection of restoration sites would have been beneficial to the review.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has a long history of successful community outreach. Over the years, their myriad of outreach activities has paid off in many successful restoration projects and improved landowner relations. Although parts of the application were somewhat difficult to navigate, the overall intent of the proposal was clear and objectives are reasonable.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$27,522

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$27,522

Staff Conditions

None

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Water Acquisition Grant Awards
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the December 2018 Water Acquisition Grant Offering process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Water Acquisitions – December 2018 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

Four grant applications were received in the December 2018 Water Acquisition Grant Offering through the new online application, requesting a total of $1,082,988. The applications, summarized in Table 1, propose short-term instream leases and permanent water right transactions.

B. Review Process

Application review was completed in coordination with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. While the applications were submitted directly to OWEB through the online application system, NFWF's technical advisory committee reviewed the applications and prepared evaluations for OWEB staff. Applications are evaluated for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity using the evaluation criteria developed in coordination with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPSS) Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). Proposals were reviewed by OWEB and NFWF staff, reviewed by water rights experts in the legal and economic fields, and ranked by a third-party Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of fisheries and habitat experts and water transaction specialists. The TAC ultimately assesses each transaction and provides a recommendation for funding based on the ISRP criteria. Staff prepared an evaluation of each project that summarizes the NFWF review outcomes and recommendations.

C. Overview of Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend three applications for funding. One application, 219-9906, is recommended for Year 1 funding with future years contingent upon secured matching funds from the Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. It was determined that one application, 219-9907, was incomplete. The total amount of recommended OWEB funding is up to $621,973.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1.

Application #	Region	Project Name	Total OWEB Request	Total Amount Recommended
219-9904	2	South Umpqua Pilot Program Water Lease	$36,579	$36,579
219-9905	4	South Fork Little Butte Streamflow Restoration Project	$296,288	$283,138
219-9906	4	Fifteenmile Creek Leasing Program	$289,056	Up to $289,056
219-9907	4	Tumalo Irrigation District: Crescent Creek Flow Enhancement	$461,065	$0
Total Water Acquisition Applications Submitted			**$1,082,988**	
Total OWEB Funding Recommended				**Up to $608,773**

Attachments

A. Water Acquisition Project Evaluations

Water Lease and Transfer Grant - 2018 Offering

Application Number: 219-9904-16750 **Project Type:** Water Lease and Transfer

Project Name: South Umpqua Pilot Program Water Lease

Applicant: Trout Unlimited - Oregon

Region: Southwest Oregon **County:** Douglas

OWEB Request: $36,579 **Total Cost:** $48,799

Project Abstract *(from application)*

This project proposes to implement a pilot instream leasing project in the South Umpqua River, and to leverage that lease to build capacity to expand the Umpqua Basin Flow Restoration Program. Trout Unlimited (TU), in partnership with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians (CCBUTI), has developed a new flow restoration program in the Umpqua Basin to begin addressing the extensive over-appropriation of water in the South Umpqua River and its tributaries. The initial pilot lease will restore 0.546cfs to the South Umpqua River, in a key location for both flow restoration need, and proximity to other large agricultural producer that are targeted for enrollment in the flow restoration program. The Umpqua Basin is home to Oregon Coast Evolutionary Significant Units (ESUs) of chinook and coho salmon and a Distinct Population Segment of steelhead, providing essential habitat for these species of interest across a "checkerboard" landscape of private and BLM lands. The Umpqua is also home to multiple lamprey species, native fish of particular importance to the CCBUTI. The primary limiting factor for coho salmon in the South Umpqua is listed as water quantity, with the second most important factors listed as stream complexity and water quality (both of which depend to some extent on adequate flow.) Water quality has long been identified as a factor for decline (NMFS 1997) and a limiting factor for recovery (ODFW 2005a) for OCCS. Water quality problems largely relate to nonpoint source pollution, flow and channel modification, and the 2007 Umpqua Basin TMDLs specifically calls for obtaining minimum instream flows to improve water quality conditions As part of the pilot effort, CCBUTI will monitor vegetation conditions, weeds, animal health, and economic aspects of the project lands in comparison to an adjacent irrigated parcel to gather information to assist with increasing interest in water transactions in the basin and to inform potential participants.

Technical Advisory Committee Evaluation

Strengths

- The transaction is viable and likely to achieve the flow restoration outcomes.
- It appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the short-term transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use and document the value of the water rights to be leased.
- Along with TU's expertise in flow restoration, CCBUTI has staff expertise in ranching, fish biology, water quality, and vegetation monitoring.
- The value of the water transaction is based on economic valuations for nearby basins and is near the average for leases in Oregon.
- Project monitoring will inform potential future lease participants about the impacts of leasing on:
    - Power consumption, stocking rates, and animal weight gain in comparison to nearby irrigated properties.
    - Soil types and soil response to irrigated versus dry land farming.
    - Vegetation surveys on irrigated versus dry land farming.
- Project monitoring results will be reported and shared with other irrigators through outreach events and individual meetings. This is a unique approach to water transaction outreach that could significantly reduce the cost of developing future flow restoration projects.

- While the ecological benefits of this proposed project are inconsequential, the application documents the value of flow restoration in this river and how the proposed transaction complements other watershed-scale initiatives to address limiting factors.

Concerns

- Despite the immeasurable amount of flow, a statement from the Watermaster would have been useful.
- The project is a good step at this stage in TU's flow restoration work in the basin, but the actual ecological benefits are inconsequential.

Concluding Analysis

This transaction provides a unique opportunity to educate the basin about flow restoration and its impact on agricultural lands. While this transaction is not measurable instream, there is great value in monitoring other economic indicators, soil types, and vegetation to better understand the potential impacts of leasing to landowners. This lease will gather valuable data to further restoration efforts in the Umpqua by demonstrating the benefits of water transactions to other landowners in the watershed. It could be an educational tool for places that are early in their flow restoration development.

Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Technical Advisory Committee Recommended Amount

$36,579.00

Technical Advisory Committee Conditions

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$36,579.00

Staff Conditions

Printed by OWEB Grant Management System (OGMS) on 11/21/2018 7:43:49 AM

Water Lease and Transfer Grant - 2018 Offering

Application Number: 219-9905-16751 **Project Type:** Water Lease and Transfer

Project Name: South Fork Little Butte Streamflow Restoration Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited - Oregon

Region: Southwest Oregon **County:** Jackson

OWEB Request: $296,288 **Total Cost:** $387,288

Project Abstract *(from application)*

Funding will support streamflow restoration in South Fork Little Butte Creek (SFLB) in the upper Rogue Basin (near Lake Creek, Oregon). 17 miles of stream habitat will be permanently enhanced including 11 miles of high priority anadromous fish habitat. SFLB provides habitat for ESA listed Coho Salmon, Chinook Salmon, Summer and Winter Steelhead Trout, Pacific Lamprey and a variety of other native fish species. Historic and ongoing agricultural water withdrawals dewater SFLB in summer and early fall, thus reducing habitat quantity/quality for native aquatic species. Dewatering is a widely acknowledged primary limiting factor to fish production. This creates a need for permanent and protectable instream water rights. Specifically, this project seeks to permanently transfer 168 acres (2.8 cfs) of irrigation water rights to instream rights, maintaining its existing dual, priority dates of 1858 (for 1.5 cfs) and 1888 (for 1.3 cfs). The rights proposed for transfer are located at the headwaters of SFLB, on Dead Indian Plateau. It is thought that a significant portion of this right is protectable as an instream right for approximately 17 miles - to the mouth of SFLB. The proposed instream water right will be created though the Oregon Water Resource Department's water right transfer process. The majority of funding sought will be used to compensate the water right holder in exchange for transfer of their water right from irrigation to instream uses. The water right holder has already signed a contract to this effect (attached). This project is part of TU's ongoing effort to develop and implement a streamflow restoration program in the Rogue Basin - a geography hotter and drier than other coastal watersheds in Oregon making projects such as this one critical to ensuring viable fish populations in the future. Project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department and Rogue River Watershed Council.

Technical Advisory Committee Evaluation

Strengths

- The transaction is viable and likely to achieve at least the minimum proposed flow restoration outcomes.
- TU has the organizational capacity necessary to complete the transaction.
- It appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be purchased.
- Compliance monitoring is sufficient for the transaction. The Watermaster indicated his support of the project and that both priority dates for this transfer may be protected to the mouth, although the application does not indicate the priority date that is being regulated to on South Fork Little Butte Creek.
- South Fork Little Butte Creek is a highly productive spawning and rearing stream for both steelhead and Coho.
- Early season passage flows will benefit multiple species. While gauge data from the mouth shows the stream doing dry many years during the summer months, it is likely that this transaction will shorten that timeframe in a key reach.
- Restoring instream flows for juvenile rearing and smolt migration is a top priority in the basin as documented by ODFW and the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery Plan.
- The proposed transaction complements other watershed-scale initiatives to address limiting factors in the watershed and specifically in South Fork Little Butte Creek.

- Based on the water valuation report submitted with the application, the value proposed is 98% of the range noted. This valuation is economic and derived from irrigated use of land and does not include the additional value of maintaining fish populations or the impact on tourism or recreation.
- While the quantity of water is low, the transaction will demonstrate the benefits of water transactions to other landowner in the watershed.

Concerns

- A signed agreement between the landowner and TU indicates that they are proposing to purchase the entire water right, but if OWRD approves less than the seasonal minimums indicated, the agreement can be terminated.
- The frequency of activities to be conducted during periodic site visits by TU to assure that there is no water use on the formerly irrigated acreage which was not clearly described.
- The location of where spawning occurs relative to the instream reach was not clearly described.
- The calculation for indirect costs included a portion of the transaction payment to the seller and would need to be adjusted in the budget to reflect eligible indirect costs.

Concluding Analysis

The flow restoration through this project may be approved at a higher rate than TU is anticipating, but the range of benefits may be smaller than the total water right, dependent on OWRD review. The lower end of the expected protected rate is approximately 3% of late summer target flows for the creek, but the gauge data indicates that the creek goes dry during some summer months. Transferring this water instream would begin to manage flows in this creek, which would provide long term benefit on the creek and anchor TU's flow program in the subbasin. Adequate monitoring of the stream gauges, site visits by TU, and enforcement of water transactions by the Watermaster will ensure that the acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish.

Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Technical Advisory Committee Recommended Amount

$283,138.00

Review Team Conditions

Reduce indirect cost amount in accordance with eligible costs.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$283,138.00

Staff Conditions

Reduce indirect cost amount in accordance with eligible costs.

Water Lease and Transfer Grant - 2018 Offering

Application Number: 219-9906-16752 **Project Type:** Water Lease and Transfer

Project Name: Hood Basin Fifteenmile Leasing 2019-2023

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Central Oregon **County:** Wasco

OWEB Request: $289,056 **Total Cost:** $376,944

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Fifteenmile leasing program provides compensation for irrigators engaging in environmental water transactions in the watershed. It provides sustained and cool base flows supporting TFT's flow restoration goal of 7 cfs at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek. TFT is seeking funding for water payments from OWEB (75%) and CBWTP (25%) for the 2019 leasing program's suite of projects. The Fifteenmile Creek watershed has undergone extensive alteration from its natural state since settlement, and is a high-priority area under both state and federal management agency restoration criteria. The watershed provides key habitat for an almost completely wild population of ESA-listed threatened steelhead (a core and genetic legacy populations) and other important aquatic populations including Pacific Lamprey, but long-standing human interference has compromised the health of its streams. This proposal provides funding for 13 transactions with 12 landowners in the Fifteenmile watershed through full-season and split-season instream leases ranging from 1 to 5 years in length. These deals will lease a total of 5.43 cfs instream of pre-1910 water, with 3.66 cfs protected to the mouth of the creek (the highest cfs to-date). Together they will meet 52-73% of the instream target in 2019, providing sustained base flows for a wild run of threatened steelhead, Coho, and lamprey. The proposal also provides programmatic support for the TFT project manager and hydrologist responsible for implementation over the next 5 years. TFT's Leasing Program is part of a multi-faceted approach to addressing instream conditions in Fifteenmile Creek. It complements the watershed's Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST), a contingency plan aimed at reducing lethal stream temperatures, as well as considerable other work by local restoration groups, tribes, and state and federal agencies. These leases will be administered in conjunction with the Wasco County SWCD.

Technical Advisory Committee Evaluation

Strengths

- The Fifteenmile watershed provides habitat for a nearly intact, wild genetic stock of Middle Columbia summer steelhead, listed as threatened under the ESA. The watershed has undergone extensive alteration from its natural state since settlement. It is high-priority under both state and federal agency restoration criteria.
- TFT works closely with the Watermaster in this watershed to monitor leases; their plan for monitoring compliance with the lease terms is sufficient.
- TFT’s general experience implementing water transactions and their specific experience in the Fifteenmile watershed demonstrate sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.
- Though they are at the higher end of the range, the value of the leases is supported by economic calculation.

Concerns

- In 4 of the last 5 years, the Watermaster has regulated past the 1909 priority date. Therefore, while it is expected that the leases can be implemented, the transactions are likely to achieve only a portion of the proposed flow restoration outcomes.
- Opt-out clauses in the four 2018 lease agreements create uncertainty about the amount of water instream each year. It is expected that the nine proposed lease agreements to begin in 2019 will also contain opt-out clauses.
- 5 of the 9 2019 lease agreements are a 1-year term. Of these, three have been previously leased by TFT.

- The application indicates that 52% to 73% of their current flow target (5-7 CFS of senior water rights at the mouth of Fifteenmile Creek) is reached through these leases and prior transactions; however, the application does not note what flows have been measured instream at this location in the several years of doing leases there. The application would benefit from further discussion on the strategies planned to reach their goal over time in this creek.
- The proposal notes several monitoring activities in the watershed (stream temperature, fish population, pesticide monitoring), but does not describe how that information contributed to project development or how it will contribute to future decision-making. In addition, there is no commitment to share that information with funders.
- The application describes other ongoing efforts to restore aquatic habitat in the basin. Further discussion to clarify which of these efforts have been completed, are in progress, or are planned for the future would have been helpful to the reviewers.

Concluding Analysis

This project is part of a strategic effort to support flows and fish in Fifteenmile Creek. TFT and its partners have a long history of working in this basin, and farmers in several of these transactions are doing dryland farming while keeping water instream through this project. The proposed project would result in an increase in water protected in Fifteenmile and that momentum should be supported. The economic valuation is based, in part, upon reliability. Given that the Watermaster has regulated past 1909 in 4 of the last 5 years, that valuation should be revisited. Due to the lease agreements allowing for an opt-out clause, committing funding for future year payments is not recommended as the ecological outcomes will vary based on whether proposed contracts remain in place in future years.

Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced – limit scope of services to only Year 1 transactions.

Technical Advisory Committee Recommended Amount

$116,184

Staff Follow-up

In response to concerns over the early termination clause in the Instream Lease Agreements, OWEB staff learned that water right holders insist on the clause to alleviate concerns over unsecured funding at the time that the agreements are signed. The Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program (CBWTP), the source of matching funds to the project, requires that signed agreements be submitted with the grant application. In addition, for multi-year leases with an annual payment structure, CBWTP can only commit to pay the current year. In most circumstances, water right holders prefer annual payments over a lump sum payment due to the tax implications. The early termination clause allows the water right holder to opt-out of the agreement should CBWTP funds not be awarded in future years. Currently, the early termination clause is structured so that the lease can be terminated for any reason. OWEB strives to have lease agreements structured so that early termination can only occur if funding cannot be secured.

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$289,056

Staff Conditions

Leases will be funded through the full lease term for Instream Lease Agreements without Early Termination clauses. In cases where the Instream Lease Agreement contains an Early Termination clause, the landowner payments will be contingent upon Columbia Basin Water Transaction funding each year.

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Agenda Item Q supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – Coastal Wetlands Grant
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve the submittal of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) federal fiscal year (FFY) 2020 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) application on behalf of the North Coast Watershed Association for their Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project.

II. Background

The NCWCGP requires that applications for projects from local implementers be submitted by a state agency. OWEB is both eligible and established as a trusted partner with the program. OWEB has established a process for local implementers to follow for submission to NWCGP, which includes an application and letter of interest submission through OWEB's Fall Open Solicitation or Land Acquisition Grant cycle, review by the appropriate Regional Review Team, board decision in April, and submission of the full federal application to USFWS in June. During the same time frame OWEB, like other state agencies, must also receive legislative approval to submit the application. OWEB's program administration process and timeline for vetting proposed NCWCG projects is in Attachment A.

III. Proposed NCWCGP Application

Based on the application review by the Region 1 Review Team, staff and the review team recommend submitting a NCWCGP application for the Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project.

This project encompasses two sites located between River Mile 18 and 19 of the Columbia River Estuary (CRE) in Clatsop County, just east of Astoria. At site 1, Mill Creek, 1.9 miles of road will be decommissioned in both the fluvial and tidal reaches of the subbasin. This will result in the restoration of 23 road crossings to natural hydrology, 12 of which are on identified Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon streams. At site 2, John Day River Road, a bridge will replace a pair of undersized culverts that currently act as barriers to hydrology and fish passage to the 22

acre upstream tidal wetland complex. Upon completion, this project will provide unrestricted access to high quality tidal wetlands for foraging, rearing, and spawning habitat for ESA-listed salmonids. The project provides additional community benefits by reducing severe seasonal flooding, an existing safety issue for residents near the project area, and to provide local residents with year-round safe passage to their homes. At the time of application, the budget did not include contingency. The North Coast Watershed Association is updating the budget to apply contingency as they prepare the federal application. Thus, the NCWCGP request is up to $429,775, with a total project cost of $1,107,718. A full project evaluation is included as Attachment B.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve submission of an application for the Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project to the USFWS's 2020 NCWGCP.

Attachments

A. FY2020 USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Project Solicitation
B. Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project Evaluation

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

FY2020 USFWS National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Project Solicitation

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is pleased to announce the FY2020 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant (NCWCG) Program solicitation. NCWCGs are awarded annually with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands in coastal states.

Grant Information

NCWCG Program funds are available to protect and restore coastal wetland habitats. Awards typically range from $125,000 to a maximum of $1,000,000, and require a 25% non-federal match contribution. Eligible projects must ensure long-term conservation of coastal resources and can include a combination of acquisition, restoration, and management of coastal wetland ecosystems.

NCWCG projects are collaborative grants for which state agencies are eligible to apply. OWEB serves as the official grantee of the federal award and passes the federal funds through to local partners ("applicants") through sub-awards.

How to Apply

Applicants pursuing NCWCG funding must submit an application through OWEB's Land Acquisition Program or OWEB's Restoration Open Solicitation offerings. Application deadlines are listed in the timeline below. Applicants should upload a letter of interest to their OWEB application as a "letter" or "letter of support" to indicate intent to apply for NCWCG funds. Please include "Coastal Wetland Grant Letter of Interest" in the title of the upload document.

NCWCG Program Letter of Interest

Letters of Interest for NCWCG should include the following:

1. Entity and point of contact for the proposed project, and direct partners, if applicable;
2. A concise description of the proposed project including:
    a. The project location, including verification that it is located within a coastal wetland ecosystem (within a coastal HUC-8 boundary);
    b. The eligible activities that the project proposes. Eligible activities include:
        - Acquisition of a real property interest (e.g., conservation easement of fee title) in coastal lands or waters (coastal wetland ecosystems) from willing sellers or partners for long-term conservation.
        - Restoration, enhancement, or management of coastal wetlands ecosystems, provided that restoration, enhancement, or management will be administered for long-term conservation; or
        - A combination of acquisition, restoration, and management.
    c. How the project proposes to ensure long-term (at least 20 years) conservation of coastal resources.

Contact Information

Please direct questions about the grant program and project eligibility to Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator at jillian.mccarthy@oregon.gov or 503-986-0033.

TIMELINE

Note that dates with asterisks (*) are submittal deadlines for local implementers.

OCTOBER 18, 2018* (for Land Acquisition Projects)

Applicant submits land acquisition application to OWEB accompanied by NCWCG Program Letter of Interest.

October 29, 2018* (for Restoration Projects)

Applicant submits restoration application to OWEB accompanied by NCWCG Program Letter of Interest.

DEC 2018 – FEB 2019

Acquisition and /or Regional Review Teams review OWEB grant applications, conduct site tours, and make funding recommendations.

DEC 2018 – FEB 2019

USFWS announces NCWCG offering.

MARCH 2019

OWEB Management determines funding lines for all OWEB grant applications with consideration of Review Teams' funding recommendations and available funding.

APRIL 2019

OWEB Board makes funding decision on OWEB grant application and decision to submit NCWCG application at Board meeting. Applicant and OWEB work together to develop the draft federal application.

MAY 10, 2019*

OWEB submits draft application on behalf of the applicant to USFWS for preliminary review and feedback.

MAY – JUN 2019

OWEB seeks legislative approval to submit NCWCG application. Applicant and OWEB work together to address USFWS feedback and develop final grant application.

JUNE 21, 2019*

Applicant submits to OWEB the final NCWCG application, which OWEB packages and submits to NCWGC on behalf of the applicant.

JUNE 30, 2019

Anticipated NCWCG application deadline.

JAN – APR 2019

USFWS NCWCG awards are announced.

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

Application Number: 219-1020-16653
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project
Applicant: North Coast WS Assn
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $331,872
Total Cost: $919,815

Project Abstract *(from application)*

The Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project encompasses two sites located between River Mile 18 and 19 of the Columbia River Estuary (CRE) in Clatsop County, just east of Astoria. At The Mill Creek site, a historic logging road is slated for removal to improve access to foraging, rearing, and spawning habitat for ESA listed salmonids, while improving tidal inundation at the mouth for species utilizing the CRE. The second site, along John Day River Road, is designed to replace a pair of undersized culverts acting as a hydrologic and fish passage barrier to the upstream wetland complex. The culverts will be replaced with a bridge, improving access to foraging and rearing habitat for CRE salmonids, while benefiting the community by reducing severe seasonal flooding, an existing safety issue for residents near the project area. At Mill Creek, 1.9 miles of road will be decommissioned in both the fluvial and tidal reaches of the subbasin. 23 road crossings will be restored to natural hydrology, 12 of which are on identified ESA listed salmonid streams. Fish passage barriers to upstream spawning habitat will be removed, floodplains will be reconnected, and wetlands will be restored. At John Day, this project removes barriers to 22 acres of tidal wetlands for ESA listed salmonids utilizing the Lower Columbia River Estuary. Post-project, salmonids will have unrestricted access to high quality tidal wetlands and local residents will have year-round safe passage to their homes. When implemented, these projects will increase watershed resiliency to existing and predicted increases in storm events and build on the cumulative effort in and around Cathlamet Bay to restore natural watershed, wetland, and tidal processes that benefit ESA listed salmonids. This project is a partnership between NCWA, CREST, Clatsop County, and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) applying for the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has the potential to improve both fish passage and water quality in the Cathlamet Bay watershed.
- Decommissioning the road along Mill Creek will result in an improved forest management approach.
- The project will improve habitat connectivity in both Mill Creek and the lower John Day.
- The fish passage project is designed with climate resiliency in mind.
- The partnership team has essential capacity to implement the projects including an appropriate mix of local partners.
- The Mill Creek basin contains opportunities for educational outreach.

Concerns

- Road-decommissioning alternatives do not consider re-routing the road around the wetland entirely.
- The linkage between the two projects is unclear. Additional detail regarding the strategic approach to restoration in Cathlamet Bay would strengthen the application.
- The fish passage component has increased in cost since the previous OWEB restoration grant was awarded, thus reducing the overall cost-benefit of the project.

Concluding Analysis
Both projects that comprise this application, the John Day Crossing and the Mill Creek Road decommissioning, were awarded funding by OWEB in April 2018. Since that time, both projects experienced unexpected cost increases and partners decided to pursue a Coastal Wetlands grant to compensate for the funding shortfall.

The projects continue to have a high potential for ecological benefit. They are technically sound with the partners having the capacity to successfully implement this project. It is recommended that OWEB pursue a Coastal Wetlands grant on behalf of the applicants to achieve the necessary funding levels to complete implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Proceed with Coastal Wetlands Grant application

Review Team Priority
n/a

Review Team Recommended Amount
n/a

Review Team Conditions

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
At the time of application, the proposed budget did not include contingency. The North Coast Watershed Association is updating the budget to apply contingency as they begin to prepare the federal application. This, the NCWCGP request is up to $429,775, with a total project cost of $1,107,718.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item R supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnership Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item R– FIP Rule Waiver
April 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The board adopted Focused Investment Partnership Grants administrative rules in January 2018. Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 695-047-0140 allows for the waiver of the rules when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Focused Investment grant program. This staff report informs the board of the first such rule waiver under the Focused Investment Partnership Grant administrative rules.

II. Background

During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB, in coordination with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), began a new approach to funding and supporting Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) grants. The new approach awards stakeholder engagement, technical assistance and monitoring funds to each SIA beginning in the first year of the program. Stakeholder engagement and technical assistance funds can be spent over four years and monitoring funds can be spent over 10 years. These SIA funds are intended to bring agency and local partners together to collaboratively engage landowners to provide technical assistance in developing projects that address agriculture water quality concerns and achieve ecological uplift within the SIA geography.

ODA identified the Thirtymile Creek watershed, located within the boundaries of the Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), as an SIA for the 2017-2019 biennium. Gilliam SWCD has also secured a Natural Resources Conservation Service Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant for this geography which will support implementation of projects that meet the objectives of the SIA program. The Thirtymile Creek watershed is also located within the boundaries of the John Day Basin Partnership's recently selected FIP Initiative.

There is direct overlap between the actions, outcomes, and geography of the FIP Initiative and the work to be completed within the SIA program. OAR 695-047-0100(4) does not allow applicants to apply for restoration, technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, monitoring, or land and water acquisition grants within the defined geographic area of the FIP Initiative, that are also focused on the programs and actions identified in the Initiative's proposal.

III. Justification

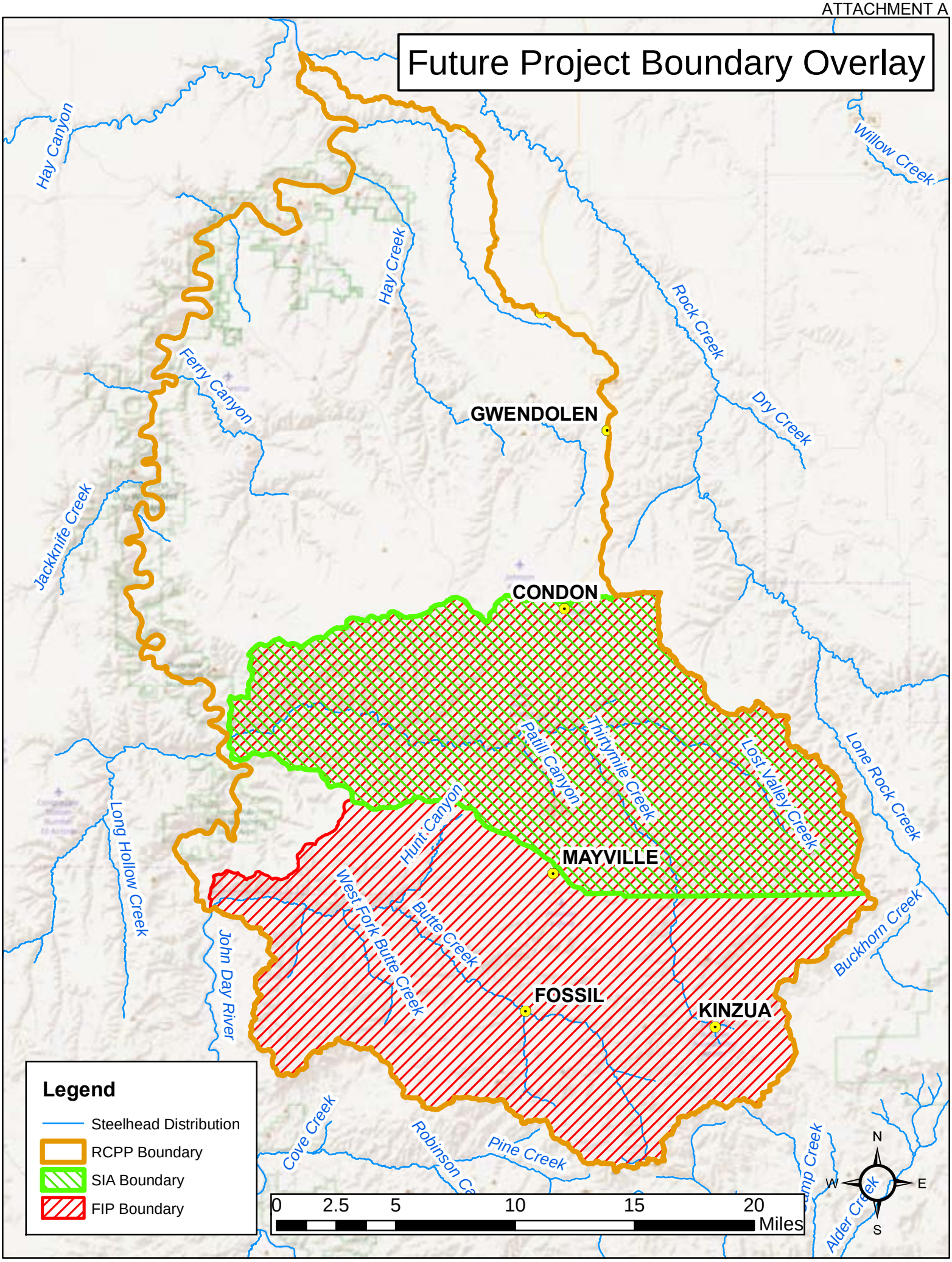
The intent of OAR 695-047-0100(4) is to ensure partners are working on priority actions within the geography and working with all the necessary and relevant partners to implement projects and to not be applying for grant funds within the Open Solicitation and FIP programs simultaneously for the same geography and actions. The SIA program, and the grants it offers, is unique and distinct from OWEB's Open Solicitation grant offering because eligible watersheds are selected by ODA and program implementation occurs through an inter-agency partnership approach. Within the Thirtymile Creek watershed the RCPP, FIP, and SIA funding will allow the partners to leverage resources to work with a broad diversity of landowners, achieve the objectives of all three programs, and monitor the results of this work. This programmatic leveraging of resources across multiple funding sources is the strategic approach to conservation that the FIP program seeks to encourage and facilitate for participating partnerships.

IV. Recommendation

The rule waiver action can be taken by the OWEB Executive Director. However, because this decision is connected to two board spending plan line items, staff wanted to inform the board of this decision. This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. Map of Future Project Boundary Overlay


Future Project Boundary Overlay
Hay Canyon
Willow Creek
Hay Creek
Rock Creek
Ferry Canyon
Dry Creek
GWENDOLEN
Jackknife Creek
CONDON
Lone Rock Creek
Patill Canyon
Thirtymile Creek
Lost Valley Creek
Hunt Canyon
MAYVILLE
Long Hollow Creek
West Fork Butte Creek
Butte Creek
John Day River
Buckhorn Creek
FOSSIL
KINZUA
Cove Creek
Robinson Ca
Pine Creek
Alder Creek
Legend
Steelhead Distribution
RCPP Boundary
SIA Boundary
FIP Boundary
0 2.5 5 10 15 20
Miles
N
W
E
S

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Board Meeting
July 16-17, 2019

Klamath Falls, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
July 16-17, 2019

Tuesday, July 16, 2019

Oregon Institute of Technology
College Union: Mazama/Scott Rooms
3201 Campus Dr.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/NUws5rmx9coNPH8E8

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, H, K, and L), 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 July 10, 2019 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 (8:35 a.m.)

The minutes of the April 16-17, 2019 meeting in Salem will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:40 a.m.)

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

D. Public Comment (8:50 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment.

E. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (9:05 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on recent developments to OAHP, and will request action on appointing an ex-officio member of the board to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. *Action item.*

F. Strategic Plan Update (9:35 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will lead the board in an annual review of OWEB's strategic plan that was adopted in 2018, and request action on proposed minor edits to the document. *Action item.*

G. Water Acquisitions Grants Rules (10:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will request the board authorize rulemaking for the water acquisitions grant program. *Action item.*

H. 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan (10:35 a.m.)

***NOTE*: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 10:45 a.m.**

Following an introduction by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden on the proposed OWEB spending plan for the 2019-2021 biennium, the board will hear public comment on the spending plan. After public comment, the board will hear presentations on spending plan items from the Oregon Department of Forestry Federal Forest Restoration Program Lead Phil Chang on forest collaboratives, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Executive Director Debrah Marriott on the work of the organization, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Native Fish Conservation Coordinator Chris Lorion on monitoring efforts supported by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. After the presentations, Director Loftsgaarden will lead a discussion with the board on the proposed spending plan before the board deliberates and adopts for the 2019-2021 biennium. *Action item.*

I. Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District Grant Amendment Request (1:45 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will introduce Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Justin Ferrell, who will be requesting the board approve an amendment to OWEB grant #217-4017, Lake County Sage-grouse Conservation. *Action item.*

J. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request (2:15 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request the board provide funding for "Stage 0 Restoration" effectiveness monitoring. *Action item.*

Tour – 2:50 p.m.

The board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of the Sun Creek Restoration Project that reconnected the creek to the Wood River, providing important habitat for native redband and bull trout. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

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:
Oregon Institute of Technology - College Union: Mazama/Scott Rooms
3201 Campus Dr.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/NUws5rmx9coNPH8E8

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

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, H, K, and L), 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 July 10, 2019 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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

This time is reserved for general public comment.

L. 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant Awards (8:15 a.m.)

***NOTE:* Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 8:30 a.m.**

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will update the board on the 2019-2021 Council Capacity review process. The board will then hear public comment on the 2019-2021 Council Capacity grant awards. Following public comment, Council Capacity funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

M. Rogue Forest Initiative Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Geography Change Request (10:00 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide to the board a request by the Rogue Forest Initiative FIP to update the initiative's geography. *Action item.*

N. OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (10:20 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will lead the board in a facilitated discussion on the subcommittee structure for the board. Deputy Director Renee Davis, Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will join the discussion to provide an OWEB staff perspective. *Action item.*

O. Director's Update (11:20 a.m.)

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

P. FIP Priorities (11:50 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will lead a discussion on the process for updating board-adopted FIP habitat priorities. *Information item.*

Q. Approval of Board Recommendations for 2017-2019 Biennial Report (12:10 p.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the board on the agency's development of the 2017-2019 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to adopt recommendations to include in the report,

which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. This item may be moved to the October board meeting if time does not allow for it to be heard. *Action item.*

R. Other Business (12:40 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, July 16 at 8:50 a.m., and Wednesday, July 17 at 8:00 a.m.* for any matter before the board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The board encourages persons to limit comments to 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 *July 10, 2019* 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

Barbara Boyer, *Board of Agriculture*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Vacant, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, W*ater Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Board Co-Chair, Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Anthony Selle, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
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

2019 Board Meeting Schedule
January 14-16, in Cannon Beach
April 16-17, in Salem
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, in Condon

2020 Board Meeting Schedule
January 22-23, in Jacksonville/Medford
April 21-22, in Region 5 (TBD)
July 21-22, in Region 3 (TBD)
October 20-21, in Region 4 (TBD)

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

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
April 16, 2019 Board Meeting

Macleay Conference Center
Fireside Hall
2887 74th Ave SE
Salem, OR 97317

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
Murray, Eric
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT
Board of Forestry

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Baker, Jeremy
Beamer, Kelley
Berg, Tristen
Bierly, Ken
Butler, Tim
Coordes, Regan
Faucera, Jason
Guillozet, Kathleen
Larson, Krista
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Morford, Shawn
Owens, Mark
Page, Stephanie
Patrick, Amy
Roix, Dan
Smith, Brenda
Taylor, Bruce

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser. Board member comments included a farewell to two board members who stepped down from the OWEB Board: Kathy Stangl, federal representative from the Bureau of Land Management, and Rosemary Furfey, federal representative from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The board welcomed Eric Murray, Rosemary's replacement, to his first meeting representing NMFS. It was also announced that Jan Lee is leaving the board for a leadership position with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, and Co-Chair Will Neuhauser is completing his final term at this meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:01:40)
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 January Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:51:55)
The minutes of the January 15-16, 2019 meeting in Cannon Beach were presented to the board for approval.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the January 15-16, 2019 meeting in Cannon Beach. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. Alan Henning found an error on page 5, which has been corrected. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:52:30)

C. Co-Chair Election (Audio = 0:54:00)
Co-Chair Will Neuhauser was ending his final term as a member of the OWEB Board at this meeting. His seat as co-chair was open for consideration for another board member to serve as co-chair for a two-year term. Jason Robison was nominated by Bruce Buckmaster to serve as co-chair.

> Gary Marshall moved the Board elect Jason Robison to serve as OWEB co-chair for a two-year term. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously and co-chair duties were assumed by Jason Robison for the remainder of the meeting. (Audio = 0:56:20)

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:58:10)
Subcommittee reports from the Open Solicitation, Monitoring, and Focused Investments subcommittees were provided to the board as written reports. The Operating Capacity subcommittee update was provided by Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff.

E. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 1:07:30)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided a written report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation in the last quarter.

F. Public Comment (Audio = 1:09:35)
Bruce Taylor, representing Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture and Intermountain West Joint Venture, came before the board to update the board on the work of Development Focused Investment Partnerships that are engaged in oak woodland and prairie conservation.

Kathleen Guillozet from Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and representing the Willamette Focused Investment Partnership, came before the board to share the partnership's first implementation report for Phase II, covering 2017-18 actions and investments.

The Oregon Conservation Partnership came before the board to provide an update on their organizations' individual and collective activities. The Partnership was represented by Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (The Network), Jeremy Baker from the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN), and Jan Lee from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts.

G. Harney Basin Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (Audio = 1:25:45)
Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy was joined by Harney County Commissioner Mark Owens, High Desert Partnership Executive Director Brenda Smith, and Consultant Ken Bierly to provide an overview of the proposed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) for groundwater in the Harney Basin.

H. Executive Director's Updates (Audio = 1:56:50)
H-1: Budget and Legislative Update (Audio = 1:56:50)
Deputy Director Renee Davis came before the board to review the legislative budgeting process and to inform the board about the progress to date on some key items in OWEB's budget. Davis also reviewed House Bill (HB) 2020, which would establish an Oregon Climate Action Program. Davis will keep the board apprised of any developments regarding the budget process and HB 2020 that have the potential to impact OWEB. Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein came before the board to review the progress of two OAHP bills that are moving through the legislature, House Bills 2086 and 2729.

H-2: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) (Audio = 2:09:00)
Program Manager Eric Williams provided for the board a general review of the structure and the activities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. The Commission met in March to discuss the valuation of conservation management plan implementation, the valuation of termed conservation covenants, and a possible summertime solicitation for applications for OAHP grants.

I. Spending Plan (Audio = 2:16:30)
Following an introduction and spending plan overview by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, the board heard presentations on items in OWEB's proposed 2019-2021 spending plan. Presentations featured a summary of each line item subject, historic demand for the item, recent highlights and accomplishments, and future need.

1. Governor's Priorities: Presented by the Governors Natural Resources Policy Advisor Jason Miner. (Audio = 2:25:30).
2. Strategic Implementation Areas: Presented by Oregon Department of Agriculture Executive Director Alexis Taylor and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Executive Director Richard Whitman. (Audio = 2:39:45).
3. Restoration Grants: Presented by Grant Program Manager Eric Williams. (Audio = 3:02:30).
4. Technical Assistance Grants: Presented by Grant Program Manager Eric Williams. (Audio = 3:10:30).
5. Monitoring Grants: Presented by Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, supported by Deputy Director Renee Davis. (Audio = 3:15:30)
6. Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes: Presented by Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch. (Audio = 3:29:18)
7. Stakeholder Engagement: Presented by Grant Program Manager Eric Williams. (Audio = 4:01:20)

8. Land and Water Acquisitions: Presented by Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy. (Audio = 4:06:20)
9. Small Grant Program: Presented by Small Grants Program Coordinator Kathy Leopold. (Audio = 4:20:20)
10. Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program: Presented by Oregon Department of Agriculture's State Weed Board Program Staff, Tim Butler and Tristen Berg. (Audio = 4:27:20)
11. Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships: Presented by Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer. (Audio = 4:43:50)
12. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring: Presented by Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch. (Audio = 5:14:00)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 5:30:30):
The Oregon Conservation Partnership, represented by Shawn Morford from the Network, Kelley Beamer from COLT, and Jeremy Baker from OCEAN came before the board to thank them for their past support of the partnership, to discuss the activities that OWEB funding supports to help the partnership operate effectively, and to request continued support for the work they do on behalf of OWEB grantees around the state.

Dan Roix Conservation Director for Columbia Land Trust and President of the COLT Board was joined by COLT's Executive Director Kelley Beamer to discuss the land trust community's partnership with OWEB and the importance of land acquisitions in Oregon.

13. Partnership Technical Assistance: Presented by Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff with assistance from other OWEB program staff. (Audio = 5:47:35)
14. A. Council Capacity: Presented by Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff. (Audio = 6:35:51)
14. B. District Capacity**:** Presented by Oregon Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Program Area Director Stephanie Page and Soil & Water Conservation District and Ag Water Quality Program Manager John Byers. (Audio = 6:41:15)
15. Statewide Organizational Partnership Technical Assistance: Presented by Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff. (Audio = 6:48:00)
16. Organizational Collaboration: Presented by Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff. (Audio = 6:53:40)
17. CREP Cost Share and CREP Technical Assistance: Presented by Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy. (Audio = 6:59:00)
18. Strategic Plan Priorities: Presented by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden. (Audio = 7:12:25)

Q. Coastal Wetlands Grant (Audio = 7:22:15)
Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy requested the board approve the submittal of a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Fiscal Year 2020 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) application on behalf of the North Coast Watershed Association for their Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project.

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board approve the submission of an application for the Cathlamet Bay Watershed Connectivity and Tidal Restoration Project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2020 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Randy Labbe. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 7:28:55)

R. Focused Investment Partnership Rule Waiver (Audio = 7:29:35)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer reported to the board on a rule waiver associated with a Focused Investment Partnership.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
April 17, 2019 Board Meeting

Macleay Conference Center
Fireside Hall
2887 74th Ave SE
Salem, OR 97317

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/7iJzxiu-8gc).

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Lee, Jan
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
Murray, Eric
Neuhauser, Will
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Leiendecker, Karen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Coordes, Regan
Guillozet, Kathleen
Lind, Linda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Morford, Shawn
Owens, Mark
Patrick, Amy
Roix, Dan
Smith, Brenda
Taylor, Bruce
Wagner, Nicholas
Warren, Kelly
Weybright, Jared

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT
Board of Forestry

J. Public Comment (Audio = 0:03:30)
There was no public comment.

K. Land Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules (Audio = 0:03:40)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein came before the board to request board approval of proposed administrative rules for OWEB's Land Acquisition grant program.

> Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the Land Acquisition Grants administrative rules as amended in Attachment C in the Land Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules

staff report. The motion was seconded by Barbara Boyer. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:28:40)

L. October 2018 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards (Audio = 0:29:15)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney presented land acquisition applications from the October 2018 land acquisition grant cycle, two of which are recommended for funding, for a total of $3,179,542.

Public Comment (Audio = 0:45:58)**:**
Dan Roix from the Columbia River Land Trust came before the board to advocate for oak habitat conservation in general, and specifically for application 219-9901 and its geographic importance.

Amy Patrick, representing the Oregon Hunter's Association, came before the board to raise awareness for maintaining hunting access on conserved land.

Board discussion led to a proposed amendment of the funding conditions for application 219-9900 to more clearly define public access. Amendments were provided to the board for review prior to voting.

**Voting is out of order on the recording since time was needed to develop the conditions and reproduce them for the board.*

Co-Chair Jason Robison moved the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A to the Land Acquisition staff report, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C as amended hereto by staff (with input from board members and conservation partners) to the Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:43:35)

M. OWEB Monitoring Grant Rulemaking (Audio = 1:10:33)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho brought before the board a request to authorize rulemaking for OWEB monitoring grants.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB monitoring grants. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:25:55)

N. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request (Audio = 1:26:35)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho presented an application for the Ni-les'tun tidal wetland restoration effectiveness monitoring project, which addresses programmatic information gaps identified in a recently commissioned literature review of tide gate and estuarine restoration effects. Funding in the amount of up to $253,000 was requested from the board from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item of the spending plan.

Co-Chair Jason Robison moved the board award up to $253,000 for the Ni-les'tun tidal wetland restoration effectiveness monitoring project with funds from the Open Solicitation Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item of the OWEB spending plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds

through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 17, 2019. The motion was seconded by Bruce Buckmaster. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:40:33)

O. Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 1:49:45)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB's regional program representatives came before the board to make a presentation on the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation grant offering, and asked the board to consider grant applications submitted for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement projects. Staff requested the board adjust the 2017-2019 spending plan as described in the Spending Plan Adjustments table in the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report to accommodate funding of all recommended projects.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Audio = 3:05:18)
Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils came before the board to announce an upcoming tour of a "Stage 0" project site on May 16-17, together with the McKenzie River Watershed Council.

Kelly Warren from Ducks Unlimited came before the board to introduce himself and discuss recent Ducks Unlimited developments in Western Oregon.

Jared Weybright, executive director from the McKenzie River Watershed Council, came to thank the board for its support and to advocate for a proposed project on the south fork of the McKenzie River. He also wanted to promote the Stage 0 tour and the work being accomplished in his region.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board adjust the 2017-2019 spending plan as described in the Spending Plan Adjustments table in the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report. The motion was seconded by Jan Lee. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:52:30)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment C to the Fall 2018 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report. The motion was seconded by Co-Chair Randy Labbe. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:53:10)

Gary Marshall moved the board fund project 219-5042, a Technical Assistance grant for the Burns-Paiute Tribe, using funds from the Development FIP carry-forward in the 2017-19 Spending Plan line 23. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. There was discussion among the board. The motion failed with three dissenting votes (Boyer, Neuhauser, and Lee). (Audio = 3:54:25)

P. Water Acquisition Grants (Audio = 4:02:30)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy presented to the board the applications received in the December 2018 Water Acquisition Grant Offering, and recommended three applications for funding. McCarthy provided an overview of the grant program and some of the operational issues that might be atypical. She was joined by Kacy Markowitz, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Program Director for the Columbia Basin, to answer questions from the board.

Meg Reeves moved the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1 of the Water Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed with two board members opposing the motion (McAlister and Buckmaster). (Audio = 4:36:20)

R. Other Business (Audio = 4:38:20)

Barbara Boyer suggested staff bring in experts on land trusts at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

July 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Debbie Hollen, Molly Kile, Jason Robison

Background
The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring, and provides input about the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on May 14, 2019. A primary focus of this meeting was "Stage 0" restoration and associated monitoring. At the May 14th meeting, staff from the U.S. Forest Service provided an informational presentation about Stage 0 restoration approaches that have been implemented in Oregon and elsewhere. Following that presentation, subcommittee members and OWEB staff discussed data and information needs associated with questions that have been articulated about the effects of Stage 0 restoration, including but not limited to:

- How quickly do ecological communities reassemble following Stage 0 project implementation?
- Will residence time of aquatic species change as a result of the geomorphic changes that occur after Stage 0 implementation (e.g., more complexity of wood, substrate, flow velocity, valley inundation, etc.)?
- Which ecological metrics are most sensitive to Stage 0 restoration and can be measured across restoration sites?

Staff requested another conference call in early June to discuss a funding request for monitoring and information sharing aimed at answering questions about Stage 0 restoration.

During the May conference call, subcommittee members and staff also discussed input received during the April board meeting about topics for consideration during the administrative rule revision process for monitoring grants that will kick off during Summer of 2019, and implementation progress for Strategic Plan Priority #6, Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

In preparation of another call on June 7, 2019, staff shared a proposal that includes: 1) monitoring work in the Upper Willamette and Upper Deschutes basins associated with Stage 0 restoration, 2) compilation of data and results from Stage 0 sites across a broader geography (i.e., Oregon and beyond), and 3) multiple workshops that bring together researchers, resource managers, and restoration and monitoring practitioners to discuss and build collective foundational understanding of Stage 0 approaches. Subcommittee members provided feedback about the proposal via e-mail and during the conference call. This feedback has informed the funding request included in the staff report for Item J at the July 2019 board meeting.

The group is scheduled to meet again on July 23, 2019.

To be presented at the July 2019 Board meeting by Alan Henning, Chair.

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

July 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

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

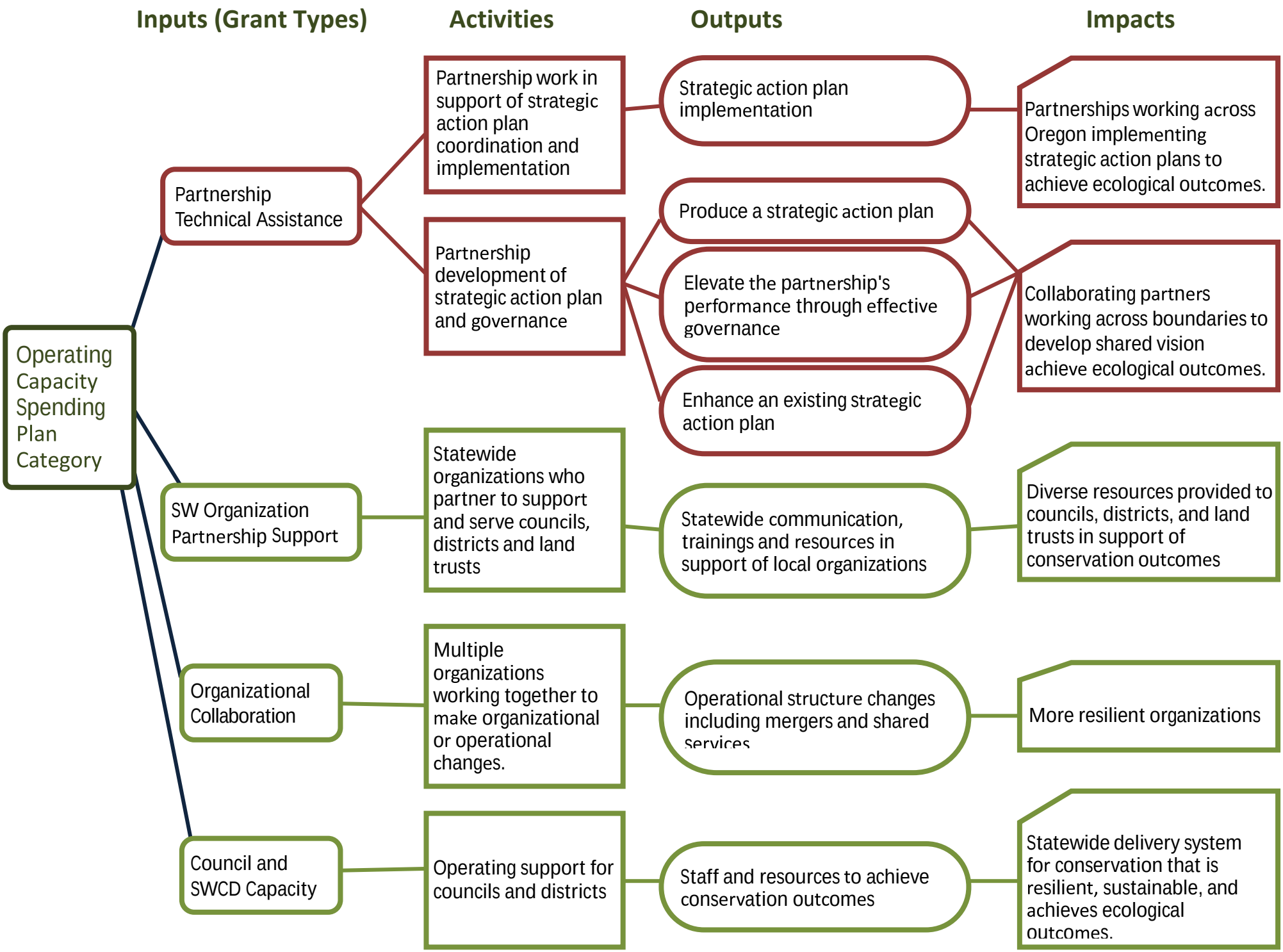
Background
The Focused Investment Subcommittee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP), including Development and Implementation FIPs, and the effectiveness of these programs.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on June 14, first jointly with the Operating Subcommittee and then separately. The discussions are summarized below:

- The joint subcommittee meeting was called to discuss the new Partnership Technical Assistance offering included in the 2019-2021 spending plan, which shifts the FIP Development grant offering from the FIP category to the Capacity category, and broadens the offering.
- The subcommittee discussed revisions to the board-designated ecological priorities. First the subcommittee discussed incorporation of voluntary carbon markets and climate change adaptation and mitigation into the priorities. Given that the priorities are geographically based, the subcommittee felt that these topics should be incorporated into FIP initiatives comprehensively by providing research and tools and soliciting prospective applicants to address climate change in their applications.
- The subcommittee addressed staff proposed changes to the board designated ecological priorities, including Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast, Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, and Dry-Type Forest Habitat (see agenda item P).
- The subcommittee heard updates on partnership agreement development with the five new implementation FIPs scheduled to begin work after the July board meeting when funds are available.
- A new Partnerships Coordinator position has been posted in anticipation of budget approval, with applications due June 21. The new hire is expected to be on board by August and will have responsibilities managing the Clackamas and Warner implementation FIPs as well as the partnership technical assistance grants.

To be presented at the July 2019 Board meeting by Jason Robison, Chair.

Staff Contact
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047
Attachment A – Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Offering Graphic


Inputs (Grant Types)
Activities
Outputs
Impacts
Operating Capacity Spending Plan Category
Partnership Technical Assistance
Partnership work in support of strategic action plan coordination and implementation
Partnership development of strategic action plan and governance
Strategic action plan implementation
Produce a strategic action plan
Elevate the partnership's performance through effective governance
Enhance an existing strategic action plan
Partnerships working across Oregon implementing strategic action plans to achieve ecological outcomes.
Collaborating partners working across boundaries to develop shared vision achieve ecological outcomes.
SW Organization Partnership Support
Statewide organizations who partner to support and serve councils, districts and land trusts
Statewide communication, trainings and resources in support of local organizations
Diverse resources provided to councils, districts, and land trusts in support of conservation outcomes
Organizational Collaboration
Multiple organizations working together to make organizational or operational changes.
Operational structure changes including mergers and shared services
More resilient organizations
Council and SWCD Capacity
Operating support for councils and districts
Staff and resources to achieve conservation outcomes
Statewide delivery system for conservation that is resilient, sustainable, and achieves ecological outcomes.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item E supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: Working Lands.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Background

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is appointed by the board, and is authorized by statute to recommend grant projects for succession planning, conservation management plans, and conservation easements and covenants on working lands. This staff report provides an update on Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program activities and requests the board appoint an *ex-officio* member to the commission.

II. Program Activities

One of the authorized OAHP grant programs is to pay for implementation of conservation management plans. The commission decided that further analysis of this grant type was needed because there is not currently an accepted methodology for valuing the public benefits of implementing conservation management plans (CMPs). Highland Economics, the consultant engaged to analyze the feasibility of valuing CMP implementation, submitted a report on June 30. The commission articulated four criteria for a valuation methodology: that it is fair, transparent, easy to apply, and accurate across differing geographies. Based on an economic analysis of valuation methodologies, Highland Economics developed high-medium-low feasibility ratings for four categories of practices: water quality, water quantity, habitat, and carbon sequestration.

The next step will be to develop valuation methodologies for those practices deemed feasible by the commission.

III. Budget

The 2019-2021 budget adopted by the legislature did not include funds for the OAHP. By statute, the commission will continue to meet at least annually. Staff intend to schedule a

commission conference call in August or September to identify next steps and a meeting schedule for the commission.

IV. Ex-officio Member

The commission includes an ex-officio member appointed by the board. Unlike the other commissioners, this position does not have a term limit and the ex-officio member serves at the discretion of the board. Will Neuhauser has been the ex-officio member of the commission representing the board. Since Neuhauser's board term has expired, the board needs to appoint a new ex-officio member. To fill this role, the member should have a good understanding of working lands, the needs of working lands owners and operators, and the integration of agricultural and natural resource values.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board appoint Barbara Boyer to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission as ex-officio member.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item F supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Strategic Plan Update
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

II. Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. For the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities. This template was presented and feedback about structure and content was provided by the board.

Following the October board meeting, staff added a header to all staff reports outlining the connection between the work contained in the staff report and the board's approved strategic plan.

III. Updates

Attached is the quarterly update of the strategic plan. This follows the same format as previous reports. In addition, staff have drafted a simple annual report to highlight some of the strategic plan accomplishments in the first year of the plan's implementation. Staff will review these with the board at the July meeting.

IV. Changes to Strategic Plan

In reviewing the strategic plan to determine what portions of the plan might work to replace the agency's outdated Guiding Principles, the board's executive committee identified 'The Approach We Take' portion of the document as a good replacement for the guiding principles. In reviewing that text, executive committee members also suggested a minor change to that portion of the plan to capture the board's desire to connect in a meaningful way with other funders. The change is noted below, and the executive committee recommends the board approve this change to the strategic plan.

Our work is characterized by…

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

Involving the community members at all levels
Promoting community ownership of watershed health
Collaborating and authentically communicating
Bringing together diverse interests
Building and mobilizing partnerships

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

Basing approaches on the best available science
Advancing efficient, science driven operations
Addressing root sources and causes
Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
Catalyzing local energy and investment

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
Maintaining progress into the future
Stewarding for the long term
Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

Providing evidence of watershed change
Measuring and communicating community impact
Increasing appropriate accountability
Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management – when we see something that's not working, we do something about it

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
Specific, targeted engagement
Ensuring information is available and accessible

V. Recommendation

The executive committee recommends the board approve the additions to the 'Approach We Take' portion of the strategic plan.

Attachments

Attachment A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, April to June 2019
Attachment B. OWEB Strategic Plan 2019 Annual Plan Summary

OWEB Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – April-June 2019

- Black font indicates quarterly actions
- Navy font indicates progress towards outputs and outcomes
- Gray font indicates background activity

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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - The recently launched news site of the Governor's Office, https://myoregon.gov/, has shared two stories featuring OWEB grantees. - Oregon Lottery presented at CONNECT 2019 about coordinating with the media on outreach. - Produced five fact sheets about newly-funded Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships and updated the state-wide FIP fact sheet.	<u>So That:</u> (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.	<u>To Make This Difference:</u> (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.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with 1,865 YouTube views (accessed 5/21/2019). <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - 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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Distributed a DEI survey to grantees to learn more about their demographics and to better understand how OWEB's work engages all Oregonians. - Provided support for the 2019 Oregon Diversity Conference as a sponsor and are planning for staff attendance. - Engaged staff in a "streamside chat" with Siuslaw Watershed Council to learn about living and working in a rural Oregon community from a grantee's perspective.	<u>So That:</u> (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.	<u>To Make This Difference:</u> (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.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Staff has participated in 194 hours of cumulative training since July 2018. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - 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

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	Near-term measure:
1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	- OWEB and Oregon Department of Agriculture hosted a session at CONNECT 2019 on the retrospective capacity evaluation project to share information on the current approach and gain feedback.	- 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.	- 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.	- Under development 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	- OWEB staff participated in four-day place-based learning and discussion session hosted by Water Resources Department and the Ford Family Foundation to cultivate learning circles and build capacity of place-based planning groups around the state. - Board approval of a new Partnership Technical Assistance grant to replace the Development FIP grant offering. These grants will support Partnerships to: 1) develop a strategic action plan and organizational structure, and 2) collaborate in support of a strategic action plan.			
3. Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	- Staff presented at the Project Impact Summit for funders (organized by Dialogues in Action, OWEB's strategic plan consultant) about OWEB's experience with developing measurement approaches to tracking impact of the agency and our grantees.			

Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategies

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	Near-term measure:
1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	- Requested and received legislative approval to apply for Coastal Wetlands grant funding from US Fish and Wildlife Service. - Traveled to Washington, DC to lobby for increased funding for the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund with co-chair Robison and a local grantee (Liesl Coleman).	- 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 can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of	- 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.	- 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				
3. Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector				
4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources	- Continued engagement with the state's process to update the Oregon climate adaptation framework. - Water Core Team mitigation sub-group has met three times to develop a common understanding of current mitigation funding and needs and explore pilot project opportunities to more strategically invest mitigation funding in high-quality restoration.			

			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 (OAHP)	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Engaged a contractor to develop a feasibility analysis of valuing conservation management plans. This work will explore frameworks to value the public benefits of best management practices.	<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	- Presented information on Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) to Regional Review Teams 1 and 6 to communicate that SIA restoration projects to improve water quality are a priority. - Coordinated with Oregon Department of Agriculture to present at CONNECT 2019 on SIAs to increase awareness of paired restoration and monitoring opportunities in targeted agricultural areas.			
	5. Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations	- Stakeholder engagement grants that target and recruit private working landowners are underway in the following: Santiam Watershed Regional Landowner Recruitment for Restoration Program, Marys River Watershed Council Oak Creek Stakeholder Engagement Project, and Sustainable Northwest - Arch Cape Community Forest.			
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) - Presented the FIP monitoring approach at the Washington Salmon Recovery Conference and at NOWC's "watershed camp" to emphasize the importance of long-term monitoring to tell the restoration story.	<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 resources that describe restoration investment outcomes. - Monitoring practitioners focus efforts	<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, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - Local organizations integrate	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Number of communication tools developed through staff, grants or partnerships. <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians
	2. Invest in monitoring over the long term	- OWEB and Department of Environmental Quality co-hosted a webinar on the components needed to develop a successful water quality monitoring grant. - Worked with Natural Resource Conservation Service to host field-based CREP training for Stream Visual Assessment Protocol to ensure consistency when using this tool to track performance.			
	3. Develop guidance and	- Awarded supplemental monitoring funding to four of the six			

	technical support for monitoring	Implementation FIPs to implement top monitoring priorities identified through their Progress Monitoring Framework.	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.	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.	- 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.
	4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Participated in a joint meeting between Middle Fork Intensively Monitored Watershed working group and John Basin Day Partnership to facilitate interactions between researchers and practitioners.			
	5. Define monitoring priorities	- Convened an Oregon Plan Monitoring Team meeting for an interim check-in about recent refinements to the grant making process and update on rulemaking for monitoring grants.			
	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) - Board approval of a new Partnership Technical Assistance grant to replace the Development FIP grant offering. These grants will support Partnerships to: 1) develop a strategic action plan and organizational structure, and 2) collaborate in support of a strategic action plan. - Bonneville Environmental Foundation and OWEB staff convened an all-day meeting to review the FIP program's theory of change and to document program changes and emerging lessons learned from the first three years, and considered adaptations for the future.	<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> - 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business 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	-			

Strategic Plan Progress
Annual Summary of Highlights
2018-2019, Year 1



This summary highlights examples of key actions taken by OWEB to implement the 2018 Strategic Plan in its first year. Detailed quarterly updates are available in OWEB board meeting agendas.

Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

ACTIONS

- Partnership with Oregon Lottery on a state-wide awareness campaign featuring restoration work of six OWEB partners through video, television, and billboards.
- Outreach for OWEB's 20th Birthday, unveiling a new logo and events at the Capitol and around the state.

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.

OUTCOME

More Oregonians are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed.

Priority 2

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

ACTIONS

- Agency staff completed 194 hours of training in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- Formed a DEI cross-sectional team to plan, listen, learn, and gather information internally and externally and provide training opportunities for staff.

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion.

OUTCOME

New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration.

Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

ACTIONS

- Initiated capacity evaluation project to develop a framework to complete a retrospective evaluation of council and district Operating Capacity investments.
- As a result of OWEB's continuous learning approach to the Focused Investment Partnership program, OWEB is now offering partnership TA grants.
- Continue to engage in agency partnerships to fund capacity and collaborative natural resource management.

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments.

OUTCOME

OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

ACTIONS

- Coordinated grant-making with NRCS, ODOT, USFWS, and others to leverage investments.
- Partnered to develop state's 100-year water vision.
- Engaged throughout cap and invest process to develop an incentives framework for natural and working lands.
- Analysis of the natural resource funding landscape by Oregon Fellow.

NRCS = Natural Resources Conservation Service
ODOT = Oregon Department of Transportation
USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding.

OUTCOME

Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration.

Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

ACTIONS

- Strategic Implementation Area technical assistance grant program engaged private landowners in streamside management for water quality in 11 watersheds.
- Supported the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), including commission establishment and rulemaking.

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects.

OUTCOME

Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.

Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

ACTIONS

- Funded seven Telling the Restoration Story grantees to share quantified success.
- Supported the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership to describe benefits of cumulative conservation actions among agency partners.
- Advanced progress monitoring frameworks with and strategic monitoring by Implementation FIPs to measure long-term outcomes.

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.

OUTCOME

Partners are using results-based restoration 'stories' to share conservation successes and lessons learned.

Priority 7

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

ACTIONS

- Engaged Regional Review Teams on the importance of innovation and experimentation.
- Approved five new Implementation FIP partnerships for collaborative and strategic long-term conservation.
- Incorporated a shared risk approach in the draft land acquisition rules.

Progressing towards:

OUTPUT

OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape-scale restoration with broader conservation community.

OUTCOME

Conservation communities value an experimental approach to learning and innovation.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grant Rulemaking
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks board authorization to initiate rulemaking for OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grants (Division 46).

II. Background

Water lease and transfer grants are an integral OWEB grant offering, providing important resources that assist grantees in acquiring an interest(s) in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing instream flow in order to address the conservation needs of habitats and species and/or to improve water quality. Administrative rules for the program were adopted in 2005 and updated in 2013.

Given the complexity of water transactions and an increase in the number of applications received in OWEB's annual grant offering, staff propose to work with a rules advisory committee (RAC) to review the water lease and transfer grants administrative rules and determine how these rules should be updated to reflect current needs of the grant program.

III. Proposed Rulemaking Process

Staff will convene a RAC for the water lease and transfer grants rulemaking process. The RAC will be composed of a diversity of stakeholders, ranging from grantees, agency partners and technical advisory committee members that evaluate water lease and transfer grant applications. Staff propose to develop the Water Lease and Transfer Grant rules according to the draft schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	July 2019
RAC Meetings to Review Current Rules, Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	August-December 2019
Draft Rules Revisions Based on RAC and DOJ Feedback	Early January 2020
Public Comment Materials posted online	February 1, 2020
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	February 1, 2020
Noticed Published in Secretary of State's Bulletin	February 1, 2020
Public Comment Period	February 1-29, 2020
Public Hearing(s)	February 2020
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	Early March 2020
Board Adoption of Rules	April 2020

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grants.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item H supports all of OWEB's strategic plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Spending Plan
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides the 2019-21 Spending Plan for board review and approval based on both feedback from the April board meeting and using the May revenue forecast for the Oregon Lottery along with any recaptured funds.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plates. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

III. 2019-2021 Spending Plan Development

Based on the May 2019 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined $105 million will be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received. For PCSRF funding, Oregon was successful in receiving a 2019 grant similar to the amount received in 2018. Additions to the spending plan in July 2020 will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of 2020 PCSRF funding through their competitive grant process.

In October 2018, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2019-2021 Spending Plan. In January 2019, the board discussed spending plan categories and provided feedback on the proposed percentages allotted to each category. In April 2019, the board received a presentation and had the opportunity to provide feedback on all spending plan line items except those that are directly awarded to other agencies and organizations. An update on those items will be provided at the July 2019 board meeting, along with staff-proposed changes to the spending plan between April and July.

IV. PCSRF Funding

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding has been provided through the competitive PCSRF grant process, which is offered by NOAA Fisheries. Oregon has received more than $236 million from PCSRF for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in that time. On an annual basis, OWEB applies for PCSRF funding on behalf of the State of Oregon. Oregon provides the required 33% match through a combination of lottery funding, salmon license plate revenues, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

NOAA has awarded the state $15 million in PCSRF funding for FFY 2019. This amount is nearly as large as FFY 2018 award of $15.2 million. For the FFY 2019 grant solicitation, NOAA increased the minimum award to states to $5 million. In previous years, multiple states received funding lower than this amount. The change affected the funding available to individual grantees, given that the total available PCSRF funding for FFY 19 did not increase.

Of the total award, $6 million is available for grants in the 2019-21 spending plan, with the remainder invested in support of OWEB staff costs, distributed to ODFW, or held in reserve for future spending plans. OWEB anticipates another $8 million in PCSRF funding for FFY 2020.

IV. Spending Plan 'Other Distributed Funds'

The spending plan contains a range of items, many of which were presented to the board at the April 2019 meeting. Others, listed under the 'Other Distributed Funds' category in the spending plan, will be presented at the July 2019 board meeting. These include:

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) - LCEP is a two-state, public-private National Estuary Program (NEP) created by the Governors of Oregon and Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 to focus on the 146 miles of the lower Columbia River. LCEP needs state matching funds to complement federal funding received through the NEP. OWEB funds will support riparian and habitat restoration in the lower Columbia River watershed.

Forest Collaboratives - Forest Collaborative technical assistance grants fund local forest collaboratives to increase restoration efforts on federal forests statewide. 2019-2021 will be the fourth biennium in which OWEB has implemented the Forest Collaborative technical assistance grant program on behalf of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). OWEB staff work collaboratively with ODF staff to set grant offerings, develop application materials, and review grant applications.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) - A portion of the PCSRF funds are legislatively directed to be transferred to ODFW. The amount of funding transferred depends on the State of Oregon's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through NOAA's competitive grant process. Eligible uses of PCSRF funds based on NOAA recovery priorities include restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring. For the 2019-2021 biennium, the following ODFW programs are proposed to receive PCSRF funding: Fish Screening and Passage Program, Lower Columbia River Harvest Management Program, Conservation and Recovery Plan Implementation and Technical Support Program, Chum Reintroduction Program, and the Oregon Plan Fish and Habitat Monitoring Program.

In addition, this category in the spending plan includes the **Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)**. The Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time to describe the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. Funders historically have included NOAA Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and OWEB, among others. Partners in the IMW have conducted work in a coordinated fashion to evaluate and document watershed restoration actions and ecological conditions since 2008. In December 2017, partners published a comprehensive 10-year synthesis report that was presented to the board in January 2018. An overview of the findings and lessons learned from the first 10 years is attached (Attachment D). Ongoing monitoring supported by PSMFC funding during the 2019-21 biennium includes fish monitoring by ODFW; stream temperature, streamflow, and macroinvertebrate monitoring by the North Fork John Day Watershed Council; and streamflow monitoring and website support by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.

Greater Sage-grouse Conservation Monitoring - A new opportunity exists to receive federal funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to support monitoring efforts associated with voluntary conservation agreements involving the USFWS, soil and water conservation districts, and ranchers in eastern Oregon. These agreements directly address both short and long term threats to sage-grouse on private land, while maintaining grazing, irrigation, and agricultural production. The funding will be used to provide grants to soil and water conservation districts to conduct effectiveness monitoring on measures taken to conserve sage-grouse habitat, including cutting juniper, controlling the spread of invasive annual grasses, and re-establishing beneficial vegetation for sage-grouse.

V. Recommended Spending Plan Changes

Changes to the spending plan are outlined in Attachments A-C. Attachment A is the proposed spending plan with increases identified in specific program areas based on the increased Lottery revenue forecast, as well as an increase in recaptured funds from previously awarded grants. Attachment B describes those increases. Attachment C outlines any specific requests to delegate authority for distribution of certain funding to the executive director. All attachments will be reviewed with the board during the spending plan presentation.

VI. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve requests outlined in the 'Carry forward' and '2019 Spending Plan Requests' columns of Attachment A: Proposed OWEB 2019-21 Spending Plan.

Staff recommend the board approve tables 1-3 of Attachment C to the staff report regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the spending plan.

VII. Attachments

A. Draft 2019-21 Spending Plan
B. Summary of Changes Proposed from April 2019 Spending Plan Draft
C. 2019-21 Spending Plan Policy, Carry-Forward, and Delegation Recommendations
D. Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed summary

OWEB 2019-21 Proposed Spending Plan

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	2017-19 Spending Plan as of Jan 2019	Carry Forward	Proposed 2019 Spending Plan	Proposed 2020 Spending Plan	Difference from 2017-19 Biennial Plan
1	**Open Solicitation:**					
2	Restoration	32.000		31.200	32.200	0.200
	Coastal Wetlands Restoration *(no new applications)*	1.000				-1.000
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA	4.000		3.100	4.100	0.100
5	CREP TA *(includes NRCS & ODF funds 17-19; and $250k NRCS funds in 19-21)*	1.435		1.375	1.375	-0.060
6	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700		1.000	1.000	0.300
7	Monitoring grants	3.100		3.500	3.500	0.400
8	Land and Water Acquisition					0.000
9	Acquisition (2017-19 includes $ 1m USFW Coastal Wetlands)	8.900		6.750	8.750	-0.150
	Coastal Wetlands Acquisition	1.000				-1.000
10	Acquisition Technical Assistance	0.600				-0.600
11	Weed Grants	3.000		3.000	3.000	0.000
12	Small Grants *(carryforward up to $500k based on 2017 board policy)*	3.150	0.500	2.800	2.800	-0.350
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes *(name change)*	1.587	0.578	0.700	1.200	0.191
14	**TOTAL**	**60.472**	**1.078**	**53.425**	**57.925**	**-1.969**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**63.12%**		**54.35%**	**55.28%**	
16	**Focused Investments:**					
17	Deschutes	4.000		4.000	4.000	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	2.445		2.180	2.180	-0.265
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	1.970		2.500	2.500	0.530
20	Sage Grouse	2.355		0.474	0.474	-1.881
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.340		2.000	2.000	-0.340
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.417		2.777	2.777	0.360
23	John Day Partnership			4.000	4.000	4.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse			1.715	1.715	1.715
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat			2.000	2.000	2.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Partnership			1.500	1.500	1.500
27	Clackamas Partnership			3.455	3.455	3.455
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750		0.450	0.700	-0.050
29	**TOTAL**	**16.277**	**0.000**	**27.051**	**27.301**	**11.024**
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**16.99%**		**27.52%**	**26.05%**	
31	**Operating Capacity:**					
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD) *(19-21 includes 3.8% COLA & $177k Rogue merger funding)*	13.547		14.416	14.416	0.869
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.500		0.250	0.500	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative Grants	0.400		0.200	0.200	-0.200
35	Partnership Technical Assistance *(name change)*	1.150		0.500	1.000	-0.150
36	**TOTAL**	**15.597**	**0.000**	**15.366**	**16.116**	**0.519**
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**16.28%**		**15.63%**	**15.38%**	
38	**Other:**					
39	CREP	0.750		0.750	0.750	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.011		1.000	1.000	-0.011
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.200		0.700	1.700	0.500
42	Strategic Plan Implementation Grants	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	-0.500
43	**TOTAL**	**3.461**	**0.000**	**2.450**	**3.450**	**-0.011**
44	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**3.61%**		**2.49%**	**3.29%**	
45	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**95.807**	**1.078**	**98.292**	**104.792**	**9.563**
46	**OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION**					
47	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	10.450		11.690	11.690	1.240
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.309		0.321	0.321	0.012
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.500		0.500	0.500	0.000
51	NRCS technical support	1.000		0.000	0.000	-1.000
52	PSMFC-IMW	0.729		0.600	0.600	-0.129
53	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools	0.166		0.000	0.000	-0.166
54	USFW Greater Sage Grouse Monitoring	0.000		0.284	0.284	0.284
55	**TOTAL**	**13.154**	**0.000**	**13.395**	**13.395**	**0.241**
56	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**108.961**	**1.078**	**111.687**	**118.187**	**9.804**

Summary of Changes Proposed from April 2019 Spending Plan Draft

Restoration grants	Increase of $1.0 million	Additional funding to meet program demand
Technical Assistance Grants	Increase of $250,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Stakeholder Engagement	Increase of $100,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Acquisitions	Increase of $250,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring	Increase of $250,000	Additional funding to meet program demand
Strategic Implementation Areas	Reduction of $100,000	Minor adjustment down based on workload planning by ODA since the April board meeting.

2019-21 Spending Plan Policy, Carry-Forward and Delegation Recommendations

Table 1. Carry Forward

Carry forward amounts as indicated through June 30, 2021

Program	Carry Forward Amount	Explanation
Small Grants	Carry forward up to $500,000	Using new reallocation methodology, funds will be redistributed to qualified small grant teams in 2020
Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring	Carry forward $578,000	During the 2017-19 biennium, staff initiated several new programmatic efforts, including SIA monitoring, 'telling the restoration story,' CREP performance tracking, and scoping of a retrospective evaluation of capacity investments, among others. Carryforward of funds is requested to support additional programmatic monitoring that has been in development (e.g., monitoring of Stage 0 restoration, 'hybrid' restoration/monitoring initiatives for telling the restoration story), but for which funding requests will come to the board during the 2019-21 biennium.
Total carry forward:	**$1,078,000**	

Table 2. Spending Plan Associated Board Approval Requests

Approve policy recommendations and receipt of funds from other sources as outlined.

Program	Policy or Funding Approval Request	Background
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Grant Program	Change name from Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring to Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes	
Development Focused Investment Partnership Grant Program	Change name from Development FIP to Partnership Technical Assistance	
Intensively Monitored Watershed	Accept up to $600,000 of other funding to support the Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) Program	Reflects maximum amount expected to be received during the 2019-21 biennium from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Service in support of the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW
CREP-TA	Accept up to $250,000 of federal funding to support the CREP Technical Assistance program	Reflects funding made available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in support of technical assistance for this program.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Greater Sage-grouse Monitoring	Accept up to $284,000 of federal funding to support CCAA monitoring efforts	Reflects funding made available from the USFWS to support soil and water conservation districts engaged in monitoring activities associated with CCAAs.

Table 3. Delegation of Authority

Delegate authority to the Director to enter into agreements for the following spending plan line items with award dates as identified. Amounts are as identified on spending plan unless otherwise noted below.

Spending Plan Line Item	Award Date	Background/Description
CREP Technical Assistance grants	July 17, 2019	Grants are approved once per biennium with a technical review completed by all CREP partners: NRCS, FSA, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), OWEB and associated statewide organizations.
Weed grants	July 17, 2019	OWEB administers these funds on behalf of ODA and the State Weed Board. ODA staff complete a review process for these grants and approval comes through the State Weed Board.
Small Grants	July 1, 2019	Delegation increases timeliness of program implementation. Funds are allocated to small grant teams ($100,000 per team plus additional funding based on reallocation process) so they can quickly approve and request OWEB funding for small grants.
Quantifying Outputs & Outcomes (SIA monitoring grants)	July 17, 2019	Staff request $400,000 (16 SIA's x $25k) in delegated funds to support monitoring activities associated with Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs). A statewide monitoring advisory group, consisting of DEQ, ODA, ODFW, and OWEB, coordinates with local partners and a local monitoring team for each SIA. SIA-specific monitoring plans are developed and used to guide baseline and ongoing data collection by local partners. Reporting milestones ensure monitoring progress is tracked and monitoring results are reviewed jointly by state and local partners.
FIP Implementation grants	July 1, 2019	The board has already approved the overall funding for each existing FIP-implementation area, and will approve new FIP implementation funding as a part of the approval of the spending plan based on approval of the programs at the January 2019 meeting. Delegation of funds allows staff to work with grantees on agreed-to timelines, reviewing and approving grants as they are ready within overall budget.
Soil and Water Conservation District capacity grants	July 1, 2019	Delegation allows for a one-time distribution of funds based on process developed by Oregon Department of Agriculture for implementation of local area plans under the state's agriculture water quality program, including focused implementation in identified areas. Delegation allows for a one-time distribution of funds for the biennium.
Statewide Organization Partnership grant	July 17, 2019	Delegation allows for 1 year of funding for this partnership. Staff will update the board on the project accomplishments and request the remaining funds in October 2020.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	July 1, 2019	CREP contracts are directly with landowners and can arrive at any time in the biennium. CREP contracts are fully reviewed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and plans approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
Governor's Priorities	July 17, 2017	**Per details provided in the memo that will be in the board's 'blue folder', the Governor's Natural Resources Office requests:** **$150,000 in delegated funds for continued Tide Gate Partnership work** **$300,000 in delegated funds for Oregon's Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon)** **$400,000 to support the Oregon's 100-Year Investment Strategy for Water** **$150,000 to support analysis work related to forest watersheds and streams**

		The board receives reports from the Governor's office on overall program priorities. For 2017-19, these include tide gates, sage grouse conservation, post-fire recovery, and water. The 2019-21 priorities listed above are proposed to the board by the Governor's office, with associated justification. Staff then complete the grant application and agreement process with appropriate entities for the selected programs.
Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) grants	July 17, 2019	These funds are utilized in support of Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) agriculture water quality program. Grants are reviewed by a technical team that includes OWEB and ODA staff to ensure compliance with statute and quality of proposals. The state's team also includes Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)	July 1, 2019	Based on the grant submitted by the State of Oregon through OWEB, ODFW receives a specific funding distribution from the approved PCSRF grant via pass-through by OWEB.
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	July 1, 2019	Oregon and Washington both provide funding in support of the cross-state Estuary Partnership. The Governor's office has selected OWEB to be the funding source from which these funds are provided to the program. These funds are then administered as a grant from OWEB.
Forest Collaboratives grants	July 17, 2019	These funds are transferred from ODF and are managed on their behalf. Through a partnership with ODF, OWEB manages a review team process to ensure high quality projects are approved.
PSMFC-Upper Middle Fork John Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)	July 1, 2019	The IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time to describe the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. Historically, funders have included NOAA Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and OWEB, among others. Funding continues to be made available through PSMFC to support IMW monitoring.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Greater Sage-grouse Monitoring	July 17, 2019	Federal funds that are provided to OWEB in order to provide grants to soil and water conservation districts to conduct effectiveness monitoring on measures taken to conserve sage-grouse habitat associated with voluntary conservation agreements. Technical review will occur through a team developed by OWEB and USFWS.

Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed

**Don't guess whether your river restoration achieved its goals: Measure it.
We summarized 10 years of restoration and scientific monitoring.**



Middle Fork John Day River Forrest Conservation Area — Photo credit: K. Handley

Key Findings from 10 Years of Monitoring (2008-2017)

FISH

- Stream temperature remains the most significant limiting factor for steelhead and Chinook populations in the Middle Fork John Day River (MFJDR) Intensively Monitored Watershed.
- Life cycle modeling can help prioritize actions by identifying which life stages of fish (juveniles vs. adults) are most limited by river conditions.

STREAM TEMPERATURE

- Although stream restoration has improved the quality and quantity of habitat, monitoring did not detect an increase in the fish population within the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (MFIMW) time scale of 10 years. This is most likely due to high stream temperatures within the project reaches that require longer-term recovery.
- Tributary inputs of cold water to the mainstem MFJDR, rather than groundwater inputs from the mainstem floodplain, play the most important role in cooling the MFJDR.
- Solar radiation is the primary driver of temperature gain along the mainstem; therefore, wider channels with more surface area are more susceptible to temperature increases.
- Riparian plantings may reduce stream temperatures, but they require time and stewardship. Even when grazing livestock are absent, browsing pressure from deer and elk limited plant growth. Only ponderosa pine and thinleaf alder showed consistent growth; cottonwood and aspen were heavily browsed.

HABITAT

- The overall habitat index score had an improving trend for the majority of watershed-scale habitat monitoring sites; this result confirms the hypothesis that restoration actions would improve aquatic habitat at a watershed scale.
- Removal of livestock grazing on riverbanks allowed the spread of native bank-building and erosion-controlling vegetation, including torrent sedge. The increase in these plants caused beneficial changes to fish habitat by providing cover and helping to alter the river channel.
- Among the subset of projects monitored, channels did not significantly narrow and deepen or become more sinuous in response to restoration as hypothesized. Restoration projects in some locations did increase pool depth.

RESTORATION

- River restoration is a long-term investment. Given the lag time for riparian plantings to mature (15-40 years) and the 5-10 year life cycle of focal fish species, the limited fish responses to restoration actions are reasonable.

MFIMW GOALS

- Compare changes in watershed-scale productivity as a result of restoration actions in MFIMW for summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon relative to the South Fork and Upper Mainstem John Day Rivers.
- Learn how specific restoration actions influence salmonid abundance, survival, and growth at the reach and project-scale.
- Understand how specific restoration actions impact instream habitat, riparian condition, and water temperature at the reach, project, and watershed scales.

RESTORATION ACTIONS

- Fish passage: 122 miles opened/improved
- Channel reconfiguration: 35 channel miles improved
- In-stream habitat: hundreds of complex wood structures
- Flow: 6 cfs instream increase
- Upland management
- Riparian fencing and plantings:
  21 miles of fencing
  15 miles of plantings

MONITORING ACTIONS

- Water temperature
- Fish production
- Macroinvertebrates
- Geomorphology
- Groundwater
- Socio-economic impact
- Models: Steelhead Lifecycle & HeatSource

17 student projects
earned degrees at OSU, UO, PSU, and WSU

213 jobs
created from planning and project implementation

$16.9 million
brought into the local economy through projects

Study Area
Upper portion of the Middle Fork John Day River watershed (2,088 km^2) in Oregon.

Focal Species
- Middle Columbia River steelhead (Federally threatened)
- Spring Chinook salmon

Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Partners shared the following insights for ongoing planning, monitoring, and restoration efforts within the IMW. Many of these recommendations may translate to similar complex monitoring initiatives that include many partners and projects.

PLANNING

- Completely review all monitoring activities each year prior to the field season and before subsequent restoration activities occur to protect the integrity of the monitoring framework and research.
- Carefully consider the potential trade-offs between restoration actions during planning and design phases. Keep in mind the long-term benefits of increasing habitat quality/quantity and vegetation recovery with other factors, such as short-term elevated stream temperatures.
- Prior to implementation, determine whether restoration plans will increase stream surface area at low flow; models show that greater surface area could further elevate water temperatures.
- Identify socio-economic indicators and outcome measures in consultation with local officials and the community.

MONITORING

- Ideally, monitor both treatment and control locations for multiple years prior to restoration. This can help detect differences between natural background variation versus changes due to restoration actions.
- Data collection efforts should have established protocols across both temporal and spatial scales. A monitoring plan will help researchers determine which sampling sites are most important to sample consistently over time.
- Use life cycle modeling to predict the expected magnitudes and timing of fisheries responses from restoration, and to enhance the probability of success in detecting responses to restoration actions.

100 restoration projects implemented in the study area

14 scientific reports on river restoration

20 organizations participated in monitoring, restoration, and analysis

RESTORATION

- Expectations for restoration outcomes should be tempered with a realistic understanding of the rate at which natural systems can recover and account for relatively rare episodic events.
- Given the importance of temperature in habitat quality, focus riparian revegetation efforts in streams where shade is currently limited. Give careful attention to stewardship of plantings to maximize growth. Salvage and re-plant all existing on-site vegetation when possible and hire a full-time vegetation care specialist.
- Consider installing elk-proof fencing on major restoration efforts to protect riparian plantings if browsing will reduce plant vigor.
- To maximize potential for stream temperature reductions, consider the magnitude and location of cold-water inputs from tributaries and groundwater upwellings in restoration designs. Connecting known groundwater sources to the channel could create cooler habitats.
- Place wood that interacts with low-flow conditions, and consider side channels and other human features that constrain valley processes. Consider treating the entire reach and valley.
- Design channels with a profile where the riffle crest or head is the highest feature in the substrate. In streams subject fish passage issues at low flows, riffles need to be constructed with fines washed in to ensure the matrix is sealed and stable.



This fact sheet provides highlights only. For details on restoration and monitoring, review the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed Final Summary Report (114 pages), available at www.middleforkimw.org.

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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Lakeview SWCD Grant Amendment Request
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Background

The board awarded grant # 217-4017, Lake County Sage-grouse Conservation, to Lakeview SWCD on October 25, 2016. The purpose of the grant was to develop site-specific plans on individual ranches in eastern Oregon that outline habitat needs and restoration actions to aid in sage grouse conservation on those lands. The work was a local component of the overall umbrella of the state's sage grouse conservation work. At completion of the project, Lakeview SWCD submitted a project completion report that indicated that all of the project work was actually completed prior to the date of board award.

Lakeview SWCD noted that the work was completed at a time when listing sage grouse as an endangered species was under consideration, and that during that time, their goal was to complete as many site specific plans as possible to demonstrate the likelihood of landscape scale implementation of voluntary habitat restoration actions. They also believed that more landowners would come in after the grant was awarded, and so they made the assumption they would have been completing more plans after the award date. This did not occur, as no additional landowners came forward for site-specific plans. As a result of these factors, Lakeview SWCD is requesting the board amend the award date of the grant agreement to January 1, 2016.

II. OWEB Staff Response

Following receipt of the project completion report, OWEB staff informed Lakeview SWCD that they did not comply with the grant agreement, which does not allow for reimbursement of project expenses prior to the board award date. In addition, OWEB had already made two payments to Lakeview SWCD for the project totaling $28,571. Reports are not required for interim payments, so OWEB staff were unaware that products outlined in the proposal had already been completed. Since this reimbursement was made for ineligible work, Lakeview SWCD was informed that they would have to repay those funds unless the grant agreement was amended, and that such an amendment request

would have to be approved by the board. In addition, staff informed Lakeview SWCD that the remaining $21,429 of the $50,000 grant will not be paid by OWEB.

To prevent similar problems in the future, OWEB is amending six other grants with Lakeview SWCD that include reimbursement for salary and wage costs to require documentation of timesheets and payroll/accounting record, and has provided sample timesheet and payroll record systems.

III. Lakeview SWCD Request

In conversations with staff, the grantee has requested to come before the board to request a grant amendment to change the start date of the grant to January 1, 2016.

Lakeview SWCD acknowledged that doing the work prior to the grant award was inappropriate and stated that during the period of the grant, Lakeview SWCD staff continued to work on the subject ranches by implementing and monitoring site-specific plans.

Lakeview SWCD agreed to develop timesheet and payroll/accounting records that will associate staff costs with projects in the future.

IV. Board Options

There are several options for the board to consider:

Option 1: Require Lakeview SWCD to pay back the $28,571 reimbursed to date.

Option 2: Amend the scope of services of the grant by either,

A. Changing the effective date of the award from October 25, 2016 to January 1, 2016; or
B. Changing the scope of services to match the work performed during the effective dates of the grant agreement, which was implementing and monitoring site-specific plans on eligible ranches.

Under either options 2.A or 2.B the board can authorize reimbursement of $28,571 included in the payment requests received to date. The board could also authorize reimbursement of the total award of $50,000 pending submittal and approval of payment requests for the remaining $21,429.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve option 2.A, and change the award date to January 1, 2016 for grant #217-4017, and reduce the award to $28,571.

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Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Programmatic Monitoring Funding Request – Stage 0 Restoration
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's programmatic monitoring investments evaluate specific types of restoration actions at broad geographic and/or temporal scales through targeted funding. This staff report requests up to $360,000 from the board's newly renamed Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item in the 2019-21 spending plan for monitoring and information sharing associated with Stage 0 restoration approaches.

II. Background

Traditional approaches to river restoration have focused on restoring channel structure by engineering channels that remain relatively stable through time. Recently, there has been increased interest in process-based approaches that create complex river channels and floodplains. One such approach for wide alluvial valleys is called Stage 0 restoration which restores fluvial processes at the valley scale, typically by filling previously incised channels with native materials (e.g., gravels, soil, and large wood), and then letting the river valley shape itself in response to environmental drivers like floods, and in response to biological drivers such as riparian forest development and beaver damming.

Stage 0 restoration has been implemented at sites in Oregon (including sites funded by OWEB grants), and these projects appear to be creating dynamic and spatially complex river valleys. Stage 0 restoration practitioners and scientists studying this approach assume that these projects will result in river systems that are more biologically productive and resilient, and thus, better able to support focal species such as salmon, trout, and lamprey. However, the ecological response to Stage 0 restoration has not yet been fully documented. For this reason, concerns exist that organisms may be negatively affected during and following project implementation, thus delaying or negating ecological benefits.

III. Overview of the Funding Request

Beginning in 2018, OWEB staff convened discussions with restoration practitioners and scientists engaged in Stage 0 restoration and monitoring at several locations around the

state, along with those who have expressed concerns about the restoration approach. Discussions have identified the need for a better understanding of: 1) the current state of knowledge about Stage 0 restoration, 2) questions and concerns about Stage 0 restoration, and 3) monitoring and information needs that, if addressed, would increase the collective understanding about the effects of Stage 0 restoration and provide guidance about applying this restoration technique.

Staff propose a multi-pronged approach to addressing monitoring and information needs for Stage 0 restoration:

- Monitoring of Stage 0 projects in the a) South Fork McKenzie River, Upper Willamette Basin, and b) the Upper Deschutes Basin. Monitoring activities include biological, geomorphic, physical habitat, and water quality monitoring. The monitoring will utilize a mix of field based methods and remote sensing approaches. Monitoring in the Upper Willamette and Upper Deschutes basins would occur for 5 years.
- Data compilation and synthesis of existing knowledge about Stage 0 restoration with the intent of summarizing results to date, assessing the success of various implementation and monitoring approaches that have been utilized, and developing guidelines to inform best practices for restoration and monitoring of Stage 0 projects.
- Convening workshops that bring together stakeholders to share knowledge, describe concerns and considerations about this restoration approach, identify monitoring and information needs, and articulate best practices for Stage 0.

These activities will be complemented by ongoing and potential work under OWEB's 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering. Under that offering, findings to date from a Stage 0 project in Deer Creek (Upper Willamette Basin) are currently being developed, and a similar data-driven summary is being scoped for the Fivemile-Bell (Siuslaw Basin) restoration projects.

Staff are staging the funding request for these work items, with initial funding requested during the 2019-21 biennium. Following the initial two years of work, OWEB staff and grantees will reflect on findings to date and ongoing monitoring and communication needs. Based on this reflection, staff will propose a second phase of funding for monitoring of and best practices for Stage 0 restoration during the 2021-23 biennium.

The board's monitoring subcommittee has reviewed the proposed funding request (including more detailed information about the monitoring parameters, methods, and locations), and is supportive of advancing it for consideration by the full board.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award up to $360,000 for monitoring and information sharing for Stage 0 restoration with funds from the Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the OWEB spending plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 16, 2019.

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Agenda Item L-1 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L-1 – Council Capacity Guidance for Merger Funding
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of council capacity merger funding policy and staff recommendations for board adoption of the guidance.

II. Background

In 2013 the board awarded its first Organizational Collaboration grants, one of which supported the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue Basin. At the same time, the board recognized the real costs associated with post-merger life and created the merger implementation grant offering, available to newly merged councils for up to four years post-merger.

During the last year OWEB staff and the operating capacity subcommittee have been discussing OWEB's approach to merger funding and shared that discussion with the board in April 2019.

III. Merger Funding

Staff and subcommittee conversations around mergers have emphasized the need to continue to provide support and encouragement to groups that are interested in merging. Part of that support is demonstrating OWEB's long-term commitment to financially supporting councils that choose to merge. Attachment A describes a process by which OWEB would provide funding to councils exploring the possibility of a merger, and on-going support to organizations that have completed the process.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board adopt the guidance for merger funding as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

Attachment A. Guidance for Merger Funding

Guidance for Merger Funding

Background

In 2013 the Board awarded its first Organizational Collaboration grants, one of which supported the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue Basin. At the same time, the Board recognized the real costs associated with post-merger life and created the merger implementation grant offering. These grant funds can be used for strategic planning, board and staff development, and other real costs of merging multiple organizations. The goal of both the Organizational Collaboration and the Merger Implementation grant programs is to build capacity and support strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

Mergers in general are not common, and OWEB is in a unique situation as an agency which funds both mergers and ongoing operating costs of organizations. In addition, the agency believes that more organizations may consider merging in the future, and OWEB wants to support organizations in that process.

Merger Funding Approach

Pre-merger funding

Continue to provide Organizational Collaboration grants. Applicants requesting merger funding must include direct and clear measures of success for the merger process. The final project completion report must report on direct measures of success and methods for evaluating the new organization's post-merger progress toward integration.

Post-Merger Funding

Individual councils apply for a council capacity grant each biennium. If a group of councils is interested in merging they can apply for an organizational collaboration grant to help cover the costs of the merger process. The descriptions of funding options below are what two or more merged councils can apply for after the merger process is complete. The funding amount available is different when two, three, or four or more councils merge. The funding available reduces between the first biennium after the merger and the second biennium, reducing again in the third biennium. The explanation and proposed amounts are below. All council capacity grant award amounts are from the 2017-2019 biennium and are examples. Actual award amounts would be calculated on actual council capacity award amounts.

Four or more watershed councils

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what four of more watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged. For example, in 2017-2019, that would be at least $473,300 for a biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 after the merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be $236,850, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425 x 2. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be $207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425 x 1.75. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of $177,637, $118,425x1.5.

Table 1 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where four or more watershed councils merged.

Table 1

	Council Capacity	**Merger Funding**	**Total**
Biennium 0 (pre-merger, four councils)	$473,300	$0	$473,300
Biennium 1	$118,425	$236,850 ($118,425x2)	$355,275
Biennium 2	$118,425	$207,243 ($118,425x1.75)	$306,425
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	$118,425	$177,637 ($118,425x1.5)	$296,062

Three watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what three watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, in 2017-2019, that would be $355,275 for the biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, in addition to their council capacity grant, the council could apply for merger implementation funding. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be $207,243, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425x1.75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be $177,637, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425x1.5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of $148,031, $118,425x1.25.

Table 2 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where three watershed councils merged.

Table 2

	Council Capacity	**Merger Funding**	**Total**
Biennium 0 (pre-merger)	$355,275	$0	$355,275
Biennium 1	$118,425	$207,243 ($118,425x1.75)	$325,668
Biennium 2	$118,425	$177,637 ($118,425x1.5)	$296,062
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	$118,425	$148,031 ($118,425x1.25)	$266,456

Two watershed councils merge

When developing the numbers below, staff took into consideration what two watershed councils would be eligible to receive if they had not merged, in 2017-2019 that would be $236,850 for the biennium.

In biennium 1 and 2 post merger, the council could apply for merger implementation funding in addition to their council capacity grant. Merger implementation funding in biennium 1 would be $88,818, which is the council capacity grant award, 118,425 x .75. In biennium 2 merger implementation funding would be $59,212, which is the council capacity grant award, $118,425 x .5. Beginning in biennium 3, and in all future biennia, the merged council would be eligible to receive additional merger funding of .25x the base award ($118,425x.25=$29,606).

Table 3 shows the distribution of funding across three biennia for a new organization where two watershed councils merged.

Table 3

	Council Capacity	**Merger Funding**	**Total**
Biennium 0 (per-merger)	$236,850	$0	236,850
Biennium 1	$118,425	$88,818 (118,425x .75)	$207,243
Biennium 2	$118,425	$59,212 ($118,425x .5)	$177,637
Biennium 3 and in all future biennia	$118,425	$29,606 ($118,425x .25)	$148,031

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Agenda Item L-2 supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L-2 – Council Capacity Grant Awards
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant offering process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards. Staff recommend funding 57 watershed councils (councils) for $7.165 million. Two councils are not recommended for funding.

II. Background

For more than 15 years, OWEB has provided capacity grants to councils, which are shown on the attached map (Attachment A). In July 2014, following four years of work, the board adopted administrative rules and guidance for Council Capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective councils. The Council Capacity grant process includes both an eligibility determination and initial and secondary merit review based on those rules and guidance.

For the 2019-2021 grant offering, both the eligibility and application materials were submitted at the same time using the online application. This resulted in a more streamlined process with easier access to information for applicants, OWEB staff, and technical review team members.

III. Eligibility Determination

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity grant. OWEB does not control the existence or creation of councils, and councils can exist without receiving OWEB funding. In fact, about one-third of watershed councils in Oregon are not funded by OWEB; as such, councils can operate outside of OWEB funding and eligibility criteria.

Sixty councils applied by the application deadline. OWEB staff completed the eligibility review during the first week of March. After review, one watershed council, Coquille Watershed Association, was determined to be ineligible. As a part of the process established by rule and guidance, the council appealed and was determined to be eligible based on additional information received within the established process.

IV. Merit Review

Merit criteria (Attachment B) evaluate councils for performance and progress including how the council addresses challenges.

A. **Initial Merit Review.** OWEB staff completed the initial review. They reviewed application materials and determined fifty councils met all merit criteria. Ten councils did not meet all criteria and were referred to the secondary review and interview process.

B. **Secondary Review and Interview.** The secondary review panel consisted of OWEB staff and external reviewers. Reviewers considered: 1) application materials and supplemental materials provided by the council; 2) reviewers' knowledge of the council; 3) OWEB staff input; and 4) an interview with council staff and board.

V. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff funding recommendations are based on the merit evaluation and available funding, including a 3.8% cost of living increase. Staff recommend three funding levels described in Attachment C: 'full funding', $122,900, for 56 councils that meet all merit criteria, 'reduced funding', $98,320, for one council that does not meet all merit criteria, and 'do not fund' for two councils, with inadequate performance. In addition, staff recommend one council receives merger funding on top of the base award. Evaluations for the councils are contained in Attachment D.

OWEB staff recommend two councils for the 'do not fund' category, the Tillamook Bay Watershed Council and Rickreall and Glenn Gibson Watershed Councils. OWEB staff recognize the significance of this recommendation and do not make it lightly. Evaluation summaries are provided for both councils as attachments to this staff report.

It is important to note that the 'do not fund' recommendation is not permanent, and each council may submit Council Capacity grant eligibility determination documents in future cycles.

VI. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C.

Attachments

Attachment A. Map of Locally Recognized Watershed Councils
Attachment B. Merit Criteria Overview
Attachment C. Staff Funding Recommendations
Attachment D. Council Capacity Evaluations

Oregon Watershed Councils



Council Capacity Merit Criteria Overview

The goals of the merit review are to:

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 community 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).

Merit Criteria

Merit Criteria	Review for performance
Effective Governance and Management	The council: • Has effective bylaws/charter and policies/ procedures, and follows them. • Includes a balance of interested and affected persons on its governing body. • Regularly evaluates and takes action to improve its organization. The council's governing body acts to: • Ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements. • Support successful achievement of the council's goals. • Create a structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. • Provide effective oversight of staff and contractors. • Continuously improve its business practices.
Progress in planning	The council: • Uses planning documents to identify and implement restoration and community engagement projects. • Regularly evaluates and updates its action plan and work plans. • Engages a mix of stakeholders in its planning.
Progress in On-the-Ground Restoration	The council's actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.
Progress in Community Engagement	The council makes progress in achieving community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the council's 2-year work plan.

OWEB STAFF FUNDING RECOMMENDATION
2019-2021 COUNCIL CAPACITY GRANTS

Staff Recommended Funding Level	Part of Secondary Review	App#	Watershed Council	Merger Funding	19-21 Award	17-19 Awards
Full Funding		218-001	North Coast WS Assn	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-003	MidCoast WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-004	Upper Nehalem WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-005	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-006	Siuslaw WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-008	Applegate Partnership & WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-010	Coos Watershed Association	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-011	Coquille Watershed Association	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-012	Illinois Valley WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-014	Lower Rogue WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-016	South Coast WC	-	$ 122,900	$94,465
Full Funding		218-017	Tenmile Lakes Partnership	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-018	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-019	Rogue River WC	$ 184,350	$ 307,250	$118,425
Full Funding		218-021	Elk Creek WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-022	Calapooia WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-023	Clackamas River Basin Council	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-024	Coast Fork Willamette WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-025	Columbia Slough WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-026	Johnson Creek WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-027	Long Tom WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-028	Marys River WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-029	Middle Fork Willamette WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-030	North Santiam Watershed Council	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-031	Pudding River WC	-	$ 122,900	$94,465
Full Funding		218-034	Sandy River Basin WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-035	Scappoose Bay WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-036	South Santiam WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-037	Tualatin River WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-038	McKenzie WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-039	Greater Yamhill Watershed Council	-	$ 122,900	$94,465
Full Funding		218-040	Klamath Watershed Partnership	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-041	Crooked River WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-042	Gilliam East John Day WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-043	Hood River Working Group	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-044	Middle Deschutes WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-045	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-046	Sherman Area WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-047	Upper Deschutes WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-048	Wasco Area WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-049	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-050	Harney Watershed Council	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-051	Malheur WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-052	North Fork John Day WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-053	Umatilla Basin WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-054	Walla Walla Basin WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-055	Mid John Day-Bridge Creek WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-056	Owyhee WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-057	Powder Basin WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-058	Luckiamute WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-059	Greater Oregon City WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding	Y	218-060	Smith River WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-061	Lower Nehalem WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-062	Necanicum WC	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-063	Upper South Fork John Day Watershed Council	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Full Funding		218-064	Molalla River Watch Inc	-	$ 122,900	$118,425
Reduced Funding	Y	218-002	Lower Columbia River WC	-	$ 98,320	$98,195
Do Not Fund	Y	218-007	Tillamook Bay WC	-	$ -	$94,465
Do Not Fund	Y	218-032	Rickreall & Glenn-Gibson WCs	-	$ -	$94,465
Total					$ 7,165,070	

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-001

Project Name: NCWA 2019-21 Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Application Description

The Council Capacity Grant funds watershed restoration planning and operational activities for the North Coast Watershed Association. Limiting factors, include: altered quality of physical habitat, historic diking and roads, disconnection from the floodplain, impaired water quality, lack of habitat complexity and large wood, lack of riparian coverage, fish passage barriers, lack of quality monitoring data, and increased erosion from land use practices.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including the regional Chum Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including the Nature Matters series at Fort George Brewery. The Council also has also developed a concerted stakeholder engagement effort associated with its strategic action planning around chum salmon.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-002

Project Name: LCRWC Coordinator and Project Management Support

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the contracted council coordinator works with the board to update and improve organizational governance and management. The council is also making plans for the long-term structure of the council, including the council coordinator position.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council works on both organizational strategic planning as well as engaging in local planning efforts.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is planning for future restoration actions, but has not completed any progress in on-the-ground restoration projects this biennium.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working with a contractor to develop an outreach plan, which will be necessary for the council to work toward active stakeholder engagement for the purposes of restoration.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Does not meet all merit criteria and should be recommended for the reduced funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Reduced funding: does not meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$98,320

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-003

Project Name: MidCoast WC Council Capacity 2019-2021

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Application Description

The MidCoast Watersheds Council, located in Newport, OR, works in an area of nearly one million acres, including all streams draining from the crest of the coast range to the Pacific Ocean, and from the Salmon River at Cascade head to Cape Creek at Heceta Head. The council relies on Council Capacity funding to maintain baseline funding for two staff positions to complete work related to watershed restoration, planning processes, community outreach, and other activities.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board reviews and updates policies and procedures as necessary to ensure the council is following good business practices.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including the facilitation of the Siletz Coho Business Plan.

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

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is working on existing and future restoration projects, and has a successful track record of securing funding for project implementation through OWEB's other grant programs over the last biennium.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is regularly hosting community events and speakers at council meetings.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation

Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$122,900

Staff Conditions

The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings. Minutes must include a list of attendees.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-004

Project Name: Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Application Description

The Upper Nehalem Watershed Council service area encompasses 555 square miles of temperate rain-forest. UNWC is a Stakeholder consensus governed organization established in January 1996 in sync with the Governor's Coastal Salmon Restoration initiation. UNWC is recognized as per HB3441 by Columbia County Board of Commissioners in July 1996 and the Clatsop County Local Government Group in August 1997. We plan to utilize the Council Capacity to maintain our base operation in the heart of the Nehalem watershed. From this foundation we are able to maintain a viable network of supporters with whom we secure and leverage essential resources in order to implement a wide scope of actions. We seek capacity support to continue to advance watershed health and native salmon population recovery actions across the landscape in collaboration with partners.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and having an active and engaged board of directors.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is an active participant in the coho business planning efforts.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is working on existing and future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is regularly hosting community events and speakers at counil meetings that cover a variety of viewpoints.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-005

Project Name: Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council Support

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Application Description

The Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watersheds Council operates in South Tillamook County. Limiting factors include high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, over-appropriation of stream flow in the summer, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, invasive plant species, wetland degradation, lack of habitat complexity and lack of floodplain connectivity.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board has been very engaged board before, during and after the recent coordinator transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts, including within the Sand Lake watershed and the Tillamook-Nestucca Salmon SuperHwy partnership, as well as working on organizational planning.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council's work plans demonstrates the council has made progress completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council regularly hosts community events and speakers at council meetings.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-006

Project Name: Siuslaw Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Application Description

The Siuslaw Watershed Council, located in Mapleton, OR, has been working with local partners to restore the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes watersheds on the central Oregon coast since 1997. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board and staff continuously working toward organizational improvements.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading the Siuslaw Partnership's strategic action plan development, in involved in the coho business planning process, and facilitates the Siuslaw Coho Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is implemented numerous priority projects over the last biennium and is working on the development of future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council regularly hosts events and recently relaunched its website, which includes a series of videos about the watershed and the people that work there.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-007

Project Name: TBWC Council Support 2019-2021

Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Tillamook Bay Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. The council continues to struggle with many of the same concerns raised in the council capacity review last biennium. These include the council board not providing clear management and oversight of the council coordinator and the council board has not worked toward a diverse board that is inclusive and representative of a broad spectrum of the local community. For example, during the secondary review process, the council commented that it wished to exclude some groups from council membership in the future in order to reduce the number of diverse opinions being shared during council meetings.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in planning. The council did not provide clear and specific information as to how the council has, and will in the future, engage with the broader community to plan and implement the work of the council. In addition, during the secondary review process, the council did not provide any additional information to demonstrate it has a planning process that engages the broader watershed community. Based on the information received and the secondary interview, it appears the work of the council is driven by a few people and not collaborative.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council did not initiate any new restoration projects during the 2017-2019 biennium. They have not made progress on current on-the ground restoration projects. In addition, during the secondary review process, the council did not provide any specific examples of how it would initiate and implement future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council has not worked with the broad and diverse groups within the watershed. In addition, during the secondary review process the council did not seem aware of the need for broad stakeholder engagement and did not provide any specific examples of future stakeholder engagement activities.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Does not meet all merit criteria and should be not be recommended for funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund: The council shows inadequate performance in all merit criteria.

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Staff Recommended Award
$0

Staff Conditions
N/A

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-008

Project Name: Council Capacity - Applegate Partnership

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Application Description

The Applegate watershed contains over 493,000 acres and is split between Jackson and Josephine Counties and Siskiyou County in northern California. The land ownership is primarily federally managed lands with rural residential and private forest making up the rest, and over 700 miles of stream habitat for winter and summer Steelhead, Coho salmon, fall Chinook salmon, and Pacific Lamprey. Through on-the-ground projects, outreach, and participation in local activities, the APWC strives to bring awareness to these communities through our work that mutually benefits the landowners, community and our natural resources.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and having a very engaged board actively working to support the organization and staff.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including its work on barrier assessment and removal.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council regularly hosts community events and is actively reaching out to and engaging with new partners.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-010

Project Name: Coos Watershed Association

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Application Description

The mission of the Coos Watershed Association is to support environmental integrity and economic stability within the Coos watershed by increasing community capacity to develop, test, promote, and implement management practices in the interest of watershed health. This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Coos Watershed Association. Council identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quailty of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board reviews and updates policies and procedures as necessary to ensure the council is following good business practices.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local assessment and planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including coho business planning.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to engage stakeholders related to tidegate work within the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must update its bylaws to clarify whether or not the council is a membership organization.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-011

Project Name: Coquille Watershed Association Council Capacity Application

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Application Description

This council capacity grant will support the work of the Coquille Watershed Association. The mission of the Association is to work collaboratively with landowners to develop and implement voluntary watershed restoration, enhancement, and engagement activities that promote healthy and resilient ecosystems and economies in the Coquille watershed. Council identified watershed limiting factors include hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of Information, physical habitat quality - altered quailty of physical habitat, water Quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board is active in the management and oversight of the council.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including work on tidegates.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to engage stakeholders related to tidegate work within the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-012

Project Name: Illinois Valley WC Council Capacity

Applicant: Illinois Valley WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Illinois Valley Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management

OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's governance and management. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and is working improve overall organizational operations and management as well as providing supervision and oversight for the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's progress in planning. However, during the secondary review process staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council has a current strategic plan and is beginning a new strategic planning process that will engage the full board and staff and well as local partners.

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

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's progress in stakeholder engagement. However, during the secondary review process staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to engage a broader diversity of stakeholders throughout the community.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation

Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$122,900

Staff Conditions

The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020 describing the council's progress on its stakeholder engagement activities.

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Application # 220-014

Project Name: Lower Rogue Watershed Council Capacity 19-21

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Application Description

The Lower Rogue Watershed includes all lands and waters of these lands that drain into the Rogue and Illinois rivers within Curry County, Oregon, and is the western extent of the Rogue River Basin. Our purpose is to protect, enhance, and restore long-term natural resources and economic stability of the Lower Rogue Watershed and the near shore environment. Council identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings, reviews and updates council documents, and the council board members attending trainings during the last biennium.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is involved in organizational and partnership strategic planning efforts.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to engage a variety of stakeholders including local businesses related to sediment reduction efforts.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-016

Project Name: South Coast Watershed Council Capacity 2019-2021

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Application Description

The South Coast Watershed Council encompasses 10 coastal watersheds on the southern Oregon coast that support coho salmon, Chinook salmon, and/or steelhead. Limiting factors vary across these watersheds, but all are impaired by elevated summer stream temperatures, an overabundant supply of coarse grained sediment, invasive plants, small estuaries, loss of floodplain connectivity and off-channel habitat, and the oversimplification of the low gradient stream network.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board members worked, in coordination with the SWCD, to update organizational processes and hire a new council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively involved in partnership strategic planning efforts and planning for its own strategic planning efforts next biennium.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council completed priority on-the-ground watershed restoration projects during the biennium and is planning for future projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to engage landowners in the Sixes watershed as a result of the recently completed strategic action plan.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-017

Project Name: Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership Council Capacity

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Application Description

The Tenmile Lakes Watershed is a coastal lake system that contains 113 stream miles and over 3,000 surface acres of Lakes that provide high priority habitat for native Coho Salmon, Winter Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat Trout and Pacific Lamprey. Limiting factors identified include nonnative fish predation, multiple fish passage barriers, increases sedimentation resulting in toxic algae blooms and nuisance aquatic plant growth, and reduced riparian zone functions. Council capacity funding will coordinate and support the TLBP and Partners in implementing multiple projects prioritized within the assessment and action plans as well to continue to assist state agencies with implementation of their Tenmile Lakes Water Quality Implementation Plans.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board is taking an active role in leadership and management of the organization, specifically during the period of growth when the council moved its fiscal sponsorship from the City of Lakeside to Cascade Pacific RC&D.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners, including the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is hosting a variety of community events throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-018

Project Name: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers Council Capacity 2019-21

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Application Description

This project is located in the Umpqua Basin and is focused on working with willing landowners to improve stream habitat and water quality throughout the project location area. This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers Watershed Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council is reviewing and updating its bylaws and makes agendas and minutes from meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including leading the Umpqua Basin Development FIP, working on Umpqua Basin oak and tidegates.

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

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation

Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$122,900

Staff Conditions

None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-019

Project Name: Rogue River Watershed Council Capacity 2019 to 2021

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Rogue River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality –altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including coho business planning.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria plus Merger Funding

Staff Recommended Award
$307,250

At the April 2019 Board meeting the Board discussed providing on-going merger support to watershed councils that have successfully merged. Agenda item L-1 asks the Board to approve this policy.

Additional merger funding is calculated by multiplying 1.5 times the council's base award.

($122,900 + (($122,900x1.5=$184,250)) =$307,250)

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-021

Project Name: Elk Creek Watershed Council Support

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Application Description

Project will provide funding for the Coordinator/Executive Director, and operations of the Elk Creek Watershed Council in the northern part of Douglas County. The Council will work with local landowners and state and federal agencies to plan, develop, and implement on-the-ground projects to benefit fish and wildlife, and water quality in the Elk Creek Watershed, and in the Umpqua basin. Key partners are local landowners, Douglas and Umpqua SWCD, ODFW, Roseburg District BLM, and others.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council staff.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working to expand who is involved in the council planning efforts, including engagement of timber companies.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and leading coordination and management of the local weed program.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings. Minutes must include a list of attendees.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-022

Project Name: CWC Council Capacity 19

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Calapooia Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council holds regular meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision to the council staff and working to update policies and procedures.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively using its monitoring activities to inform and plan for future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council implementing existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report in June 2020 that describes progress on updating the council's policies and procedures.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-023

Project Name: Clackamas River Basin Council Capacity Support

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Clackamas River Basin Council which. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality –altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision to the council staff.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the completion of a Strategic Action Plan with the Clackamas Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development through the new Clackamas Implementation FIP.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including, events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-024

Project Name: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision of the council staff.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including engagement with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-025

Project Name: CSWC GCS 2019-21

Applicant: Columbia Slough WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision of the council staff and organization. However, the council has not been consistent in presenting annually to the local government entity that recognized the council. The council needs to be more consistent in these efforts.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council actively engaging in multiple planning processes including finalizing and adopting a five year strategic plan.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council's work plan demonstrates its actions result in progress toward on-the-ground watershed restoration.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020, that 1) describes progress on strategic planning and 2) provides documentation that the council presented its 2019 annual report to the local government entity that recognized the council.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-026

Project Name: Johnson Creek Watershed Council 2019-2021 Council Capacity

Applicant: Johnson Creek WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Johnson Creek Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision to the council staff and organization. The council's website provides clear and specific organizational information about the council's activities and its governance and management. However, the council capacity grant application was lacking details on specific actions the council is taking toward organizational development and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the completion of a Strategic Action Plan with the Clackamas Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development both within and outside the new Clackamas Implementation FIP.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meets all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-027

Project Name: Long Tom Watershed Council Support

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Long Tom Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision of the council staff.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including engagement with the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network and Willamette Valley Oak Strategic Action Plan.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-028

Project Name: Marys River Watershed Council - Council Capacity

Applicant: Marys River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Marys River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision of the council staff, evident through the recent executive director transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes and working with a diversity of partners to plan the work of the council.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-029

Project Name: Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council Capacity Application 2019-2021

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision to the council staff and the council is actively working to improve its governance and management as evident through specific actions listed in the work plan.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, and working with a diversity of partners to plan the work of the council.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and the many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-030

Project Name: North Santiam Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: North Santiam WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the North Santiam Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes information available to the general public. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision of the council staff and the council is actively working to improve its governance and management, evident through specific actions listed in the work plan.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including leading efforts around the North Santiam Basin Drought Contingency Plan.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has projects currently in development that are in support of its planning efforts.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed and specific events in support of its planning efforts.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-031

Project Name: Pudding River Watershed Council Capacity Grant 2019 - 2021

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Application Description

This project will enable the council to continue partnership support to various state and federal agencies currently relying on the Council for their role in organizing the grassroots in an otherwise difficult to access demographic area. Limiting factors include high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, over-appropriation of stream flow in the summer, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, invasive plant species, wetland degradation, lack of floodplain connectivity and low public engagement.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision of the council staff. The council is actively working to improve its governance and management as evident through specific actions listed in the work plan.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working toward using its rapid bio assessment results to help plan future restoration actions of the council.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and is planning future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-032

Project Name: Rickreall and Glenn-Gibson-Creeks Watershed Councils

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Application Description

This project seeks to fund Watershed Council Coordinators for the Rickreall and Glenn-Gibson watershed councils. The collective council identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found that neither council demonstrated effective governance. For both councils, the same concerns that were expressed by OWEB in the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 council capacity evaluations still exist. Specifically, the councils continue to discuss and plan for board recruitment and training, and clear coordinator oversight and management, however, only minor changes to the management of the coordinator and governance of the individual councils has occurred over the last two years. The one specific change that has occurred is the councils did switch the employer of the coordinator from Polk SWCD to Cascade Pacific RC&D in June 2018. During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB awarded the councils an Organizational Collaboration grant to work on developing a more effective governance and management structure. The work under that grant is still not complete. At the time of the secondary interview, there was still no clear timeline or products for the grant or agreement from the councils on how to proceed to achieve effective governance and management and what they want to achieve as collective or individual councils. Phase I was initially supposed to be complete by December 2018 and Phase II was supposed to begin in early 2019.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found that neither council demonstrated progress in planning. The same concerns that were expressed by OWEB in the 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 council capacity evaluations still exist. Specifically, both councils continue to use opportunistic approaches to plan future restoration actions. The lack of plans to guide the work of the councils makes it difficult for the shared council coordinator to plan and prioritize work. It is also challenging for each council's stakeholders to understand the goals, vision, and conservation priorities of the councils.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the councils demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Both councils continue to make some progress on existing restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the councils demonstrate progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The councils, with their partners, are use multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including county fair, participation in SOLV events, community events around rain garden in Wallace Marine Park, and other events spread throughout the watershed.

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Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Does not meet all merit criteria.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
This is the third consecutive biennium that the Rickreall and Glenn-Gibson Watershed Councils have not met all of the merit criteria. According to OWEB's Board Adopted Council Capacity Guidance document, Section VIII: Board Action on Eligible Grant Applications (pg 12),

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.

Based on Board Adopted guidance, OWEB staff recommend the Rickreall and Glenn-Gibson Watershed Councils for a "Do Not Fund"

Staff Recommended Award
$0

Staff Conditions
N/A

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-034

Project Name: Sandy River Watershed Council

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Sandy River Basin Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision to the council staff and organization. The council's webpage provides clear and specific information on the council's governance and management activities, however, the council capacity grant application was lacking details on specific actions the council is taking toward organizational development and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including the annual State of the Sandy Report. The council is encouraged to use the collective planning work to continue looking forward toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-035

Project Name: Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, Capacity

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Scappoose Bay Watershed Council which. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council has an active and engaged board and is working to improve its governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community, including planning efforts along Milton Creek.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council's work plans demonstrates its actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council regularly hosts community events, including work with its native plant nursery.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-036

Project Name: South Santiam Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: South Santiam WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the South Santiam Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council describes in the application clear board development and governance actions to be taking during the 2019-2021 biennium.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and engaging with several local planning efforts, including working with the Santiam All Lands Collaborative.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects. However, the council needs to continue to look forward and plan the council's future restoration efforts.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020 that provides an update on the council's board development actions.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-037

Project Name: Tualatin River Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Tualatin River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board demonstrated strong leadership during the recent council coordinator transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and engaging in both organizational and local planning efforts.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and is developing a plan for future on-the-ground restoration.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community and is planning for future stakeholder engagement actions.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-038

Project Name: McKenzie Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the McKenzie River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board demonstrating strong leadership during the recent council coordinator transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and engaging in both organizational and local planning efforts, including the Pure Watershed Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and has many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-039

Project Name: Greater Yamhill Watershed Council Capacity 2019 - 2021

Applicant: Greater Yamhill Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board is making progress in council coordinator and organization oversight and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading efforts around monitoring and assessments in the watershed and using the information collected to inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community, including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-040

Project Name: Klamath Watershed Partnership Council Capacity

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Application Description

The project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator position and operating expenses for the Klamath Watershed Partnership. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality-altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and the council board and staff regularly review council actions to improve overall organizational governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin, including on the Upper Klamath Lake Action Plan.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including landowner workshops.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-041

Project Name: Council Capacity Grant 2019-2021 Crooked River W.C.

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Crooked River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board and are staff working to improve overall organizational governance and management, including the upcoming process to review the council's organizational strategic plan.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of monitoring and assessment projects which are designed to inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020, providing an update on the council's progress toward updating its internal strategic plan.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-042

Project Name: Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Gilliam-East John Day Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board and staff are working to improve overall organizational governance and management, including working to address low meeting turn-out and develop a plan for future board recruitment.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including updating the council's strategic plan and Placed Based Planning.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020, providing an update on the council's progress toward updating its strategic plan.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-043

Project Name: Hood River Watershed Group Council Capacity

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Hood River Watershed Group. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board and staff are working to improve overall organizational governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including leading the Hood River Partnership strategic action plan development.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including regular educational presentations at council meetings.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-044

Project Name: Middle Deschutes Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the information available to the general public. The council board and staff are working to improve overall organizational governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including planning future work in the Upper Willow Creek Watershed.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage with landowners in targeted geographies to advance future restoration actions.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-045

Project Name: Council Capacity - Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings around the watershed to engage a broader diversity of landowners. The council board and staff are working to improve overall organizational governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is working with multiple partners throughout the basin on a variety of planning efforts, including leading the development of the Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership Strategic Action and Design Plan.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions, including work on the Warner Basin Focused Investment Partnership.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-046

Project Name: Sherman County Area Watershed Council Capacity Grant

Applicant: Sherman County Area WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Sherman County Area Watersheds Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's governance and management. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and is working to improve overall organizational governance and management. The council has recently recruited new board members.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's approach to planning. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council has a very specific niche within the watershed and is engaging a diversity of partners to think about current and future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's approach to on-the-ground restoration. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council has a clear niche and is working collaboratively with the SWCD to make progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage a variety of landowners, including Oregon State Parks throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-047

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Applicant: Upper Deschutes WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and effective governance and management during the recent council coordinator transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and participating in multiple planning efforts throughout the watershed.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions, including work on the Deschutes Partnership Focused Investment Partnership.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-048

Project Name: Wasco County Area Watershed Councils

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Wasco Area Watershed Councils. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access -impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's governance and management. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The coordinating council and individual councils regularly hold meetings and working together, with the SWCD to improve overall organizational governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's approach to planning. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the coordinating council and individual councils have very specific niches within the watershed and are using a strategic approach to plan the council's collective work around the watershed.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's approach to on-the-ground restoration. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions:
The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-049

Project Name: Grande Ronde Model Watershed

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and effective governance and management during the recent executive director transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and participating in multiple planning efforts throughout the watershed including Strategic Action planning and Placed Based Planning.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions, including work on the Grande Ronde Focused Investment Partnership and a diversity of other restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-050

Project Name: Harney County WC Council Support 2019-21

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Harney County Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and participating in multiple planning efforts throughout the watershed including Placed Based Planning.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates some progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and spending significant time in planning efforts, which will inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020. The progress report must describe how the council is working to address challenges with monitoring grant 217-5052, including establishing best practices for managing work complted by a council board member serveing in the role of a contractor for the organization. In addition, the report must include updated board member roles and responsibilities, officer position descriptions, a policy of who may serve on the board, and a process by which to elevate potential conflicts of interest.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-051

Project Name: Malheur Watershed Council

Applicant: Malheur WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Malheur Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator. In addition, the council has significantly increased attendance at council meetings during the last year, recruited new members and elected a new board chair.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and participating in multiple planning efforts throughout the watershed and involved in monitoring efforts to inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates some progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-052

Project Name: North Fork John Day Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the North Fork John Day Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board demonstrated strong leadership and effective governance and management during the recent council coordinator transition and the recent addition of new board members.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the completion of a Strategic Action Plan with the John Day Basin Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions, including work on the John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-053

Project Name: 2019-2021 Council Capacity - Umatilla Basin Watershed Council

Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes spread throughout the watershed to inform future restoration and conservation actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, working to engage landowners throughout the watershed and in previously underserved geographies.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-054

Project Name: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council 2019-2021 Council Capacity

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and has lots of information available on the council website. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council actively engaging in multiple partners to use monitoring data inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council making progress on existing restoration projects and is working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage a variety of landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-055

Project Name: Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's governance and management. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and is working to improve the overall organizational governance and management and has successfully recruited new board members.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including participation in the John Day Basin Partnership and Placed Based Planning efforts.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's approach to on-the-ground restoration. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council has a clear niche and is working collaboratively with multiple local partners to make progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is working to participate in outreach events throughout the watershed. The council is also working to incorporate more active stakeholder engagement into its actions during the next two years.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The OWEB Project Manager must receive, via email, agendas and minutes of all meetings.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-056

Project Name: Owyhee Watershed Council Capacity 2019-21

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Owyhee Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's governance and management. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings, has good governance and management processes in place and the council board is working ensure effective management during a period of staff transition.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including working toward updating the council's action plan.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, working to engage a variety of landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must submit a progress report by June 30, 2020 on describing the council's progress on updating its action plan.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-057

Project Name: Powder Basin Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Powder Basin Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's progress in planning. However, during the secondary review process, staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council has a clear process for updating its strategic plan and is engaging a diversity of partners in the process and will use the plan to inform future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council has a clear niche within the watershed and making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is working to engage a variety of landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application # 220-058

Project Name: Luckiamute Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Luckiamute Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and engaging in both organizational and local planning efforts, including the using NetMap, rapid-bio-assessments, and a project review committee to plan and prioritize the work of the council.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and the many projects currently in development.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-059

Project Name: Greater Oregon City Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Greater Oregon City WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Greater Oregon City Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - Impaired access to habitat; hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology; knowledge gaps - lack of information; physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat; water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and makes the agendas and minutes from those meetings available to the general public. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the completion of a Strategic Action Plan with the Clackamas Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and planning for future restoration actions through the Clackamas Partnership.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-060

Project Name: Smith River Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Smith River WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Smith River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's governance and management. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's progress in planning. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is engaging with local partners and the community around future tidegate projects in the watershed and working with partners to prioritize restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff initially had questions and concerns about the council's stakeholder engagement activities. However, during the secondary review process, OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council has developed a new invasive species outreach program that is proving to be a successful way to engage landowners.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
The council must update its board roles and responsibilities documents and develop a plan for board training by the June 30, 2020.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-061

Project Name: Lower Nehalem Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Application Description

This project will fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC). The Council has identified several limiting factors for watershed health including hydrologic alterations, impaired habitat access, water quality degradation, and knowledge gaps. These limiting factors impact a wide variety of fish and wildlife species.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings and hosting community events. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners and the community including the coho Business Plan process.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is regularly hosting community events including the successful Explore Nature program.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-062

Project Name: Necanicum Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Necanicum WC

Application Description

The grant will provide operating capacity support for the Necanicum Watershed Council, located in Seaside, Oregon. The Necanicum watershed contains 86 miles of stream habitat for Coho, Chum, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, resident cutthroat trout, brook and Pacific lamprey. Limiting factors include impaired access to habitat, high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, and lack of floodplain connectivity.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and participating in several local planning efforts that are engaging local partners, especially in the community of Seaside.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing projects and planning for future restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council is regularly hosting community events including the Necanicum Bird Discovery Day.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-063

Project Name: South Fork John Day Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the South Fork John Day Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality - altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council board is engaging with and providing support, management, and supervision to the council coordinator and has recently added new board members.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is actively engaging in multiple planning processes, including the completion of a Strategic Action Plan with the John Day Basin Partnership.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and working toward future restoration actions, including work on the John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, working to engage landowners throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant
Evaluation for March 8, 2019 Operating Capacity Applications

Application # 220-064

Project Name: Molalla River Watch Council Capacity

Applicant: Molalla River Watch Inc

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Molalla River Watch. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

Review

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance and Management
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates effective governance and management. The council regularly holds meetings. The council board engages with and provides support, management, and supervision of the council coordinator.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in planning. The council is leading and engaging in both organizational and local planning efforts, including a culvert barrier inventory.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. The council is making progress on existing restoration projects and using the council's planning efforts to plan future restoration actions.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes
OWEB staff found the council demonstrates progress in stakeholder engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council, with its partners, is using multiple stakeholder engagement methods to engage the local community including events spread throughout the watershed.

Evaluation and Recommendations

Merit Evaluation
Meets all merit criteria and should be recommended for the highest funding level.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award
$122,900

Staff Conditions
None

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative Geography Change Request
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item requests board action on a request to change the geography of the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative Focused Investment Partnership (FIP).

II. Background

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative was selected by the board as a FIP at the January, 2019 meeting. The selected initiative proposed to implement 6,150 acres of dry-forest restoration treatments across six project areas in the Rogue Basin. This spring, the partners recognized that in one of the proposed project areas (Pickett West), implementation may be delayed due to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) issues. In order to prevent implementation delays, the partnership has requested to replace the Pickett West project area with a watershed in the Williams project area.

III. Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative Request

The partnership's request to substitute the Williams project area for the Pickett West is detailed in Attachment A to this staff report. While the overall footprint acres (geography where federal agencies are proposing to treat in NEPA project analysis) has been reduced with this request, the amount of dry-forest conservation acreage slated for funding through the FIP initiative remains at 6,150 acres. The Williams project area is identified in the partnership's strategic action plan as having similar attributes as Pickett West, with modeling suggesting slightly less effectiveness at reducing wildfire risks to communities, but higher opportunities to reduce fire risk to Northern Spotted Owl habitat. Federal match to the project is anticipated to increase, for while the overall footprint acres are reduced, conditions on the ground make forest treatments more expensive in Williams than in Pickett West.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the proposed geography change for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

Attachment A. RFRI Geography Change Request Memo

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

Rationale for Changing Project Location
Clarification on Project Analysis Areas

May 2019

The Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership sincerely thanks the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for their award of a Focused Investment Partnership grant in 2019 for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI). Building on the successful Ashland Forest Restoration Initiative and scaling to conserve dry forests of southern Oregon, the RFRI protects complex forest habitat and restores dry-type forest through selective thinning and fuel reduction. Throughout the Rogue basin, our partners are engaging with private landowners and diverse communities to implement an all-lands cohesive forest restoration vision.

Our project concentrates the majority of conservation implementation in the Upper Applegate watershed and seeds five additional project areas across the Rogue Basin. This strategic approach is intended to leverage OWEB investment by pairing demonstration in the Upper Applegate with outreach and engagement, and with limited treatment implementation in the other geographies. We request OWEB Board approval to shift the location of one of the smaller projects, Pickett West, to a small sub-basin in the Williams watershed, an adjacent project area within the same Resource Area as Pickett West.

The original Pickett West analysis area is located in the Medford BLM Grants Pass Resource Area. The majority of planned activities are located in a southern portion of the larger footprint project boundary (See Map 2). The Pickett West project is still viable, but implementation is likely to be delayed due to an emerging need to address NEPA issues associated with the larger project. The Grants Pass Resource Area's staff have proposed that the Williams project area, within the same watershed as the lower Pickett West, has the same need for conservation activities and a greater likelihood of timely implementation. Complementing this shift in focus, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) recently wrote a Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) for private land engagement on 2,000 to 3,000 acres in Williams. This area ranks similarly in terms of the Strategic Action Plan (Rogue Basin Strategy) priorities and while it performs slightly less well at reducing wildfire risk to local communities, treatments in the Williams planning area are modeled to better reduce wildfire risk to Northern Spotted Owl habitat.

The Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership is in agreement that exchanging this project area is logical and will achieve comparable conservation and community engagement outcomes, leveraged by the added benefit of partnering with NRCS to accomplish additional private acres. There is an increase in cost per acre associated with the activities because of the vegetation

condition; however, the Partnership expects to still treat the same acreage with additional BLM match.

In reviewing the projects, maps and list of acres associated with the projects, we would like to clarify that the map we submitted with the application shows larger analysis areas than the "footprint" acres listed in the application. To be clear, the mapped analytical areas span large geographies and ownerships and include significant untreated acres (watershed scale). Conversely, "footprint" acres are only those parts of the landscape that federal agencies are proposing to treat in their NEPA project analysis. "Conservation acres" are the areas where OWEB funds will be applied including private lands and are a subset of the larger landscape. The attached map shows a refinement of the analysis areas (Figure 1) and below is a chart noting the differences between the analysis areas, the footprint acres and the conservation acres. Maps of the Project Area boundaries will be included in our Grant requests.

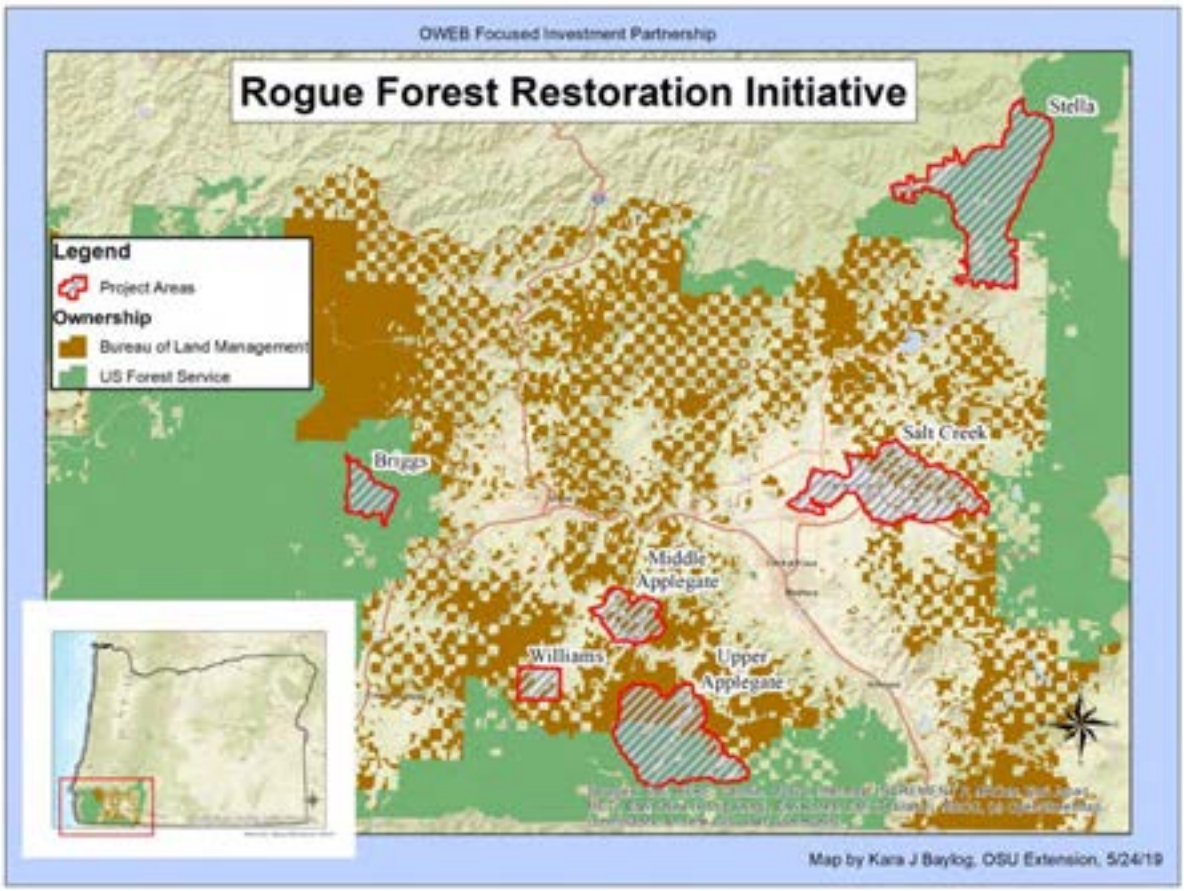
The following chart lists the RFRI mapped **Analysis Acres** which span all ownerships and untreated areas, the federally proposed **Footprint Acres** and the **Conservation Acres** proposed for thinning and prescribed burning with OWEB funding. Note that while analysis and footprint acres are being refined, proposed conservation acres have not changed.

Project	Analysis Area Acres	Footprint Acres (Proposed Federal)	Conservation Acres (OWEB)
Upper Applegate	52,301	20,000	3,700
Middle Applegate	15,100	10,000	200
Williams (formally Pickett West)	7,801	6,625	1190
Briggs	10,732	3,000	350
Salt Creek	51,098	800	710
Stella*	66,478	20,000	0
* Engagement Only—Stewardship byproduct receipts applied to other project areas			

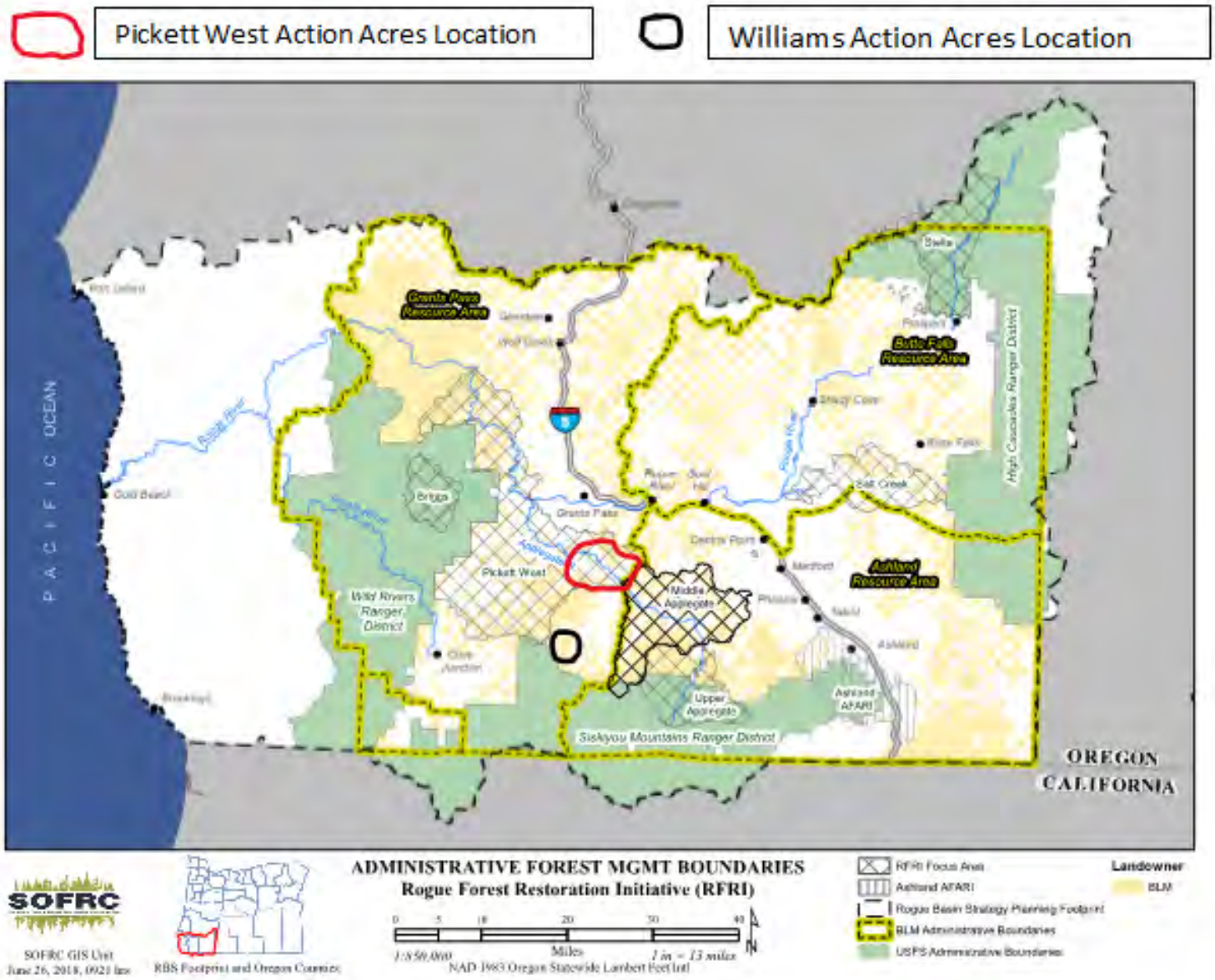
Thank you for your consideration on this matter. If you have additional questions, please let Eric Hartstein know and we will gladly provide additional material and information.

The Rogue Forest Restoration Partnership

NEW MAP of the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative analysis areas (Figure 1)



Old Map of the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (Figure 2)



Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item N supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item updates the board on the current subcommittee structure, and outlines the process for asking the board to provide direction to staff on moving forward with subcommittee structure options, with potential board action in July 2019 or October 2019.

II. Background

The board currently has subcommittees structured around OWEB's grant programs:

- The Open Solicitation Subcommittee focuses on issues related to open solicitation grants, including restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement, and the effectiveness of these programs.
- 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.
- 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.
- The Acquisitions Subcommittee meets on an ad-hoc basis, and focuses on issues related to the land acquisition grant program, including applications and policy reviews.
- The chair of each subcommittee serves with the board co-chairs on the Executive Committee which meets as needed to discuss OWEB policy, program, and budget issues.

Over the past several months, the Executive Committee and OWEB staff have discussed the current subcommittee structure, and are seeking the full board direction on whether

the structure needs to be refreshed in order to provide more value to both the board and staff.

III. Considerations for the Board

In July, the board will be asked to reflect on:

- Experience with the current subcommittees, particularly on what elements the board has found useful, or have not provided as much value.
- Involvement with subcommittees of other boards, commissions, or similar groups, and any feedback or advice that can be shared that may strengthen OWEB's board subcommittees.
- What topics are of interest that could be incorporated into the subcommittee structure. This could mean retaining the current subcommittee structure based on OWEB grant programs, building a new structure based on 2018 Strategic Plan priorities, or other policy ideas related to important natural resource issues relevant to OWEB.
- Logistics for subcommittee meetings and reporting out to the full board.

IV. Recommendation

Staff do not have a recommendation for the board. The topic will be discussed at the July board meeting with possible board action in determining a subcommittee structure at that meeting, or developing a framework for staff to develop, and present to the board for approval at the October board meeting.

July 16-17 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update O-1 Washington, DC Update

This report provides the board an update to the agency's Washington, DC visits.

Background

Each year, OWEB's executive director, a board member and more recently, a local grantee travel to Washington, DC to meet with Oregon's congressional delegation to share Oregon's positive experience in delivering Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grants. In addition, the team usually meets with leaders from key federal agencies to discuss support for the combined federal-state agency work that is a hallmark of Oregon's conservation approach. This year's team included OWEB Board Co-Chair Jason Robison, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Curry Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Liesl Coleman.

Since 2017, Oregon has been joined by Washington, Idaho and Alaska during these visits, which have also been coordinated with California, though they have not yet been able to travel to Washington, DC. Alaska was also not able to join this year due to last-minute travel restrictions.

This year, Oregon met with all members of the state's congressional delegation, along with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. The event was coordinated to coincide with Washington's "Puget Sound Days on the Hill" to help that state deliver a coordinated message about the importance of salmon to the health of the Puget Sound ecosystem.

Next Steps

While PCSRF was funded in the 2019 budget, it is still zeroed out for the President's 2020 budget. In addition to the Washington, DC trip by state representatives, OWEB's partners have initiated an extensive outreach effort to the state's congressional delegation members, and have also placed editorials in many of the state's newspapers supporting the program.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information about the Washington, DC trip, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 503-986-0180. For questions about PCSRF, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. 5-state PCSRF Handout
B. 5-state PCSRF Letter
C. PCSRF Op-Eds

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

SALMON BY THE NUMBERS

28 threatened and endangered salmon species on the West Coast

20 salmon species with sufficient monitoring data to evaluate trends

13 are exhibiting stable trends in abundance

5 are showing increasing trends

2 continue to decline



WEST COAST SALMON ARE IN TROUBLE

In the 1990s, salmon and steelhead populations along the West Coast showed alarming declines, mostly caused by environmental factors and human activities. In response, Congress established the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in 2000 to reverse the decline of those populations.

PCSRF IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

PCSRF is a competitive grant program through which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service awards grants to Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington States and the tribes in those states to protect, conserve, and restore these populations.

The program has made a significant impact. In many cases, PCSRF has contributed directly to stabilizing at-risk populations and set the stage for their recovery–18 of the 20 West Coast species with enough data to evaluate are showing sustaining or increasing trends. Continued support is essential to prevent the extinction of these species and return them to healthy, sustainable levels.

WHY IS THIS A FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY?

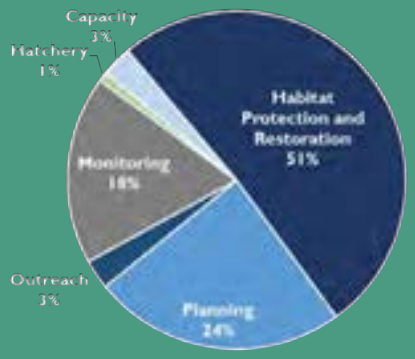
- PCSRF plays a vital role in helping the federal government meet its obligations to tribal treaty fishing rights and subsistence fishing traditions.
- Recovery is needed to support interstate and international fisheries. Weak stocks, especially in Puget Sound, negatively affect fisheries in Alaska and Canada.
- Recovery is required under the federal Endangered Species Act.

PCSRF LEVERAGES OTHER FUNDING

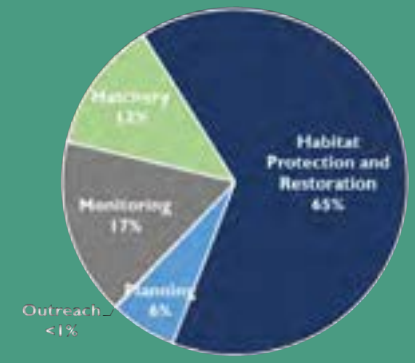
PCSRF is a critical anchor for funding that attracts additional state and local dollars, which match the grants.

- $75 million on average awarded annually by PCSRF since 2000.
- $1.6 billion in contributions from state and local partners.
- $1.23 in local and state dollars is leveraged for every $1 in PCSRF funding.

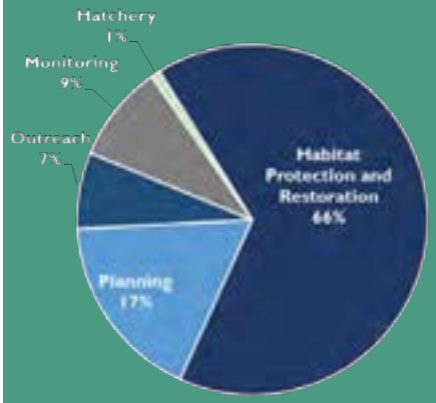
CALIFORNIA



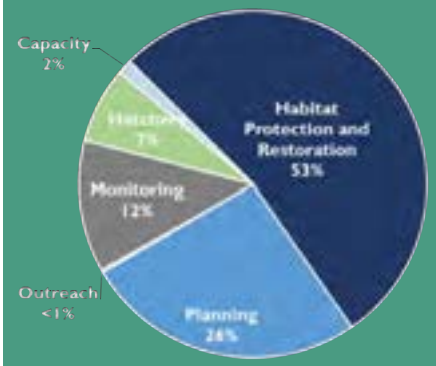
IDAHO



OREGON



WASHINGTON



HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

Projects have restored salmon habitat, removed barriers to fish passage, and improved water quality. In addition, funding is spent to monitor and track progress of restoration investments.

The majority of PCSRF funding has gone to projects on-the-ground. Collectively, more than 13,200 projects have been implemented to-date.



RESTORING SALMON HABITAT



IMPROVING FISH PASSAGE



IMPROVING WATER QUALITY



MONITORING

PCSRF SUPPORTS BUSINESS AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY

16.3 local jobs supported for every $1 million invested in salmon habitat restoration

33,000 jobs in commercial and recreational fishing in Oregon and Washington alone



Cover photograph courtesy of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Man holding fish photograph (right) courtesy of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

SALMON RECOVERY PROVIDES MANY BENEFITS

Restoring salmon and steelhead populations on the West Coast provides additional benefits.

Economic Benefits

- Commercial and recreational fishing are estimated to support thousands of jobs, many of which are in rural areas. In addition, every $1 million invested in restoration projects generates $2.2 million to $2.5 million in economic activity.

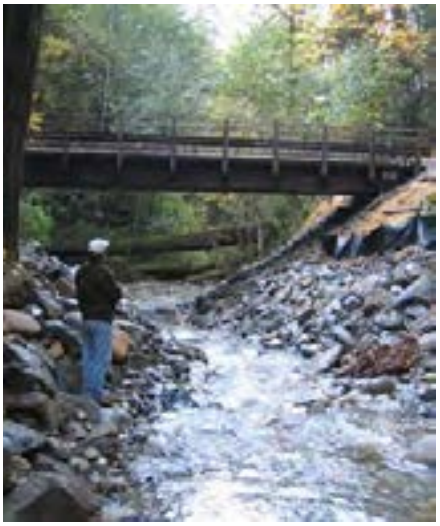
Environmental Benefits

- Restoration activities reconnect floodplains, reducing flood risk for communities.
- Restoring rivers for salmon improves water quality, ensuring clean and reliably available water for drinking, irrigation, and recreation.
- Restoring natural habitats, such as forests and estuaries, creates more places that absorb carbon, offer refuge for wildlife, and provide economic opportunities for rural communities.
- Restoring habitats for salmon also provides outdoor places for recreation, such as swimming, fishing, and boating, and for educational opportunities.
- Recovering salmon helps to balance the food web, sustaining many species that depend on salmon, such as bears, eagles, and orcas.

Infrastructure Benefits

- In many cases, salmon restoration projects improve or repair roads, bridges, culverts, dikes, and other community infrastructure.





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BY THE NUMBERS*

1,432 Nonprofits, fish enhancement groups, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts receiving grants

692 Local governments receiving grants

353 State and federal agencies receiving grants

312 Businesses receiving grants

90 Tribes receiving grants

44 Schools and universities receiving grants

1,078,853 Volunteer hours

*Statistics for California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington only

WORKING SMART

Projects are prioritized with rigorous technical and cost review, and significant local and state cost-sharing.





CONTACTS

Alaska
Peter Bangs, Commercial Fisheries Assistant Director
Department of Fish and Game
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Idaho
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Oregon
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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Washington
Erik Neatherlin, Executive Coordinator
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360-902-3080
Erik.Neatherlin@gsro.wa.gov



May 14, 2019

The Honorable Jerry Moran
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-128, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jose Serrano
Chairman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
H-310 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Vice Chairwoman, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
S-128, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Aderholt
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science, & Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
House of Representatives
H-310 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Moran and Serrano, Vice Chairwoman Shaheen, & Ranking Member Aderholt:

We are writing to express our support for robust federal investment in the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in fiscal year 2020 (FY20). PCSRF is a critically important program aimed at recovering salmon and steelhead populations in Western states, and the economically and culturally-important commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries that are dependent upon them. We have appreciated your subcommittees' past support for this program, and we request that you appropriate at least $70 million for PCSRF in FY20.

As you know, Pacific salmon play an essential role in the economy and habitat of Western states, dating back to long before the establishment of the United States of America. To this day, the Pacific salmon fishery provides jobs and supports the livelihoods of thousands of Americans, and feeds many more. Healthy salmon populations are essential to the health of this fishery.

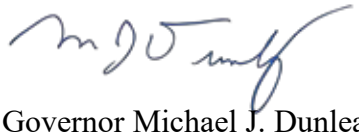
Pacific salmon populations, however, continue to face tremendous pressures. Today, 28 salmon and steelhead stocks face the threat of extinction on the West Coast. PCSRF was created to support the conservation and recovery of salmon across rivers, watersheds, and coastal habitats in Western states. Since 2000, this program has compelled effective, collaborative approaches to salmon recovery across federal, state, local, tribal, and private sector partners. In Washington, Oregon, Alaska, Idaho, California, and Nevada, PCSRF investments have contributed to over 13,000 projects, and have helped restore more than 10,000 miles of streams and over 1,080,000 acres of fish habitat.

Furthermore, PCSRF directly supports economic activity and job creation, particularly in rural communities. Recent analysis shows that every $1 million invested through PCSRF and state matching funds supports more than 16 jobs and generates about $2.3 million in economic activity.

While important progress has been made, continued federal investment is crucial to maintaining this progress, and to achieving the goal of full recovery and a healthy, sustainable Pacific salmon fishery.

We thank your subcommittees for your past support and request your continued support for PCSRF. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Governor Michael J. Dunleavy
State of Alaska



Governor Gavin Newsom
State of California



Governor Brad Little
State of Idaho



Governor Kate Brown
State of Oregon



Governor Jay Inslee
State of Washington

Chairman Moran, Vice Chairwoman Shaheen, Chairman Serrano, and Ranking Member Aderholt
May 14, 2019

CC: Members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation
Members of the California Congressional Delegation
Members of the Idaho Congressional Delegation
Members of the Oregon Congressional Delegation
Members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation

the Astorian



Letter: Salmon fund at risk

May 3, 2019 0

Imagine the North Coast of Oregon without salmon. While salmon populations throughout the Northwest are greatly reduced compared to pre-European settlement, salmon are still here.

That is due in part to Oregon voters, who have consistently supported state investment in salmon recovery, and to a federal fund called the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund, which Congress established in 2000 to support salmon recovery projects throughout Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

The salmon recovery fund is at risk. For the third year in a row, the Trump administration has proposed zeroing it out in the federal budget. Each year, Congress finds a way restore it. We need Congress to step up again and keep this work going by restoring funding to the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund in 2020.

The salmon recovery fund has been crucial to funding many important projects in Oregon and here in Clatsop County, including the North Coast Land Conservancy's acquisition of Boneyard Ridge on Tillamook Head, and adjacent Circle Creek Conservation Center.

NCLC has been investing state and federal dollars into salmon recovery to benefit local communities since its inception in 1986. And we can't stop now. I urge our congressional delegation to support this work by continuing to invest in salmon recovery for all Oregonians, current and future, near and far.

KATIE VOELKE

Executive Director, North Coast Land Conservancy

VIEWPOINT

The Business Journal welcomes letters to the editor

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GUEST COLUMN

Think of the fish, and businesses

TRUMP, LAWMAKERS NEED TO PROTECT SALMON RECOVERY FUND

The Trump administration has released its 2020 budget, and for the third year in a row, it has left local Pacific Northwest economies high and dry by axing the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund.

In 2018 and 2019, Congress pushed back and restored this critical funding, which was fortunate for fishing-dependent businesses like Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor. We hope our congressional delegation leads the charge again this year to restore funding for salmon recovery.

Recreational fishing is big business in the Pacific Northwest. Almost 20 percent of Oregonians fish. Sport fishers spend money on boats, bait, boots, rods, reels, tackle, gas, food, hotels, and more. That's good news to hundreds of small businesses, including boat and fishing rod manufacturers, gear shops, gas stations and local restaurants. According to data from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recreational fishing in Oregon generates about $1.4 billion per year and sustains nearly 13,000 jobs.

In the Columbia River, salmon and steelhead returns this year are extremely low. Most predictions for adult salmon and steelhead returns are at just half the 10-year average. Spring, summer and fall fishing will be extremely limited, with more fisheries closed than open. Summer chinook fishing below Bonneville Dam will be prohibited this year for the first time since 2002. It's one of the worst seasons we've seen since the 1990s, and the effect on local businesses and economies is significant.

That's why Congress established the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund in 2000. It provides resources for all five Pacific salmon states and federally recognized Tribes to improve habitats.

Since its inception, the fund has restored or protected more than 1 million acres of salmon habitat and opened more than 10,000 miles of Northwest streams to spawning fish. In Oregon specifically, the recovery fund has restored, created, or protected nearly 650,000 acres of salmon habitat and opened nearly 8,000 miles of streams to spawning fish.

By leveraging $237 million of federal money with state lottery dollars, Oregon has invested more than $600 million in salmon habitat protection and restoration. This year, we're asking Congress for $70 million.

As businesspeople, we understand investment is critical to success, and it is no different for Pacific salmon. As long as there are healthy rivers and healthy salmon, there will be Oregonians "gone fishing," and in the process, they'll support hundreds of businesses throughout the state.

We urge Oregon's congressional delegation to restore funding for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund in 2020. Our local economies and Pacific Northwest way of life depend on it.



Federal lawmakers should rethink their salmon policies.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY



Dan Grogan owns Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor, which has three locations in Oregon.



Liz Hamilton is the executive director of the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association.

▸ GOOD WEEK, BAD WEEK



GOOD WEEK
HUNGRY SOCCER FANS

The Portland Timbers and Thorns said this week the teams will freeze concession prices when Providence Park, the soccer franchises' home, reopens June 1. What's more, the team will offer a value menu for Wednesday and Thursday matches, which will yield $2 hot dogs, $2 nachos and $5 16-ounce Coors Light cans.



BAD WEEK
DARING DRIVERS

A Portland minivan operator lost a gamble — badly — on Friday when they raced to beat a northbound MAX train at Pioneer Courthouse Square. The resulting crash sandwiched the vehicle against the curb, indicating the race wasn't even close. The incident jammed city streets, irking those looking to beat early rush-hour traffic.



GOOD WEEK
PSU PEDESTRIANS

A stretch of street near Portland State University is now car-free, for a few weeks anyway. Southwest Montgomery Street between Broadway and Sixth Avenue will be closed to cars in May to test the feasibility of permanently making the stretch pedestrian-only. The closed street will feature picnic tables for weary, and hungry, walkers.

July 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update 0-2: Budget and Legislative

This report provides the board an update about the legislative budgeting process and the 2019 Legislative Session.

Background

The 2019 Legislative Session began on January 22 and adjourned on June 30, 2019. During the legislative session, budget and policy bills relevant to OWEB were considered.

The Legislative Budgeting Process

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. Budgets are structured so that each agency's current (or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "policy option packages," or POPs. The board approved OWEB's POPs in June of 2018 and these were included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) that was submitted in August 2018.

The Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) was released in late November 2018.The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the legislative session, agencies may advocate for their individual POPs only to the extent that they are included in the GRB. The GRB retains all of the POPs requested in OWEB's ARB, with the exception of the operations and grant funding related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). In addition, the GRB proposed an internal auditor position to be added at the agency.

OWEB's budget was heard by the Natural Resources Subcommittee (NR Subcommittee) of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means on March 18-19. One substantive change to OWEB's requested budget was made following release of the GRB and prior to the budget hearing: the removal of the POP for Septic System Loan Funds from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Clean Water State Revolving Fund. DEQ's statutes are being revised via a separate legislative bill to address this need.

The May 2019 economic forecast, on which the next biennium's budget is based, projects that both general fund and lottery revenues will be substantially higher than what was originally estimated in OWEB's ARB. This increase resulted in an upward shift of approximately $7 million in the amount of lottery funds available for OWEB grants.

OWEB's work session in the NR Subcommittee was held on June 6, 2019. During the legislative budget process, the following POPs were recommended by Legislative Fiscal Office and approved by the NR Subcommittee for the full consideration by full Ways and Means:

- Program Continuity package (Conservation Outcomes Coordinator position, which was transitioned from limited duration to permanent, and the Conservation Outcomes Specialist position);
- Program Enhancement package (Partnerships Coordinator position and $325,000 of the $375,000 requested for contracted services);
- $7.1 million of Measure 76 Lottery funds for grants;
- $15.9 million in carryforward of federal grant funds and other funds (which is $500,000 less than the requested amount);

- $500,000 for forest collaborative grant funds; and
- $2 million from Natural Resources Conservation Service for local technical assistance and capacity grants.

Additional items in OWEB's GRB not included in the LFO recommendation are: 1) the internal auditor position, 2) an Online Systems Project Manager position, 3) the Conservation Policy and Strategy POP, and 4) federal funds expenditure limitation for Upper Klamath Basin grants associated with salmon reintroduction.

OWEB's budget bills have passed the House and Senate, and as of the writing of this staff report, are now pending signature by the Governor.

Policy Bills

I. Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program (OAHP) Bills

HB 2086 is an OWEB-supported bill that would have provided technical corrections to OAHP statutes. HB 2086 passed the House, but was tabled on the Senate floor, where it remained when the Legislature adjourned. HB 2729 was a bill that if passed would have provided $10 million to OWEB for OAHP grants. HB 2729 stalled in the Joint Ways and Means Committee, and no funding for OAHP was provided in separate end-of-session funding bills.

II. House Bill 2020

HB 2020 would have established the Oregon Climate Action Program. A cap-and-trade program would have been created that sets a cap on allowable emissions, then auctions these allowances to regulated entities (e.g., fuel sector, natural gas sector). HB 2020 did not pass out of the Senate.

III. Tide Gates

The end-of-session funding bills contained a lottery allocation of $6 million for the Tide Gates and Culverts program to the Oregon Business Development Department (Business Oregon). In a Legislative Fiscal Office budget report associated with the funding bills, OWEB will be tasked with coordinating with Business Oregon to develop a grant and loan program for the repair and replacement of tide gate and culvert infrastructure.

Staff Contact

Budget topics or HB 2020: Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203. Policy topics: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

July 16-17, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update O-3: OWEB's Online Systems

This report provides the board an update about OWEB's online grant system improvements.

Background
In 2016, OWEB launched its first online grant applications. The online application system is directly connected to OWEB's grant management system, the agency's enterprise database. Since the launch, staff have provided the board with annual updates about enhancements to the system.

Recent Improvements to OWEB's Online Systems
Extensive improvements have been made to online system content and functionality since the last update to the board in October of 2018. These improvements include:

1) The addition of water acquisitions and council capacity to the suite of online grant applications;
2) Significant progress in preparing new grant applications for partnership technical assistance and weed grants using the application builder tool, a system that provides staff with the ability to 'build' new grant applications;
3) Ongoing refinements to OWEB's existing online applications for (e.g., restoration, technical assistance, land acquisitions grants) based on feedback from applicants, reviewers and staff;
4) Development of functionality that gathers information about newly funded grants, such as fund source, start and ending dates, special conditions, and reporting requirements and auto-generates grant agreements s);
5) Creation of a 'dashboard' for OWEB project managers that provides information about all grants they manage in a single location, enabling them to quickly and easily sort, search, view, and update project information and act on grantee requests; and
6) Development of training videos to help applicants and grantees navigate and use OWEB's online systems.

The cross-section initiative—titled Project Life Cycle—that kicked off in 2018 continues its work to leverage existing technology and streamline processes across the full 'life cycle' of a grant. The intent is to create a more efficient, user-friendly grant management and reporting system that captures key information at the appropriate points in time, thus maximizing both process effectiveness and accuracy of the information OWEB gathers.

Staff Contact
If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P - Proposed Revisions to Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Board-identified Priorities

I. Background

In July 2014, the board initiated a FIP Priority-setting process. This process included stakeholder input, review by teams of experts, and ultimately board adoption of seven FIP priorities of significance to the State at the April 2015 board meeting. See Attachment A for detailed memos on each priority.

The board-adopted FIP Priorities are:

- Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- Coastal Estuaries in Oregon
- Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
- Dry-Type Forest Habitat
- Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitat
- Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

FIP administrative rules were adopted by the board in January 2018. Regarding FIP board-identified Priorities, the FIP rules state: "At least every five years, the Board shall approve ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnership Initiatives. Ecological priorities shall be determined with public input and scientific rigor, and shall include maps and narrative describing the desired ecological outcomes for eligible Focused Investment Partnership Initiative activities" (OAR 695-047-0030). Pursuant to this rule, OWEB staff and the focused investments subcommittee of the board initiated an assessment of the FIP Priorities in fall 2018 with the intent of having revised Priorities in place for the next solicitation of Implementation FIP initiatives in January 2020.

II. History of OWEB Awards for FIP Priorities

Since 2015, OWEB has held three grant cycles for the Development FIP offering, and two grant cycles for the Implementation FIP offering. Each solicitation includes a required pre-application consultation with OWEB staff to ensure that the partnership and/or proposed initiative meets the FIP grant offering eligibility criteria and to consider readiness for applying. A table of applications and awards per FIP Priority are found in Attachment B.

III. Proposed FIP Priority Revisions

Staff reviewed priorities and consulted agency partners to draft proposed revisions to the FIP priorities. The timeline found in Attachment C provides details on the process for reassessing FIP priorities.

A table summarizing the proposed revisions to FIP Priorities to date in the process is found in Attachment D. Staff and the focused investments subcommittee are proposing revisions to three of the seven FIP Priorities, and are not recommending either eliminating or adopting new Priorities at this time.

Attachments

Attachment A. FIP Priority Memos (For reference only)
Attachment B. FIP Applications/Awards since 2015
Attachment C. 2019 FIP Priorities Reassessment Timeline
Attachment D. Table summarizing proposed revisions to FIP Board-identified Priorities, June 2019

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs for **inland aquatic habitat for native fish species** that are identified in **a federal recovery plan and/or a state conservation plan**. Habitat conservation and restoration must achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species guides voluntary actions that address limiting factors related to the protection and restoration of the watershed functions and processes in this habitat type. **Initiatives under this Priority will identify the primary limiting factors outlined in associated federal and state recovery and conservation plans that the initiative is aiming to address, and will be guided by the habitat and population objectives and conservation approaches set forth in these plans** (see Table 1 below for a list of plans).

Focal areas for this Priority (see map below) are defined as those native fish habitats in Oregon that are identified as priorities in associated federal recovery and/or state conservation plans, which are outlined in Table 1. In select cases, habitat needs for state or federal threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that do not yet have a conservation plan were also considered in assigning focal area priority designations. In some cases, priority designations could be drawn directly from state conservation and federal recovery plans, while in other cases professional judgement was needed to assign priorities based on guidance in the plans. Professional judgement included designation and review of priority watersheds by ODFW district biologists, research staff, Implementation Coordinators, and Conservation and Recovery Program staff. Priority designations reflect their knowledge of conservation and recovery plans, implementation needs, and watershed conditions in each of the planning areas, and refine where focused investment is most likely to achieve conservation goals.

For the purposes of this Priority, OWEB Focused Investment Partnership investments will be focused in areas shown in green and yellow on the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species map. Within these identified areas, voluntary restoration and conservation actions are especially encouraged in locations where investments will also address identified non-point source water-quality concerns.

Background

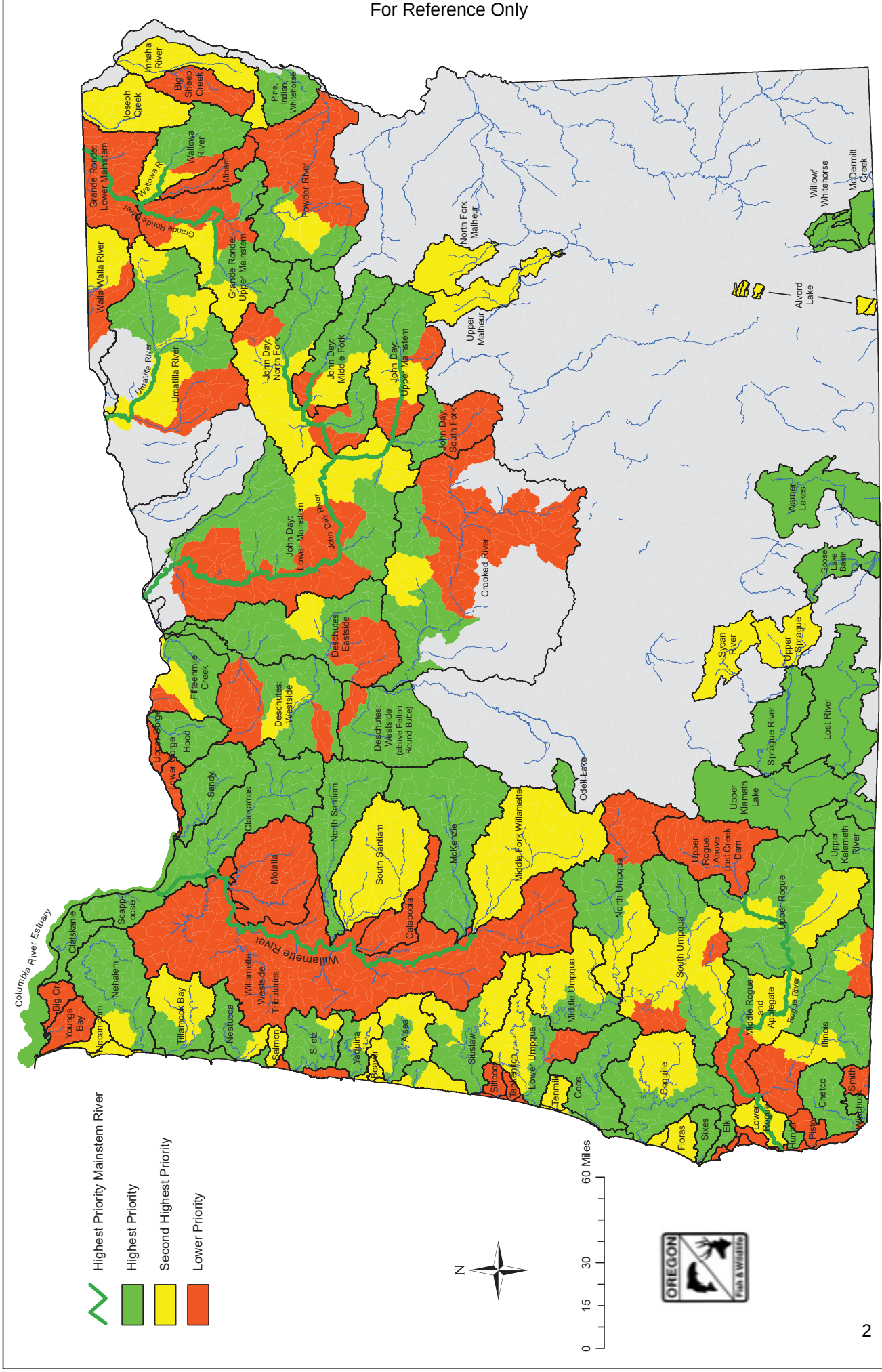
Where it occurs

As defined here, inland aquatic habitats include rivers, streams, floodplains, lakes and tidally influenced waters. These habitats typically contain water year-round. These areas occur around the state and provide essential habitat to many at-risk species, including important spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids.

Oregon's inland aquatic habitats are highly diverse. For example, as described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the headwaters of many of Oregon's rivers are located high in the state's various mountainous areas. In contrast, the eastern half of the state contains several playa lakes, formed when runoff from precipitation and mountain snowpack flows into low-lying areas, then evaporates and leaves mineral deposits.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

For Reference Only



Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by these habitats
Several native fish species have been listed or are candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or have been identified as threatened, endangered, or sensitive by the state. These species include, but are not limited to: Chinook salmon, chum salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and several species of sucker, lamprey, and chub. Some populations of these species that are not currently identified as threatened, endangered, or sensitive are also a focus of this Priority due to the substantial ecological, economic, and cultural benefits they provide. Specific species to be addressed under this Focused Investment Priority are identified, by geography, in Table 1 below.

In certain instances, the limiting factors and habitat needs of the aforementioned native fish species overlap with coastal coho during at least a portion of their life-cycle. However, because the overlap is not complete, this Priority focuses on the inland aquatic habitat needs for a broader collection of native fish species. This approach ensures that primary limiting factors can be addressed for a range of native fish species that are of significance to the state. Although Pacific lamprey and other native lamprey species are not specifically targeted in this Priority, actions that address limiting factors for the species outlined in Table 1 will also benefit native lamprey species throughout the state.

Why it is significant to the state
Inland aquatic habitat supports an incredible number of Oregon's native fish and wildlife species. The extent of biodiversity in an aquatic habitat is a reflection of the native fish, plants, and other aquatic species (e.g., freshwater mussels, Oregon spotted frogs) present there. All require water, and high-quality aquatic systems provide essential habitat to many at-risk species, including important spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids and other native fishes.

Sustaining aquatic biodiversity is essential to the health of our environment and to the quality of human life. Healthy aquatic ecosystems are imperative for continuing to contribute to Oregon's communities and economy, including fisheries and recreation. Because native fish communities are central to the structure, function, and process within aquatic habitats, they serve as ideal indicator species of the overall health of these habitats.

An excellent example of a successful focused investment effort is the de-listed Oregon chub. This native fish species, which is endemic to the Willamette Valley, is the first fish species to be removed from the federal ESA due to species recovery. Since 1993, significant conservation efforts, partnerships, and funding have addressed Oregon chub habitat, which contributed to the recovery of the fish and ESA de-listing in March, 2015.

Key limiting factors and/or threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process
Proposals must address primary limiting factors for aquatic habitats, as identified in associated federal and state recovery and conservation plans, including:

- Impaired water quality (e.g., temperature and sedimentation), including those factors associated with the loss of riparian and floodplain vegetation;
- Reduced water quantity (e.g., low streamflow and altered hydrology);
- Loss of habitat complexity (e.g., high-quality instream structure and spawning gravel, floodplain connectivity, connected off-channel habitat, presence of pools, and presence of large woody debris);
- Loss of habitat connectivity, including: floodplain connectivity; access to cold-water refugia; and fish-passage barriers that are identified as primary limiting factors for native fish species and as noted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's statewide fish passage priority list; and
- Spread of invasive species.

Investments for this Priority will focus on addressing primary limiting factors, as described in the plans referenced below in Table 1, with actions such as: 1) in mainstem rivers, reconnecting and restoring floodplain, riparian, side-channel, and tidal habitat; and 2) in tributaries, restoring whole watersheds to address such limiting factors as loss of instream habitat complexity and degradation of riparian areas.

Reference plans

See Table 1 below for species-specific conservation and recovery plans to be addressed under this Priority.

In addition to these plans, Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP), the state policy for managing native fish, provides guidance to support the implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and Oregon Conservation Strategy. Conservation and recovery plans developed under the NFCP by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and/or in conjunction with federal agencies detail how Oregon proposes to recover ESA-listed native fish species. ODFW has also developed, or is in the process of developing, conservation plans for native fish species that aren't listed under the ESA. Oregon Tribes may also have native fish species recovery plans guiding conservation efforts that can be referenced in developing restoration initiatives under this Priority. All of the plans noted here focus on maintaining sustainable native fish populations that contribute to their ecosystems and provide a variety of recreational, commercial, cultural, and aesthetic benefits.

These plans identify key limiting factors for specific fish species, geographies in which habitat for these species occur, and priority actions that will address limiting factors. While these plans have a species focus, addressing the limiting factors and meeting the goals of each plan supports native fish communities and the ecosystem function of aquatic habitats more generally. Thus, achieving the desired habitat and population objectives within these plans will provide significant ecological, economic and cultural benefits for all Oregonians.

Table 1. Conservation and Recovery Plans for Native Fish Species

USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NMFS = NOAA Fisheries
ODFW = Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Conservation and Recovery Plans	Native Fish Species	Associated Basin(s)
USFWS Recovery Plan for the Threatened and Rare Native Fishes of the Warner Basin and Alkali Sub-basin (1998)	Warner Sucker, Hutton tui chub, Foskett speckled dace, Warner Valley redband trout	Closed Lakes
USFWS Recovery Plan for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (1995)	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	Closed Lakes
USFWS Recovery Plan for the Coterminous United States Population of Bull Trout (2015)	Bull trout *Co-benefit species: Redband trout*	Deschutes, John Day, Upper Klamath, Lower Columbia, Willamette, Grande Ronde
USFWS Revised Recovery Plan for the Lost River Sucker and Shortnose Sucker (2013)	Lost River sucker, Shortnose sucker	Upper Klamath
USFWS Action Plan for Recovery of the Modoc Sucker (1983)	Modoc sucker *Co-benefit species: Goose Lake sucker*	Goose Lake
NMFS/ODFW Conservation & Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead DPS (2010)	Steelhead *Co-benefit species: Chinook salmon, Redband trout*	Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla
NMFS ESA Recovery Plan for Northeast Oregon Snake River Spring and Summer Chinook Salmon and Snake River Steelhead Populations	Spring Chinook, Steelhead *Co-benefit species: Redband trout*	Grande Ronde
ODFW Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010)	Spring and Fall Chinook, Chum salmon, Summer and winter steelhead *Co-benefit species: Redband trout*	Lower Columbia River
NMFS/ODFW Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead (2011)	Spring Chinook, Steelhead	Willamette
ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (2014) *Note: this plan does not assess or address coastal coho, thus differentiating this Priority from the Focused Investment Priority for Oregon Coastal Coho Habitat and Populations*	Chinook salmon, Chum salmon Steelhead, Cutthroat trout	Coastal watersheds from Cape Blanco to the Columbia River (including Umpqua, Tillamook, many others)
ODFW Rogue Spring Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (2007)	Spring Chinook	Rogue
ODFW Conservation Plan for Fall Chinook Salmon in the Rogue Species Management Unit (2013)	Fall Chinook	Rogue, coastal watersheds south of Cape Blanco

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
COASTAL ESTUARIES IN OREGON

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in Oregon's **coastal estuaries**. The focal area for this Priority is coastal estuaries and associated riparian and upland habitats, which support a multitude of fish and wildlife species. Proposals should outline initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Oregon's coastal estuaries guides voluntary actions that protect and/or restore estuarine habitat at a scale that ensures watershed functions and processes that support fish and wildlife dependent on this habitat type. **Actions will address the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches that yield the greatest productivity across species. The importance of estuaries is noted in several plans, which are listed at the end of this document.**

Background

Where it occurs

Oregon's estuaries exist at the confluence of freshwater rivers and the ocean. The extent of estuarine habitat at these confluences can be determined by the range upon which the ocean maintains a tidal influence on these freshwater rivers (see map).

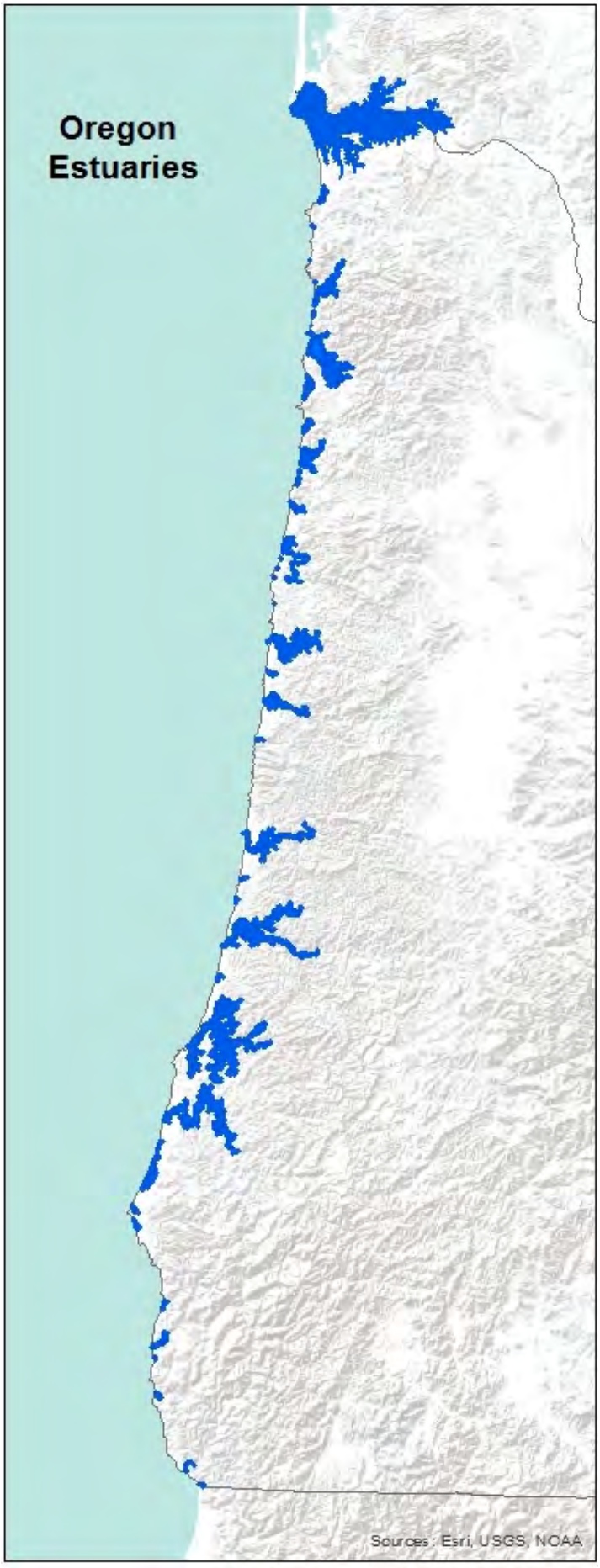
Currently, over 70 percent of Oregon's estuarine wetlands have been lost, while tidal swamp habitat losses stand at roughly 90 percent (for estuaries where applicable data is available). A history of anthropogenic alterations to habitat and natural hydrologic processes, including diking, tide gates, dredging, and channelization, among other impacts, has contributed to these habitat losses and impairments.

There are four main subsystems associated with estuaries, including: marine, bay, slough, and riverine. Estuary habitats experience regular fluctuations in salinity, water levels, sunlight, and oxygen. This priority includes restoration and protection of habitat and watershed function and process associated with each habitat type.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Estuaries provide habitat for a multitude of plant and animal species. The unique biophysical conditions found in estuaries as a result of tidal influence and variation in salinity fosters a complex diversity of vegetation and animal species. Such species include salmon and steelhead, crabs and other shellfish, marine mammals, seabirds and migratory birds. It is estimated that the Lower Columbia River estuary alone provides wintering habitat for peak counts of 150,000 waterfowl birds along the Pacific Flyway. In terms of fish species, estuaries provide critical breeding and nursery areas for rockfish, lingcod, and greenling, as well as rearing grounds for juvenile coho, Chinook, and chum salmon. Estuaries also foster large populations of staghorn sculpin, which are a critical food source for foraging migratory and shorebirds. Roughly 75 percent of Oregon's harvested fish species utilize estuary habitat during some portion or all of their life cycle.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Oregon
Estuaries
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Why it is significant to the state

Estuaries are significant to the state of Oregon for a wide range of reasons. First, in terms of planning efforts, Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 16, titled "Estuarine Resources", strives: "To recognize and protect the unique environmental, economic, and social values of each estuary and associated wetlands; and to protect, maintain, where appropriate develop, and where appropriate restore the long-term environmental, economic, and social values, diversity, and benefits of Oregon's estuaries." Further, the Lower Columbia River estuary and Tillamook Bay estuaries are each designated as an "estuary of national significance" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (two of 28 National Estuary Programs managed under the Clean Water Act). Many Oregon estuaries have Total Maximum Daily Loads developed for water quality in these habitats, as estuaries play an important role in filtering sediment, nutrients, pathogens, and other contaminants from aquatic environments.

Second, estuaries are a necessary habitat that is integral to the existence and success of various ESA listed fish and wildlife species. There are numerous species that are adapted to the unique habitat conditions that estuaries provide and are thus dependent on this habitat type. For example, nearly one-third of the west coast's nesting seabird colonies are located off Oregon's south coast. Additionally, the Klamath Bird Observatory maintains a list of 39 "Important Aquatic Bird Sites," with 24 of these sites located along the Oregon coast in and around estuary habitat.

Lastly, estuaries provide critical services for the people of Oregon. For example, estuaries serve to buffer storm wave damage and help stabilize shorelines from erosion.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Increasing development and land-use conversions;
- Alteration of natural hydrological processes and streamflow, including limited salt- and fresh-water exchange due to such issues as tidegates;
- Water-quality degradation (including increased bacterial loads; decreased dissolved oxygen; and toxic contaminants from industry, agriculture, and urban development);
- Loss of habitat complexity and connectivity degraded tidal areas;
- Invasive aquatic plant and animal species;
- Impacts of climate change (e.g., sea-level rise, increased acidification); and
- Nutrient cycling and sediment transport.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) NOAA Fisheries Columbia River Estuary ESA Recovery Plan Module for Salmon and Steelhead, 2011 (http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/recovery_planning/estuary-mod.pdf)
3) ODFW Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead, 2010 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower_columbia_plan.asp)
4) Oregon Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, 2014 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
COHO HABITAT AND POPULATIONS ALONG THE OREGON COAST

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **Coho habitats and populations along the Oregon coast**, including estuaries, freshwater water bodies, and associated riparian and upland habitats, for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Oregon's coastal coho habitats and populations guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the protection and restoration of the watershed functions and processes that support coho habitat and the health of coho populations. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan, NOAA Fisheries Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan, NOAA Fisheries Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery Plan, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's limiting factors document, which are listed on page three of this document.**

This priority encompasses habitat needs for coho salmon listed in the Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) and the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho (SONCC) ESU. Focal areas for this Priority are coastal habitats identified as high conservation and restoration priorities for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed coho salmon. For the purposes of this Priority, OWEB investments would be focused in areas shown in green and yellow on the map. Within these identified areas, voluntary restoration and conservation actions are especially encouraged in locations where investments will also address identified non-point source water-quality concerns.

Background

Where it occurs

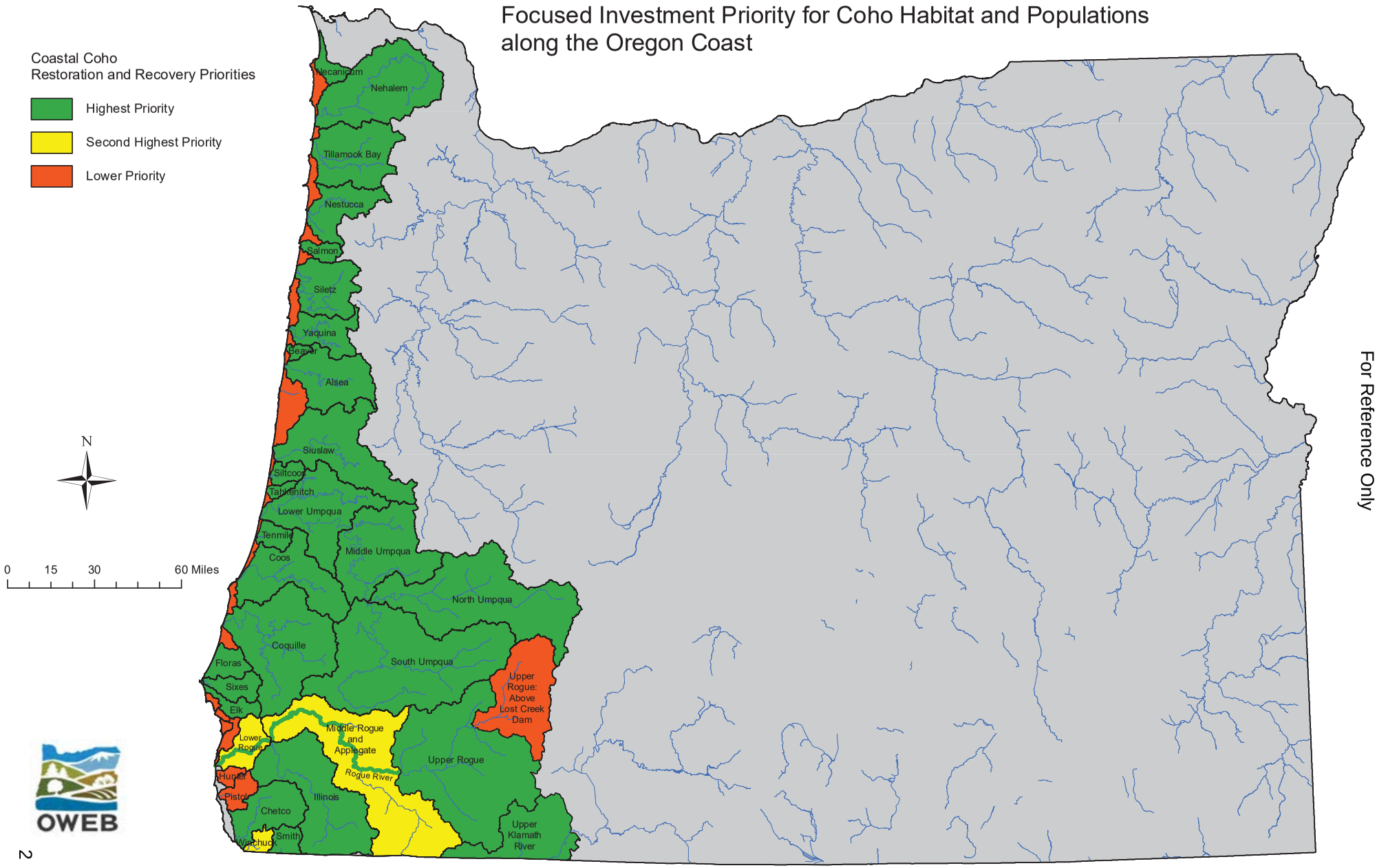
This Priority includes estuaries, freshwater water bodies, and associated riparian and upland habitats that support coho salmon and are connected to the Oregon coast. This priority includes restoration and protection of watershed functions and processes that increase and maintain instream complexity, good water quality, adequate instream flows, and floodplain connectivity, as well as actions that create and/or maintain an appropriate sediment regime throughout the range of the coho salmon.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Oregon has two coastal Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) that are listed under the ESA: 1) Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) ESU with 21 independent populations from the Necanicum River in the north and the Sixes River near Cape Blanco in the south, and 2) the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho (SONCC) ESU from Cape Blanco to the California border with seven independent populations.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

Focused Investment Priority for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast



The estuarine and freshwater coastal habitats that coho use also support many other native species, for at least some portion of their life cycle. These species include, but are not limited to: Chinook and chum salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, Western brook lamprey, sculpins, beavers, river otters, and giant salamanders, as well as hundreds of invertebrate species. Work is underway to further assess and refine the list of estuarine species associated with these habitat areas.

Why it is significant to the state

The presence of robust and sustainable populations of coho salmon are an indicator of properly functioning coastal ecosystems and can provide significant social, cultural, economic and ecological benefits to coastal communities. Because water quality has been significantly degraded and instream habitat impacted in areas along the coast, the populations of these fish have declined, thus requiring a federal ESA listing.

Several significant planning efforts have been underway to focus efforts on coho conservation. Oregon has developed a coho conservation plan (Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan) and NOAA Fisheries has developed federal recovery plans for the SONCC and OCC ESUs. In addition, Oregon has been preparing for the reintroduction of coho salmon to the upper Klamath basin through a reintroduction plan (see below) and an implementation plan to be finalized in 2019.

The improvement in conditions and complexity for coastal coho habitat will also lead to improved water quality. Many of Oregon's coastal streams are designated on the federal 303(d) list as "water quality limited," which affects landowners and communities and creates economic impacts. Additionally, recreational and commercial fisheries are also severely impacted by the ESA listing of these fish. Restoring ecosystem function for coastal stream habitats will benefit coho populations, which may help support fisheries over time.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Impaired ecosystem functions that have resulted in decreased quantity and quality of instream complexity and degraded rearing and spawning habitats;
- Lack of habitat connectivity with floodplains;
- Degraded riparian areas;
- Insufficient water quantity/flows during critical flow periods; and
- Degraded water quality (i.e., dissolved oxygen, temperature, bacteria load, sedimentation)

Investments for the priority will focus on addressing primary limiting factors, as described in the reference plans below, with actions such as: 1) in estuaries and mainstem rivers, reconnecting and restoring floodplain, riparian, side-channel, and tidal habitat; and 2) in tributaries, restoring whole watersheds to address such limiting factors as loss of instream habitat complexity and degradation of riparian areas.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan
2) NOAA Fisheries Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan
3) NOAA Fisheries Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery Plan
4) Limiting Factors and Threats to the Recovery of Oregon Coho Populations in the Southern Oregon-Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Results of Expert Panel Deliberations
5) A Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fish in the Upper Klamath Basin (ODFW 2008)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
DRY-TYPE FOREST HABITAT

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **dry-type forest habitat** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for dry-type forest habitat guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also support and/or improve watershed functions and processes. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other plans listed on page 3 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are identified in the associated plans as high-priority dry-type forests and the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that these habitats support.

Background

Where it occurs

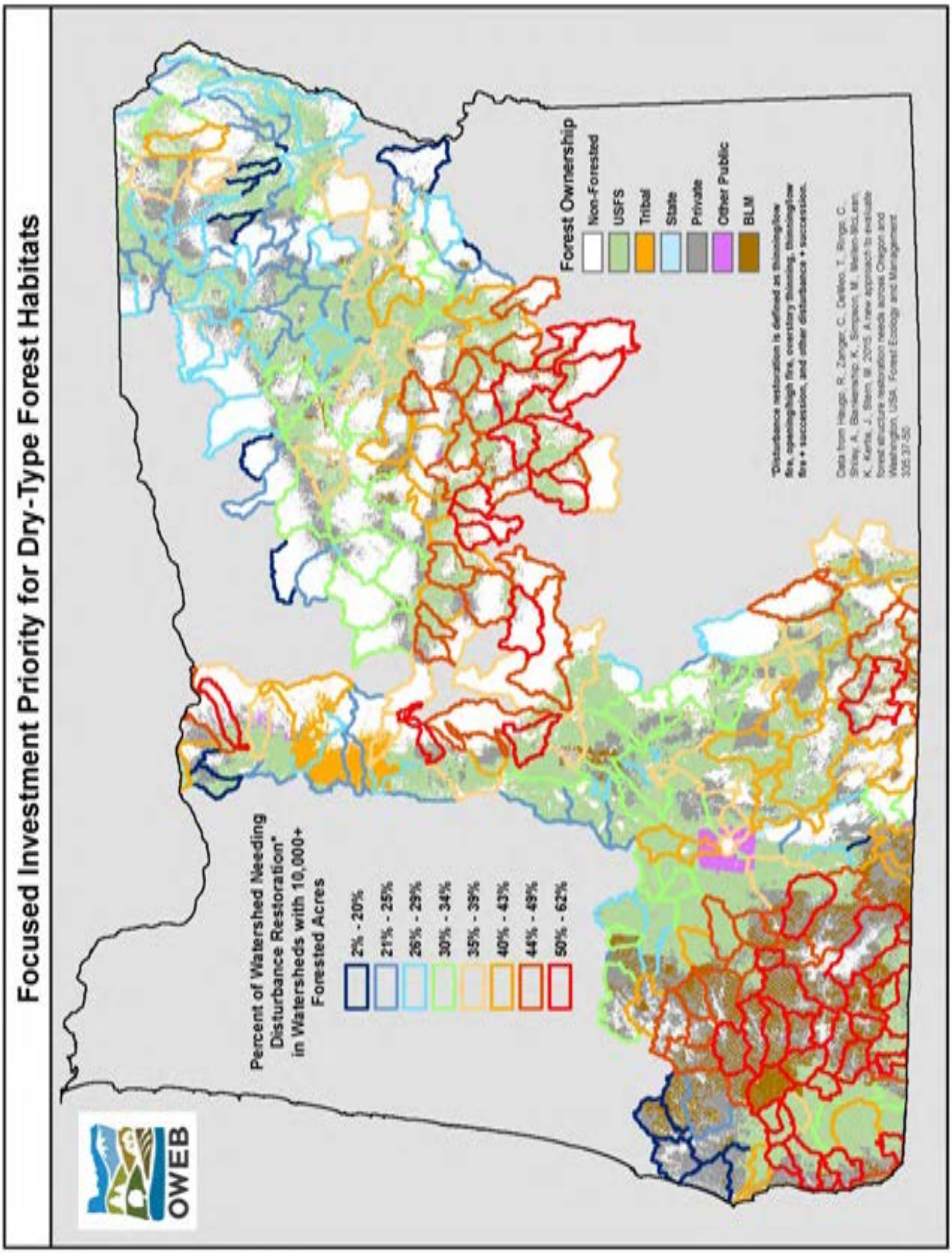
Dry-type forests exist east of the Cascade Mountains and southwest in the Umpqua and Rogue watersheds of the Siskiyou and Klamath Mountains. This forest type spans 14 million public and private acres in Oregon, constitutes roughly half of all forests in the state, and accounts for approximately 25 percent of the state's land cover. These forests are associated with nine national forests in Oregon and also coincide with land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in southwest Oregon. "Dry-type" is a general term for forests that consist of dry pine forests, dry mixed conifer and moist-cold forests.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Dry-type forest habitat is composed of numerous tree species, including ponderosa pine, sugar pine, grand fir, and Douglas-fir. Historically, these forests experienced more frequent low-intensity fires that would burn off the understory and small trees on a 7-15 year cycle, resulting in a diverse and robust mosaic of older, larger aforementioned tree species mixed with areas of younger trees, stands, and forests. Fire suppression practices in the past century have elevated 'fuel levels' to a degree that has altered forest species composition and succession, and susceptibility to uncharacteristic large wildfires due to the fuel loads. In addition to the building of fuel levels, the change in forest management practices during the last century has reduced diversity of species and age structures, and increased densities of trees within this forest type.

Dry-type forests are critical to healthy watershed function and process. The aquatic habitat within these forested areas closely linked with health of the dry-type forest. Dry-type forest habitats support over 800 fish and wildlife species, including bird species such as the white-headed woodpecker and northern goshawk, and terrestrial species, such as Rocky Mountain elk and mule and white-tailed deer. Dry-type forests also support native fish such as salmon, coastal coho steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout (see related priorities). Conservation actions to protect dry-type forest habitat should be designed in way that limits unintended consequences to aquatic habitats in these areas.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Focused Investment Priority for Dry-Type Forest Habitats
OWEB
Percent of Watershed Needing Disturbance Restoration* in Watersheds with 10,000+ Forested Acres
2% - 20%
21% - 25%
26% - 29%
30% - 34%
35% - 39%
40% - 43%
44% - 49%
50% - 62%
Forest Ownership
Non-Forested
USFS
Tribal
State
Private
Other Public
BLM
*Disturbance restoration is defined as thinning/low fire, opening/high fire, overstory thinning, thinning/low fire + succession, and other disturbance + succession.
Data from Haugo, R., Zanger, C., DeWeo, T., Ringo, C., Shiley, A., Blankenship, K., Simpson, M., Mellen-McLean, K., Kertis, J., Stern, M. 2015. A new approach to evaluate forest structure restoration needs across Oregon and Washington, USA. Forest Ecology and Management 335:37-50

Why it is significant to the state

Dry-type forests cover vast acreages in Oregon, and are at critical risk for uncharacteristically intense wildfires. These forest systems support a diverse range of aquatic and terrestrial species, including federally listed fish and bird species. Properly functioning dry-type forests are also critical to maintaining healthy watershed function and process for the rivers and other water bodies existing within their habitat range. Dry-type forests are iconic in Oregon, of cultural significance to Native American tribes, and have economic importance related to natural resource based economies in rural communities. In addition, these areas support an increasingly important recreation-based economy in many areas throughout Oregon.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Uncharacteristically intense wildfires as a result of fuel buildup to fire suppression and forest management practices;
- Altered fire regimes resulting in forest densification and changed ecological role of fire;
- Loss of forest structure, age, composition, and habitat connectivity; and
- Vulnerability to threats such as uncharacteristic outbreaks of diseases and insects.

In addition to addressing these key limiting factors and ecological threats, proposals must describe how the initiative will benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy species and/or provide source drinking water protection. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Forestry is expected to adopt a new forest action plan in 2020. With this development, and other advancements in forest fire science that may occur, the board may choose to revise this priority within five years.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp

2) Restoration of Dry Forests in Eastern Oregon
https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/Dry-Forest-Guide-2013.aspx

3) General Technical Report – The Ecology and Management of Moist Mixed-Conifer Forests in Eastern Oregon and Washington: A Synthesis of the Relevant Biophysical Science and Implications for Future Land Management
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr897.pdf

4) Haugo, R., Zanger, C., DeMeo, T., Ringo, C., Shlisy, A., Blakenship, K., Simpson, M., Mellen-McLean, K., Kertis, J., Stern, M. 2015. A New Approach to Evaluate Forest Structure Restoration Needs Across Oregon and Washington, USA. Forest Ecology and Management 335: 37-50.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112714005519

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
OAK WOODLAND AND PRAIRIE HABITAT

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **oak woodland and prairie habitats** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for oak woodland and prairie/chaparral habitat guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also will support and/or improve watershed functions and processes. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other plans and strategies listed on page 3 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are identified in the associated plans as high priorities for oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats, and the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that these habitats support. These areas include oak and associated prairies within the Willamette Valley, the southern Oregon oak and associated chaparral habitat corridor, and oak habitats in the East Cascades.

Background

Where it occurs

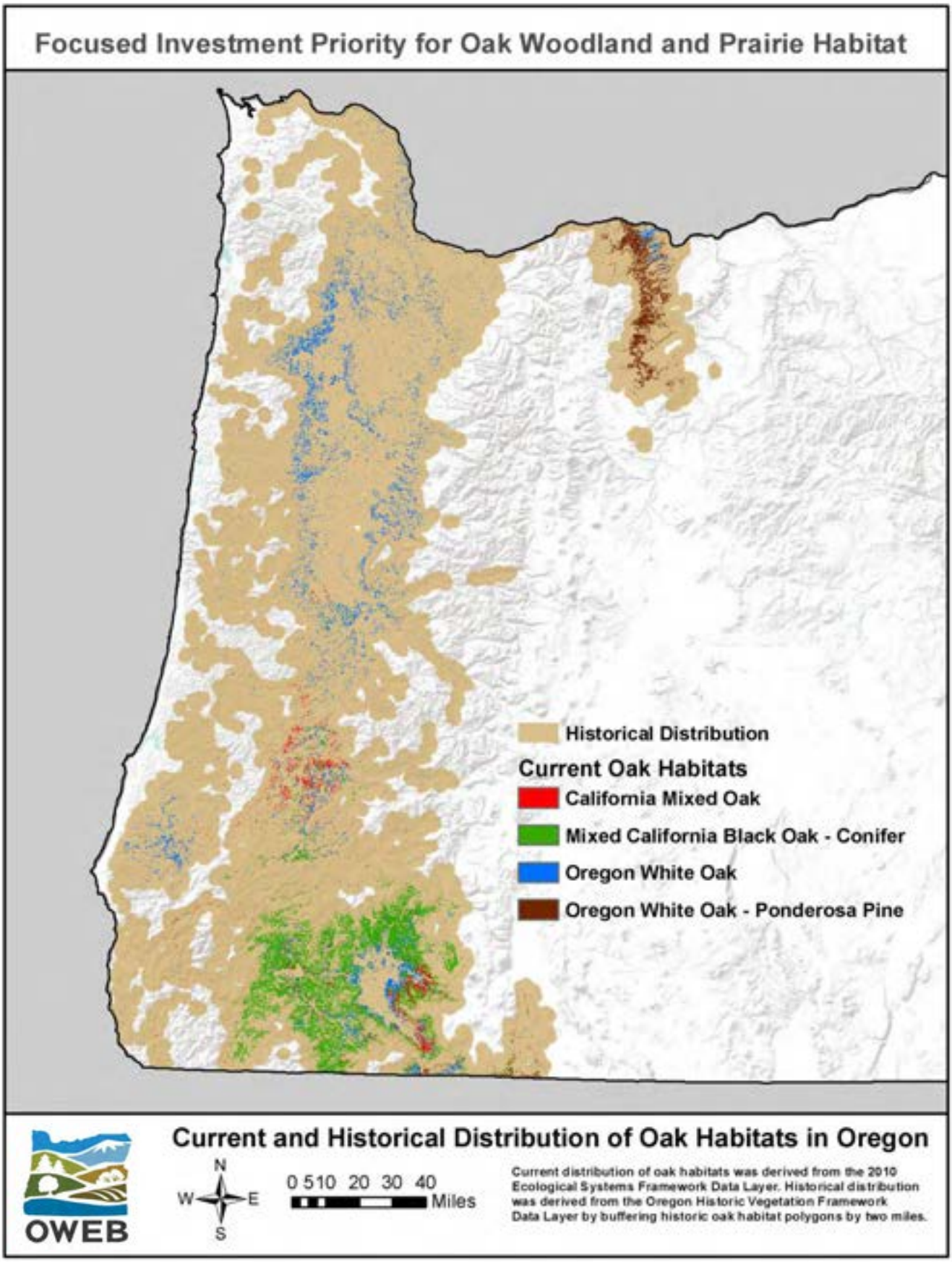
Despite a loss of approximately 90% of its historical habitat range since the 1800s, oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats still exist throughout the state. Three types of oak habitats in Oregon are "oak savannah" (5-30% oak coverage), "oak woodlands" (30-60% oak coverage), and "oak forests" (greater than 60% oak coverage). These oak habitats primarily occur in three areas of the state: 1) Oak and prairie habitats of the Willamette Valley ecoregion; 2) Oak woodlands of the East Cascades ecoregion and foothills along the Columbia Gorge, including both Hood and Wasco counties and south to White River; and 3) Southern Oregon oak and chaparral habitats of the Klamath, Umpqua and Rogue River ecoregions.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

The Oregon white oak is the indicator species for oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats. Species that are supported by these habitats include: streaked horned lark, the Western meadowlark, Lewis' woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, western bluebird, acorn woodpecker, western gray squirrel, Columbian white-tailed deer, Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, and the Willamette daisy, among many other plant species depending on the region. At least seven federally Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species are dependent on these habitats.

Oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats also support aquatic ecosystems that exist within their habitat range. The watershed function and process of these aquatic ecosystems depend on the health of the oak and associated habitats that foster them. These aquatic habitats host inland native fish species, such as salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout. Conservation actions to protect oak woodland and prairie habitat should be designed in way that limits unintended consequences to aquatic habitats in these areas.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Focused Investment Priority for Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
Historical Distribution
Current Oak Habitats
California Mixed Oak
Mixed California Black Oak - Conifer
Oregon White Oak
Oregon White Oak - Ponderosa Pine
OWEB
Current and Historical Distribution of Oak Habitats in Oregon
N
W
E
S
0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles
Current distribution of oak habitats was derived from the 2010 Ecological Systems Framework Data Layer. Historical distribution was derived from the Oregon Historic Vegetation Framework Data Layer by buffering historic oak habitat polygons by two miles.

Why it is significant to the state

In a national assessment, oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the U.S. due to land conversions and altered fire regimes. Yet, these habitats are home to roughly 30 bird, terrestrial, and plant species addressed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Maintaining the connectivity of oaks and their associated prairie and chaparral habitats is crucial to support species utilization of greater habitat range, but also to facilitating the gradual movement of species to the north from California in response to climate change. Many species dependent on oak habitats may be considered for ESA-listing in the future; thus, an increase in habitat connectivity, complexity and acreage will benefit these vulnerable species. In addition, these habitat types are iconic and culturally important to the Native American tribes.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to land-use conversion (e.g., residential, timber, agricultural);
- Habitat degradation, including shrub-tree and conifer encroachment, invasive species encroachment, and disease such as sudden oak death syndrome; and
- Impaired habitat persistence, due to loss of fire disturbance regimes, over-grazing, and the subsequent lack of recruitment of young oaks.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) Recovery Plan for Prairie species of Western Oregon and SW Washington (USFWS 2010) (http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/PrairieSpecies/)
3) Oregon White Oak Restoration Strategy for National Forest System Lands East of the Cascade Range (USFS 2013) (http://ecoshare.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Oak_Strategy_draft_3-6-13_FINAL_HQ.pdf)
4) Northwest Power and Conservation Council – Willamette Subbasin Plan (https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/willamette/plan)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
OREGON CLOSED LAKES BASIN WETLAND HABITATS

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in the **Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitats** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitats guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also will support and/or improve watershed functions and processes. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Intermountain Joint Venture's (IWJV) Habitat Conservation Strategy Implementation Plan, which are listed on page 4 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are identified as high-priority wetland and floodplain habitat for migratory and resident bird and native fish species in the associated plans. These areas exist within the Oregon portion of the Closed Lakes Basin area (within Harney, Lake and a small portion of Malheur counties).

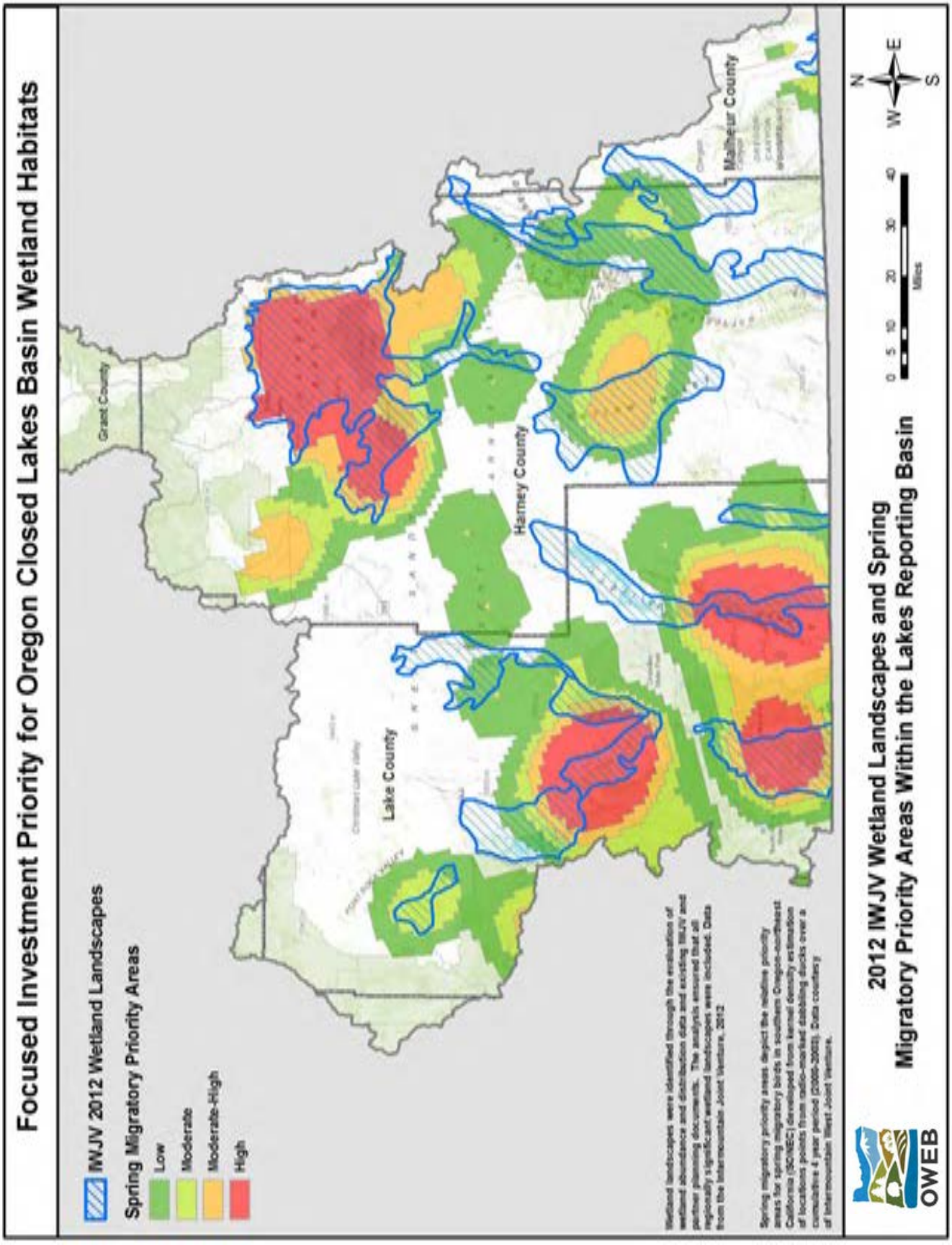
Background

Where it occurs

The Closed Lakes Basin wetlands exist within the Southern Oregon Northeast California (SONEC) region, which is a portion of the Closed Lakes network within the Great Basin (see map). The SONEC region geography and habitat has been defined by the IWJV and in the federal North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The Closed Lakes Basin within the SONEC region is an important part of the intercontinental Pacific Flyway. Within the SONEC region, 75% of wetland habitat is located on private lands, most of which is managed as flood-irrigated hay and pastureland. These areas also support native fish species, including ESA-listed sucker fish.

In Oregon, Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitat exists primarily in Lake and Harney Counties (including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge), with a small portion in Malheur County. Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitats include shallow lakes and marshes, wet meadows, and irrigated pasturelands. Many of the managed wetland/pastures exist in the floodplain of tributaries and lakes in the area. Closed Lakes Basin wetlands represent a unique chain of desert oases that, as an integrated network, provide critical habitat and food for waterbirds throughout the seasonal cycle.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Focused Investment Priority for Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats
IWJV 2012 Wetland Landscapes
Spring Migratory Priority Areas
Low
Moderate
Moderate-High
High
Grant County
Lake County
Harney County
Malheur County
Wetland landscapes were identified through the evaluation of wetland abundance and distribution data and existing IWJV and partner planning documents. The analysis ensured that all regionally significant wetland landscapes were included. Data from the Intermountain Joint Venture, 2012
Spring migratory priority areas depict the relative priority areas for spring migratory birds in southern Oregon-northeast California (SONEC) developed from kernel density estimation of locations points from radio-marked dabbling ducks over a cumulative 4 year period (2006-2009). Data courtesy of Intermountain West Joint Venture.
2012 IWJV Wetland Landscapes and Spring
Migratory Priority Areas Within the Lakes Reporting Basin
0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles
N
E
W
S
OWEB

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

An estimated 70 percent of migratory birds—including over 6 million waterbirds—annually pass through the SONEC region, which includes the Oregon Closed Lakes Basin. Moreover, the Closed Lakes Basin provides critical habitat to important bird species that utilize this region as part of the Great Basin network of habitat: 1) most of North America's snowy plovers (federally listed under the Endangered Species Act [ESA]) breed in the region; 2) most of North America's eared grebes, long-billed dowitchers, and all of the world's Wilson's phalaropes use the region during migration; 3) most of the world's American avocets (a keystone species) use the region for an extended post-breeding period, and over 50% of this species breeds in the Great Basin; 4) most of the world's white-faced ibis breed in the Great Basin; and 5) about 80% of nesting greater sandhill cranes in Oregon are found into the Closed Lakes Basin. Additional migratory and resident bird species also rely on this habitat.

Of particular importance is habitat for shorebird species and migratory birds on the spring migration path. This region provides a diversity of food production at different salt regimes throughout the year; thus, seasonal water conditions drive habitat function and productivity. Additionally, the Closed Lakes Basin wetlands support native fish species such as Warner and Modoc sucker fish (ESA-listed), tui chub, and redband trout.

Why it is significant to the state

Closed Lakes Basin wetlands are ecologically unique high-desert wetlands that provide critical habitat for numerous migratory and resident bird species. This region has international importance as habitat for migratory birds, including the ESA-listed species cited above. Oregon's Closed Lakes Basin wetlands habitat are a significant portion of the greater SONEC complex of wetlands that are so critical to the millions of birds that travel the Pacific Flyway each year. The Intermountain West Joint Venture recognizes the SONEC region as one of two priority areas in the Intermountain West for wetland-dependent birds. Greater sage-grouse depend on these wetland habitats for foraging habitat for brooding (see related priority). ESA-listed Warner and Modoc sucker fish also are found in this habitat, as referenced above.

The region also fosters an historic and vitally important ranching community and associated economy that depends on the ecological health of these wetland habitats. In addition, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and other wildlife areas in the Closed Lakes Basin are critical recreational and economic resources for these rural counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented over 65,000 annual visitors to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge alone.

Finally, the implications of climate change in this region may lead to a reduction in water availability, further altering the natural hydrologic regime, which could lead to higher salinity levels in lakes and wetlands. This issue lends added urgency to the importance of conservation efforts concerning this unique habitat.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Loss and degradation of wetlands habitat, including salinization and an imbalance of seasonal saline gradients;
- Seasonal water availability as a result of altered natural hydrologic functioning, including the conversion to sprinkler irrigation from flood irrigation that provided surrogate wetland habitat and impacts of climate change;
- Proliferation of invasive common carp, whose feeding behavior has destroyed vast natural marsh habitat by uprooting vegetation and increasing suspended sediments and turbidity that significantly reduces vegetation otherwise available as a food source for birds and other wildlife; and
- Invasive plant and macroinvertebrate species, which can reduce food production for native bird species.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) North American Waterfowl Management Plan (http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/Planstrategy.shtm)
3) Intermountain West Joint Venture Habitat Conservation Strategy Implementation Plan (http://iwjv.org/2013-implementation-plan)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
SAGEBRUSH/SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat guides voluntary actions that address primary ecological threats and limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also will support and/or improve ecosystem functions and processes, including those required by Greater sage-grouse, which is an indicator species for this habitat type. **These actions will be guided by the habitat and population objectives set forth in the State's sage-grouse strategy and the combined ecological and social outcomes described in the State's "Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan" which are listed on page 3 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) and the important connectivity corridors between these areas (see explanation and map). PACs do not represent individual populations, but rather key areas that have been identified as crucial to ensure adequate representation, redundancy, and resilience for conservation of its associated population or populations. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) sage-grouse strategy identifies core areas of habitat that align with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS's) PAC habitats. The core area approach uses biological information to identify important habitats with the objective of protecting the highest density breeding areas.

Landscape-scale sage-grouse conservation is critically important in Oregon as the habitat present here, along with that in southwest Idaho and northeast Nevada, has been identified by FWS as one of two sage-grouse 'strongholds' in the U.S. These sage-grouse strongholds are distinguished primarily as those areas that contain the highest densities of birds, are the most resistant and resilient to invasive species and altered fire regimes, and are the least vulnerable to impacts associated with the onset of climate change.

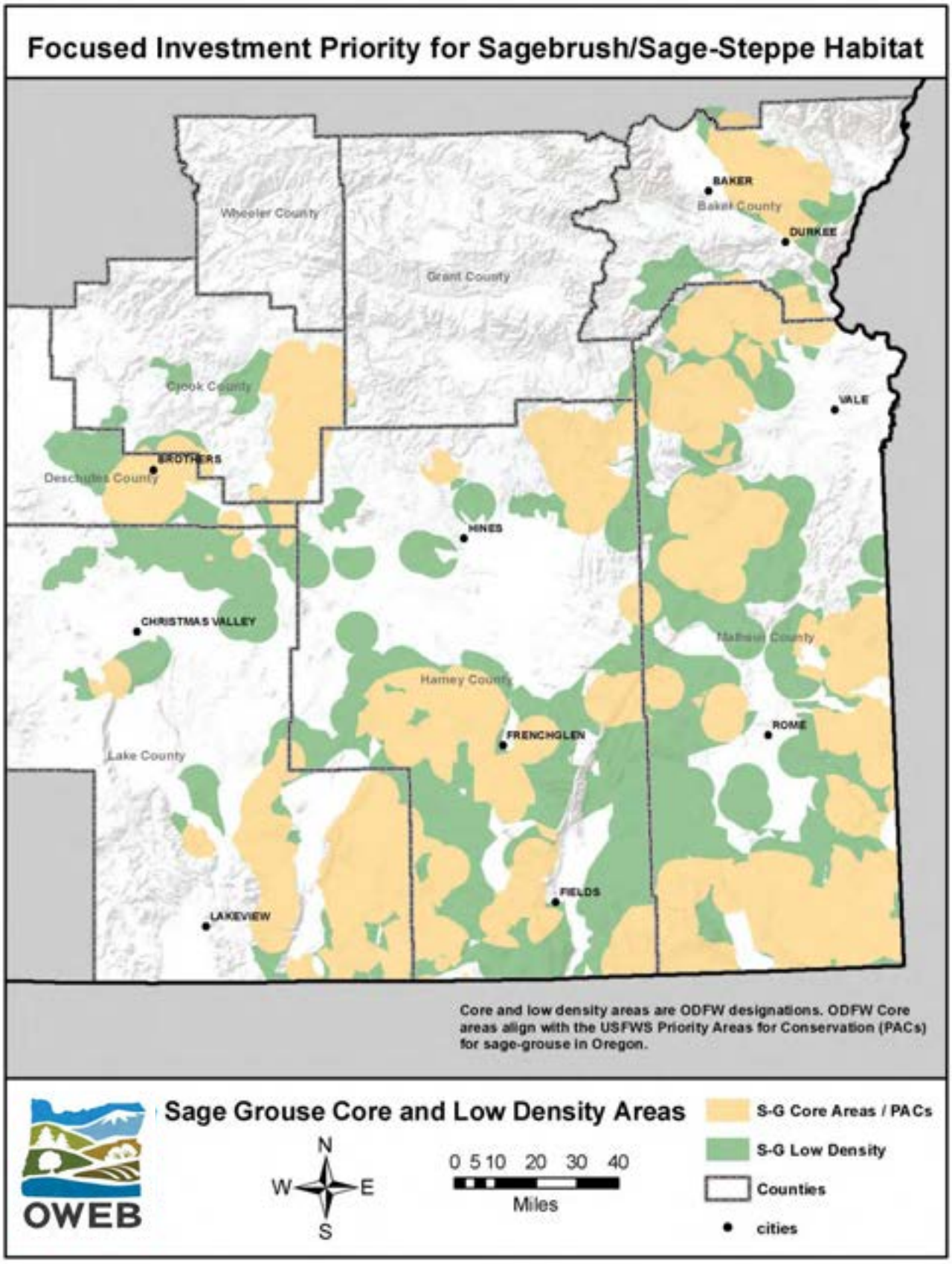
Background

Where it occurs

Sage-steppe habitat occurs throughout eastern Oregon and in parts of Central Oregon. Several ecoregions identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (i.e., Northern Basin and Range, Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau and East Cascades) contain this habitat type.

These habitats are both extensive and diverse. In general, sagebrush habitats occur on dry flats and plains, rolling hills, rocky hill slopes, saddles and ridges where precipitation is low. Sagebrush-steppe is dominated by grasses and forbs (more than 25 percent of the area) with an open shrub layer. In sagebrush steppe, natural fire regimes historically maintained a patchy distribution of shrubs and predominance of grasses. Connectivity corridors of similar habitats between these areas are important to connect otherwise fragmented sage-steppe habitat.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Focused Investment Priority for Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
Wheeler County
Grant County
Baker County
BAKER
DURKEE
Crook County
VALE
BROTHERS
Deschutes County
HINES
CHRISTMAS VALLEY
Malheur County
Harney County
FRENCHGLEN
ROME
Lake County
FIELDS
LAKEVIEW
Core and low density areas are ODFW designations. ODFW Core areas align with the USFWS Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) for sage-grouse in Oregon.
OWEB
Sage Grouse Core and Low Density Areas
N
W
E
S
0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles
S-G Core Areas / PACs
S-G Low Density
Counties
cities

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat
Oregon Conservation Strategy Species associated with sagebrush include Greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, sagebrush lizard, Washington ground squirrel, and pygmy rabbits. Other wildlife closely associated with sagebrush include: black-throated sparrow, sage thrasher, sagebrush vole, and pronghorn.

One particular species supported by sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat—the Greater sage-grouse—currently is being considered for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and would be considered the primary indicator species for identification of priority investments for the Board through the Focused Investment Partnership program. Conservation actions to protect sagebrush/sage-steppe habitats should be designed in way that limits unintended consequences to aquatic habitats in these areas.

Why it is significant to the state
Sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat is an imperiled habitat that supports a range of species. These areas are associated with an economically and socially important ranching and agricultural industry in communities throughout a large portion of the state. The state of Oregon is developing an "Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan" to outline the actions necessary to conserve sage-grouse in Oregon in an effort to proactively avoid ESA- listing of the species. The plan has broad support by state and federal agencies, the ranching industry and conservationists.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Altered fire regimes, which result in changes to native plant communities and increased risk of habitat loss due to intense wildfires;
- Invasive species such as juniper and non-native grasses, which increase the frequency, intensity and extent of wildfires;
- Conversion to other land uses, which results in habitat loss and connectivity; and
- Limitations of current restoration technologies and the need for successful restoration approaches, particularly in low-elevation areas that face severe challenges to native plant species regeneration following wildfire.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) ODFW's Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/)
3) Final report from the Sage-Grouse Conservation Objectives Team (COT) 2013 (http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/sagegrouse/COT/COT-Report-with-Dear-Interested-Reader-Letter.pdf)
4) Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan (in development)

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

FIP Applications/Awards since 2015

FIP Board Priority	Development Applications	Development Awards	Implementation Applications	Implementation Awards	Total by Priority
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	16	7	12	5	40
Coastal Estuaries in Oregon	2	2	1	0	5
Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast	11*	8	3	0	22
Dry-Type Forest Habitat	2	0	3	2	7
Oak Woodland and Prairie	7	4	0	0	11
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands	2	0	1	1	4
Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat	0	0	2	2	4
Total by Type	40	21	22	10	**93**

* *Includes six Coho Business Planning Projects*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
2019 FIP Priorities Reassessment Timeline

September-November 2018
• Staff discusses Priorities reassessment with subcommittee for input. • Staff prepares process and timeline for conducting Priorities reassessment review. • Staff initiates engagement with partnering agencies to assist with Priority review.
November 2018-April 2019
• ODFW conducts Native Fish map update process. ODFW produces a draft map for Staff review by April 30. • ODFW reviews Coho Priority relative to final OCC recovery plan and potential updates to Priority narrative and map. • Staff explores ODF Action Plan for Oregon Forests and coordinates with ODF to scope potential updates to Dry-type forest and/or Oak Woodlands Priorities. • Staff coordinates with ODFW wildlife habitat mapping to update Dry-Forest priority map. • Staff prepares updated Priorities materials: overview of Priority updates, explanation of ODFW's Native Fish mapping process, inventory of funding request/award for FIP Priorities, and Priority generic results chains to include with Priority memos as available.
May-June 2019
• Staff compiles full package of materials for public comment (including materials listed above). • Staff shares package of materials for OWEB review. • Staff shares package of materials for FIP Subcommittee review (June 14 mtg.). • Staff revises package of materials and prepares for release for public comment.
July-August 2019
• July 16-17 OWEB Board Meeting: Staff discuss status of FIP Priorities reassessment. This includes an overview of expectations for presenting final proposed revisions at October board meeting for board approval. • July 18 – August 20 Public Comment: Package of Priorities materials is shared publicly for a minimum 30-day public comment period, including with Oregon Tribes and current FIP grantees.
August-September 2019
• Public comment is considered for additional revisions to updated Priorities. Staff coordinates with ODFW and/or other partners as needed. • Staff prepares final package of materials, including updated Priorities memos, for presentation to board at October meeting for consideration of approval.
October 2019
• October 15-16 OWEB Board Meeting: Staff presents final package of materials, including updated Priorities memos, to OWEB Board for consideration of approval.

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Table summarizing proposed revisions to FIP Board-identified Priorities, June 2019

FIP Priority	Proposed Revisions
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	ODFW reviewed the map in the context of current conservation and recovery plans and consulted with ODFW staff statewide for professional input. Revisions have been made to the following: • Map was revised to focus on 5th field HUCs to increase spatial resolution and improve consistency across the state. • Southwest Oregon basins were assigned priority tiers (previously not designated with priority and identified in aqua color). • Several specific basins were reassessed for priority designation, including Warner, Walla Walla, Pudding, and NW coastal basins containing populations of chum salmon. The Priority memo narrative was updated based on the following: • Stream habitats not covered by state conservation and/or federal recovery plans were also considered in the narrative discussion based on professional judgement of ODFW staff across the state. • Information was reviewed and updated relative to any new and/or revised plans since 2015. • Oregon Tribal plans are referenced relative to conservation/recovery plans guiding native fish conservation efforts. • Lamprey are recognized in the narrative discussion and noted as a benefitting species from conservation work related to this Priority. No lamprey plans were incorporated into the Conservation and Recovery Plans table. The Conservation and Recovery Plans for Native Fish Species table (Table 1) was updated based on the following: • Updated based on new and/or revised plans since 2015. • Added ODFW Rogue Spring Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (2007) and ODFW Conservation Plan for Fall Chinook Salmon in the Rogue Species Management Unit (2013). • Added dates of all plans.
Coastal Estuaries in Oregon	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.
Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast*	The Priority memo narrative has been updated based on NOAA Fisheries having finalizing recovery plans for the Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) and Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery (SONCC) evolutionary significant units (ESUs) since 2015. The Priority memo narrative and map have been updated in anticipation of the planned removal of several major dams on the Klamath River and Coho recolonizing historical habitat in the upper Klamath basin.
Dry-Type Forest Habitat	OWEB Staff worked with ODFW to determine if a species distribution map would align with the existing map illustrating percent of watersheds needing disturbance restoration. After extensive discussion, it was determined not to overlay the species map and to leave the priority map as is. Instead, staff proposes that the Dry-type Forest Habitat priority should be revised to include language that directs FIP applicants under this priority to consider how their actions would benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy Species.
Oak Woodland and Prairie	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.
Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
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Agenda Item Q supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – 2017-2019 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations
July 16-17, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about the agency's development of the 2017-2019 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board will be asked to approve recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office by January 15, 2020.

II. Background

Oregon Revised Statute 541.972 requires OWEB to submit a biennial report that assesses the statewide and regional implementation and effectiveness of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislative Assembly. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, board investments, and recommendations from the board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan, among other topics. Staff will be developing the content to be included in the biennial report over the summer and fall of 2019.

III. OWEB Board Recommendations

Adhering to a similar approach as was used for the last biennial report, staff have been working with the board's executive committee for the last several months to review the 2015-2017 biennial report recommendations by the board found in Attachment A, and draft recommendations for the 2017-2019 Biennial Report. The executive committee supported a concept of building board recommendations for the biennial report based off of OWEB's 2018 Strategic Plan. Staff reviewed content from the strategic plan, and found the introductory board co-chair letter to the plan to contain high-level concepts, based on plan priorities, that could be incorporated into board recommendations for the biennial report. The executive committee reviewed the co-chair letter, and found that with specific examples highlighting actions taken to implement the strategic plan added, that the content would provide a useful framework for the board recommendations to the biennial

report. At the time of writing this staff report, staff have incorporated this input from the Executive Committee into a set of draft recommendations that will be presented to the board for consideration at the July meeting (Attachment B).

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board adopt the final draft recommendations found in Attachment B for inclusion in the 2017-2019 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Attachments

Attachment A. 2015-2017 Oregon Plan Biennial Report Executive Summary

Attachment B. Proposed OWEB Board recommendations for the 2017-2019 Oregon Plan Biennial Report

2015-2017 Biennial Report Executive Summary

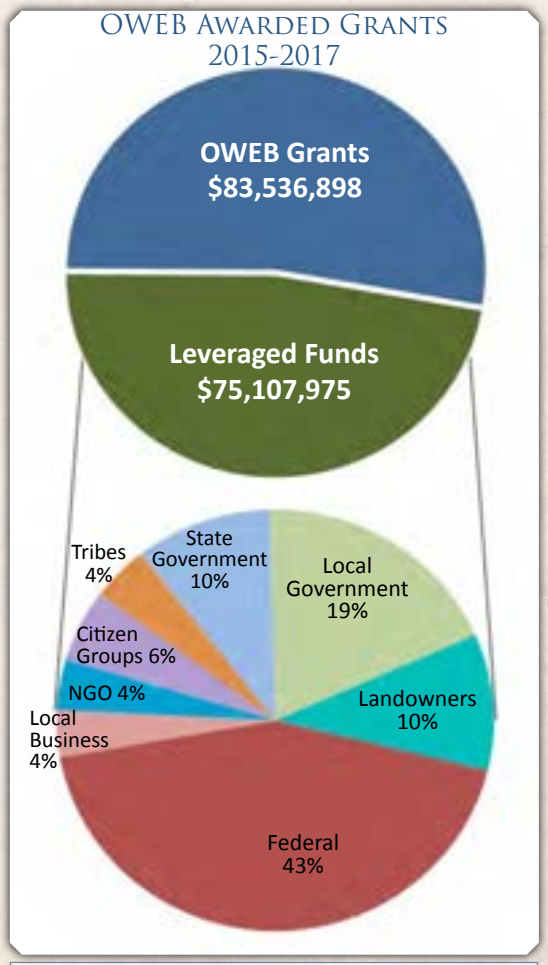
The *Oregon Plan* for Salmon and Watersheds

From rural landowners to urban residents, Oregonians value watersheds as a key to our quality of life in Oregon. This care and commitment helps drive on-the-ground projects that aim to improve water quality and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife. Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (or 'the Oregon Plan') has guided these efforts. The Oregon Plan provides a statewide framework for restoration and conservation of the state's watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats, while at the same time supporting local economies and enriching Oregon's communities through local, voluntary restoration. Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 541.972, the Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2015-2017 biennium. This Executive Summary of the biennial report highlights key investments and accomplishments over the past two years; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners and agencies; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) about future work. The full report can be found on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds website and includes information about each region of the state, as well as additional details about the activities and accomplishments summarized below.

2015-2017 Investments and Accomplishments

Total funding for watershed enhancement projects in Oregon was over $158 million during the 2015-2017 Biennium. This total includes funding provided by OWEB from the Oregon Lottery, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. PCSRF, funded by NOAA Fisheries, remained an important contributor to Oregon's restoration efforts. Significant funding to match these dollars is provided by other funders, agencies, and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding throughout the state.

Partners under the Oregon Plan are as important and diverse as the actions they undertake to benefit salmon and watersheds. These partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, local businesses, individuals, and all levels of government, each contributing to collaborative investments designed to support priority actions across the state.



Grants awarded by OWEB from 7/1/15 to 6/30/17, the amount of leveraged funds contributed by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different categories of participants.

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	245.6	128.8	187	561.4
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	153.6	-	-	153.6
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	142.0	16.6	182.0	340.6
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	91	8	64	163
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	14	-	-	14
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	31	-	-	31
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	68,141.4	-	-	68,141.4
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	2,128.2	-	-	2,128.2
Miles of Road Closures	21.0	1.5	274.0	296.5
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	53.0	111.5	125.0	289.5
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	508.0	-	-	508.0

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/15 to 12/31/16 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Restoration metrics are collected after projects are completed and reported to OWEB. Therefore, there is a lag between the current biennium and the time period for which metrics are available.

Coordinated Agency Actions

Oregon Plan agencies recognize the value of shared approaches. Collaboration across state natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2015-2017 biennium on several key interagency initiatives, including (but are not limited to):

- The Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon), which brings together landowners, agencies, and interest groups to identify and address threats to sagebrush habitats and the species that rely on them, implementing the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan (2015);
- The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, a collaborative effort among multiple state and federal agencies that aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resource outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting;
- Agricultural landowners engaging in innovative and results-oriented water quality improvements with assistance from Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA's) Coordinated Streamside Management and Strategic Implementation Areas initiative;
- Ongoing implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (led by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and the state's Federal Forest Health Program (led by the Oregon Department of Forestry);
- The first update to the Oregon Conservation Strategy in 2016; and
- Initial implementation of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Multi-Species Coastal Management Plan for salmon and other native fish.

Additional information about coordinated actions around the state focused on monitoring water quality and quantity, fish populations, and habitat, are described in the Biennial Report, along with details about other Oregon Plan agency programs.

From the OWEB Board

In the past two biennia, the OWEB Board has made recommendations in four significant investment areas: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Monitoring. During the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB invested significant effort in turning these recommendations into reality, awarding over $13 million in Operating Capacity grants; over $45 million in Open Solicitation grants; nearly $14 million in Focused Investment Partnerships; launching a new online grant application system; and continuing to support monitoring and reporting on all aspects of the Oregon Plan.

The OWEB Board has nearly completed an update to its 2010 Strategic Plan, which provides an opportunity for the agency to strategically look at its programs and granting decisions, and consider how best to address new challenges and seize upon new opportunities over the long term.

As we look toward the future, the Board recommends support of several investment areas and partnerships.

- Continuing to invest in local organizational capacity via OWEB's Operating Capacity grant-making and locally driven, high-priority projects—including working lands approaches on both forestry and agricultural lands around the state—through Open Solicitation grants, along with effectiveness monitoring of these investments.
- Making programmatic investments that contribute to the conservation and recovery of native fish and wildlife and their habitats through coordinated, large-scale programs. Examples include:
  - Investing in future Focused Investment Partnerships and associated monitoring and tracking of progress by these partnerships.
  - Continuing OWEB's commitment to greater sage-grouse habitat restoration by investing at least $10 million in funds between 2015 and 2025.
  - Assisting with implementation of the federal recovery plan for Oregon Coast coho salmon by supporting development of strategic action plans in support of coho restoration work.
- Developing partnerships with other state and federal agencies to improve the use of water-quality data to inform conservation and restoration investments and develop tools to improve water quality and streamside health on agricultural lands. One example is Coordinated Streamside Management, initiated by ODA and OWEB to improve water quality, initially focused on agricultural lands.
- Supporting Oregon's forest health by administering grants to forest health collaboratives in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Supporting Oregon's working farms and ranches in coordination with agriculture and conservation organizations to identify approaches to keep working lands in agriculture while supporting fish, wildlife and other natural resource values. Find more information on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program webpage.

Draft 2017-2019 Biennial Report Board Recommendations

In 2018, the OWEB Board adopted a strategic plan that celebrates all that OWEB and its partners have accomplished over the past 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, the board recommends focusing our efforts, and current and future grant offerings, to address these strategic priorities:

Working with partners such as the Oregon Lottery which is engaged in a state-wide awareness campaign on conservation, we will help Oregonians better understand the relationship between people and watersheds, and provide opportunities for them to improve the health of their own watershed. At the same time, we will ensure that leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians, which begins by listening, learning and gathering information so that new and varied populations are engaged in watershed conservation.

Our board and staff recognize that healthy watersheds are supported by the people who care for them. As we look to the future, OWEB will use its current grant offerings and consider new offerings that support community capacity and strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds, for example the new Partnership Technical Assistance grant offering.

While OWEB is a major investor in healthy watersheds, there are many others with a vested interest in this work. In partnership with agencies, foundations, and the business community, we will help watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio, which includes new, coordinated grant making opportunities with NRCS, ODOT, USFWS and others to leverage investments.

Since our inception, much of the work of our local partners has taken place on private farms, ranches and forestlands. Over the next ten years, we will find ways to improve landowner access to funding and technical support for conservation on their lands, including through Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program grants, ensuring that the value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

We will invest in coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness and increase the capacity to track and communicate the impact of OWEB's grant-making, including continued support for the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership that describes the benefits of cumulative conservation actions among agency partners. Oregon has long been recognized as a leader in its care for the watersheds we call home. Oregonians have chosen to permanently invest in healthy watersheds, which allow local partners the space to test bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds. This includes approving new Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships that implement landscape-scale conservation in watersheds across the state.

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Board Meeting
October 15-16, 2019

Condon, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
October 15-16, 2019

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

Memorial Hall
120 S. Main St.
Condon, OR 97823
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/895KLWM6nguVF98cA

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, I, and K), 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, 2019 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 July 16-17, 2019 meeting in Klamath Falls will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

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

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

D. Public Comment (9:00 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment.

E. Strategic Plan Update (9:15 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will provide a *written* report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation. *Information item.*

F. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (9:25 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on recent developments to OAHP, and will request action on re-appointing Mark Bennett as a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. *Action item.*

G. Director's Update (9:40 a.m.)

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

H. Council Capacity Grants - Technical Correction (10:15 a.m.)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will request board action on establishing an award date of July 1, 2019 on 2019-2021 council capacity grants. *Action item.*

I. Spring 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (10:20 a.m.)

***NOTE*: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 11:30 a.m.**

Introduction
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:30 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, 2019 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 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

J. Focused Investment Partnership Priorities (1:30 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer, Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Native Fish Conservation Coordinator Chris Lorion will lead a discussion on the process for updating board-adopted FIP habitat priorities, and request board approval of the priorities. *Action item.*

Tour – 2:30 p.m.

The board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of a conservation project at Thirtymile Creek, a critical steelhead spawning tributary of the John Day River. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

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:
Memorial Hall
120 S. Main St.
Condon, OR 97823

Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/895KLWM6nguVF98cA

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

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, I, and K,), 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, 2019 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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

This time is reserved for general public comment.

L. OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (8:15 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will lead the board in a facilitated discussion on the subcommittee structure for the board. Deputy Director Renee Davis, Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will join the discussion to provide an OWEB staff perspective. *Action item.*

M. Land Acquisition Grant Program-Time Extensions (9:15 a.m.)

Grant Program Coordinator Eric Williams will provide a progress update on several land acquisition grants, and request the board approve time extensions to allow the grantees to close the transactions. *Action item.*

N. Oregon Water Vision (10:15 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will provide an update, and solicit feedback from the board, on current actions related to Oregon's 100 Year Water Vision. *Information item.*

O. Focused Investment Partnerships-Implementation Monitoring (11:00 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer will describe for the board approaches for monitoring Focused Investment Partnership initiatives, and request the board consider awarding funding for the 2019-2021 biennium to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to assist OWEB in implementation of the previously developed progress monitoring framework for FIPs. *Action item.*

P. Other Business (11:30 a.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 15 at 9:00 a.m., and Wednesday, October 16 at 8:00 a.m.* for any matter before the board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The board encourages persons to limit comments to 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, 2019* 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 Nicki Prather, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to nicki.k.prather@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Nicki Prather as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board of Agriculture*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, W*ater Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Board Co-Chair, Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Anthony Selle, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. Natural Resources 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
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www.oregon.gov/OWEB

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

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Nicki Prather
nicki.k.prather@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2019 Board Meeting Schedule
January 14-16, in Cannon Beach
April 16-17, in Salem
July 16-17, in Klamath Falls
October 15-16, in Condon

2020 Board Meeting Schedule
January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21-22, in Region 5 (TBD)
July 21-22, in Region 3 (TBD)
October 20-21, in Region 4 (TBD)

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

OWEB Strategic Direction 2019

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

Strategic Plan

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

- 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**

- 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**

- 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**

- 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

- 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 farms, ranches, 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**

- 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**

- Invest in landscape restoration over the long-term
- Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies
- Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission



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.

The Approach We Take

We believe that every endeavor is guided by a set of commitments not just about the "why" and the "what," but also the "how." These are the ways we are committed to engaging in our work. This is our approach. These principles modify everything we do.

Our work is characterized by…

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of watershed health
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships



Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment



Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact
- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management – when we see something that's not working, we do something about it



Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Ensuring information is available and accessible to diverse audiences



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

We are dedicated to OWEB's mission and take great pride that our programs support watershed health and empower local communities. Our work is deeply rewarding and we are passionate about what we do. Our team is nimble, adaptable, and forward-thinking, while remaining grounded in the grassroots history of watershed work in Oregon. With a strong understanding of our past, we are strategic about our future. We believe in working hard while keeping our work environment innovative, productive, and fun. We are collaborative, both with each other and with outside partners and organizations, and place great value in continually improving what we do and how we do it.

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Spending Plan as of July 2019	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date	Oct 2019 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Oct 2019 awards	Other $$ Received & Awarded
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration	31.200	0.000	31.200	8.048	23.152	0.000
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	3.100	0.000	3.100	0.991	2.109	
5	CREP TA	1.125	1.125	0.000		0.000	0.250
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.000	1.000	0.245	0.755	0.000
7	Monitoring grants	3.500	0.000	3.500		3.500	0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition	6.750	0.000	6.750		6.750	0.000
10	Acquisition TA	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
11	Weed Grants	3.000	3.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
12	Small Grants	3.300	3.300	0.000		0.000	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278	0.760	0.518		0.518	0.884
14	**TOTAL**	**54.253**	**8.185**	**46.068**	**9.284**	**36.784**	1.134
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**54.73%**					
16	**Focused Investments:**						
17	Deschutes	4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habi	2.180	2.180	0.000		0.000	0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	2.500	2.500	0.000		0.000	0.000
20	Sage Grouse	0.474	0.474	0.000		0.000	0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.000	2.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.777	2.777	0.000		0.000	0.000
23	John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	1.715	1.715	0.000		0.000	0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.000	2.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000	0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.455	3.455	0.000		0.000	0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.450	0.000	0.450	0.150	0.300	0.000
29	**TOTAL**	**27.051**	**26.601**	**0.450**	**0.150**	**0.300**	0.000
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**27.29%**					
31	**Operating Capacity:**						
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	14.416	14.330	0.086		0.086	0.000
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.250	0.250	0.000		0.000	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative	0.200	0.000	0.200		0.200	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.500	0.000	0.500		0.500	0.000
36	**TOTAL**	**15.366**	**14.580**	**0.786**	**0.000**	**0.786**	0.000
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**15.50%**					
38	**Other:**						
39	CREP	0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	0.700	0.000	0.700		0.700	0.000
42	**TOTAL**	**2.450**	**1.750**	**0.700**	**0.000**	**0.700**	0.000
43	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**2.47%**					
44	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**99.120**	**51.116**	**48.004**	**9.434**	**38.570**	**1.134**
45	**OTHER DIRECTED**						
46	ODFW - PCSRF	11.690	11.690	0.000		0.000	
47	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.321	0.321	0.000		0.000	
48	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000	0.500
49	**TOTAL**	**12.011**	**12.011**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	0.500
50	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds**	**111.131**	**63.127**	**48.004**	**9.434**	**38.570**	1.634

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 16, 2019 Board Meeting

Oregon Institute of Technology – College Union Building
Crater Lake Complex – Mazama/Scott Rooms
3201 Campus Drive
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Coordes, Regan
Lee, Jan

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
McAlister, Liza Jane

VACANT
Fish and Wildlife Commission

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:05:35)
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 April Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:43:56)
The minutes of the April 16-17, 2019 meeting in Salem were presented to the board for approval.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the April 16-17, 2019 meeting in Salem. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:45:00)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:45:05)
Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates to the full board on the recent topics discussed in subcommittee calls.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 0:52:33)
Will Neuhauser, came before the board to discuss global warming and its impact on water infrastructure. He would like the board to elevate these topics into OWEB's future planning and funding decisions.

Kris Knight, representing Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, came before the board to introduce himself. Kris shared information on some of the "Stage 0" restoration projects the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council is working on, and encourages continued support of monitoring efforts on this restoration type.

Kathy Dombi, representing the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, came before the board to provide an update on projects and to thank the board for its support.

Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) came before the board to share the State of the Lands Report, and provide updates on COLT activities.

E. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (Audio = 1:11:08)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on recent developments to OAHP, and requested action on appointing an ex-officio member of the board to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

> Co-Chair Jason Robison moved the board appoint Barbara Boyer to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission as ex-officio member. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:18:25)

F. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 1:23:38)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden led the board in an annual review of OWEB's strategic plan that was adopted in 2018, and requested action on proposed minor edits to the document.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the additions to the 'Approach We Take' portion of the strategic plan. The motion was seconded by Molly Kile. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:45:53)

G. Water Acquisitions Grants Rules (OAHP) (Audio = 1:46:20)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein requested the board authorize rulemaking for the water acquisitions grant program.

Co-chair Jason Robison moved the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grants. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:06:00)

H. 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan (Audio = 2:08:50)

Following an introduction by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden on the proposed OWEB spending plan for the 2019-2021 biennium, the board heard presentations on spending plan items from: the Oregon Department of Forestry, Federal Forest Restoration Program Lead, Phil Chang on forest collaboratives; Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Executive Director, Debrah Marriott on the work of the organization; and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Native Fish Conservation Coordinator, Chris Lorion on monitoring efforts supported by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. After the presentations, Director Loftsgaarden led a discussion with the board on the proposed 2019-2021 biennium spending plan.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 2:16:54):

Jan Lee, representing the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, came before the board to advocate for the Governor's priority line item in the spending plan, and in particular to support efforts to coordinate on sage-grouse conservation.

Jason Robison moved the board approve requests outlined in the 'Carry forward' and '2019 Spending Plan Requests' columns of Attachment A to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:09:53)

Jason Robison moved the board approve tables 1-3 of Attachment C to the staff report regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the spending plan, with the amendment to the start date for the Governor's Priorities changed from 2017 to 2019. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:10:17)

I. Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District Grant Amendment Request (Audio = 4:10:55)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams introduced Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Justin Ferrell, who requested the board approve an amendment to OWEB grant #217-4017, Lake County Sage-grouse Conservation.

Co-chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve an award date of January 1, 2016 for grant #217-4017, and reduce the award to $28,571. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. (Audio = 4:34:59)

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved to amend the motion, for the board to approve an award date of January 1, 2016, retaining the awarded amount of $50,000, for grant #217-4017. The motion amendment was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion amendment passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:36:57)

Co-chair Randy Labbe moved the board approve the amended motion. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:38:31)

J. Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring Funding Request (Audio = 4:38:42)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board provide funding for Stage 0 Restoration effectiveness monitoring.

> Co-chair Jason Robison moved the board award up to $360,000 for monitoring and information sharing for Stage 0 restoration with funds from the Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the OWEB spending plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 16, 2019. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:08:20)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 17, 2019 Board Meeting

Oregon Institute of Technology – College Union Building
Crater Lake Complex – Mazama/Scott Rooms
3201 Campus Drive
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

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

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Coordes, Regan
Lee, Jan

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Kile, Molly

VACANT
Fish and Wildlife Commission

K. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:26)

Kelley Beamer, Jan Lee, and Karlene McCabe, representing the Oregon Conservation Partnership, came before the board to share an overview update on Partnership activities.

Clair Klock, representing Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, came before the board to comment on board discussion from previous day.

L. 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant Awards (Audio = 0:00:58)

L-1. Council Capacity Guidance for Merger Funding

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff came before the board to discuss OWEB's council capacity merger funding policy and staff recommendations for board adoption of the guidance.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 0:46:54):
Bob Jones, representing Rogue River Watershed Council, came before the board to speak in support of Agenda Item L-1, council capacity merger funding.

Ken Bierly, representing Glenn Gibson Creek Watershed Council and Rickreall Watershed Council, came before the board to speak about council capacity Agenda Item L-2, funding for the Glenn Gibson Creek Watershed Council.

> Co-chair Randy Labbe moved the board adopt the guidance for merger funding as described in Attachment A to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:21:11)

L-2. Council Capacity Grant Awards
Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff came before the board to discuss the 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grant offering process and present staff recommendations for grant awards to 57 watershed councils for $7.165 million, with two councils not being recommended for funding.

> Co-chair Randy Labbe moved the board award Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C to the staff report with amendment that all grant numbers are preceded by "220". The motion was seconded by Brenda McComb. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:44:00)

M. Rogue Forest Initiative Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Geography Change Request (Audio = 1:45:07)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided to the board a request by the Rogue Forest Initiative FIP to update the initiative's geography.

> Co-chair Jason Robison moved the board approve the proposed geography change for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative Focused Investment Partnership as described in Attachment A to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:52:30)

N. OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (Audio = 1:53:10)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein led the board in a facilitated discussion on the subcommittee structure for the board. Deputy Director Renee Davis, Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams joined the discussion to provide an OWEB staff perspective.

O. Director's Update (Audio = 3:00:49)
O-1: Washington DC Update (Audio = 3:00:49) Co-Chair Jason Robinson and Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reported to the board on a trip taken to Washington DC with Curry Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Liesl Coleman. They met with all members of the state's congressional delegation and key leaders from federal agencies to discuss support for the combined federal-state agency work that is a hallmark of Oregon's conservation approach.

O-2: Budget and Legislative Update (Audio =3:05:44) Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein discussed with the board the 2019 legislative session, which included passage of OWEB's 2019-2021 budget, and how the agency will coordinate with Business Oregon on an end-of-session bill providing funding for tide gate infrastructure repair and replacement to Business Oregon.

O-3 OWEB's Online Systems (Audio = 3:12:58)
Deputy Director Renee Davis reported on a systems update to the board, including a new suite of grant application types, refinements to existing online applications, and project management tools.

P. FIP Priorities (Audio = 3:25:21)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein led a discussion on the process for updating board-adopted FIP habitat priorities.

Q. 2017-2019 Oregon Plan Biennial Report: Update and Approval of Board Recommendations (Audio = 3:40:47)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the agency's development of the 2017-2019 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Hartstein asked the board to adopt recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office.

> Co-chair Jason Robison moved the board adopt the final draft recommendations found in Attachment B to the staff report for inclusion in the 2017-2019 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds with the addition of inclusion of references to work on state and federal lands, benefits to local economies, and work with tribal nations. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:48:58)

The meeting was adjourned at 12: 15 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

October 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

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

Background
The Focused Investment Subcommittee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP).

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on September 13 and the discussion is summarized below:

- The subcommittee discussed proposed revisions to the board-designated ecological priorities including Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast, Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, Coastal Estuaries, and Dry-Type Forest Habitat (see agenda item J). The subcommittee then reviewed and provided feedback on the public comment that was received, as well as staff response to individual comments.
- The subcommittee was informed the Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration initiative is close to having its third biennium award obligated in project-level grant agreements. Once this occurs, this partnership will be the first to complete an OWEB implementation FIP.
- The subcommittee heard updates on the draft solicitation schedule for the 2021-2023 biennium. The draft schedule includes:
    - Solicitation beginning in January 2020;
    - For partnerships interested in applying, participating in a required consultation with OWEB staff in spring 2020;
    - Proposals due in late June-early July 2020;
    - Technical and capacity review occurring throughout summer 2020;
    - Subcommittee interview of partnerships in November 2020;
    - Board selection of new 2021-2023 FIP initiatives in January 2021; and
    - Board award of 2021-2023 FIP initiatives in July 2021.

To be presented at the October 2019 Board meeting by Jason Robison, Chair.

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

October 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Debbie Hollen, Molly Kile, Jason Robison

Background
The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring: Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes, Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter
The subcommittee met on July 23 and September 10, 2019. A primary focus of the meetings was planning for and discussion of the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) process for monitoring grant administrative rules. In April 2019, the board approved convening of a RAC to advise OWEB as it updates the monitoring grant rules. During the July subcommittee meeting, staff described representation for the RAC and obtained input from subcommittee members about focus areas and discussion topics to be addressed during the rulemaking process. During the September subcommittee meeting, staff updated the group about the first meeting of the RAC, which included an overview of rulemaking processes, an introduction to OWEB's monitoring related investments, and initial discussion about such sections of administrative rules as purpose and evaluation criteria.

Also, at the September meeting, staff introduced to the subcommittee for consideration the concept of post-FIP reporting by Implementation FIPs following the formal, 6-year investment by OWEB. The rationale for this concept is to ensure the board and other interested parties continue to be able to track progress toward ecological outcomes, which can take years to evolve, following the formal, 6-year funding period for FIPs. Subcommittee members provided initial feedback and questions for consideration as staff continue to scope this topic. They also expressed interest in a joint meeting with the Focused Investment board subcommittee to further flesh out this concept.

Other discussion topics and updates to the subcommittee included:

- Status update about "Telling the Restoration Story" investments and feedback from the subcommittee about sharing these products with the full board; and
- Status updates about the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, the Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, FIP supplemental monitoring funding, FIP progress tracking reports, Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program performance tracking, the retrospective evaluation of capacity investments, outreach about the tide gate report recommendations, tide gate restoration programmatic effectiveness monitoring, and monitoring of and shared learnings from Stage 0 restoration projects.

The group is scheduled to meet again on November 19, 2019.

To be presented at the October 2019 Board meeting by Alan Henning, Chair.

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

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item E supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Strategic Plan Update
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

II. Background

In June, 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the quarterly update of the strategic plan. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, July to September 2019

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress
QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – July-September 2019

- Black text describes progress on actions and measures for the current quarter, along with the associated strategies, outputs and outcomes.
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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
2. Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)

- Engaged the Oregon Conservation Partnership (OCP) to do a press release about the recent $15 M Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund award to the State of Oregon via OWEB.
- My Oregon News, *https://www.myoregon.gov/*, has cumulatively shared five stories featuring OWEB grantees.

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:
  - are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed;
  - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;
  - understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.

Near-term measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with 2,152 YouTube views (accessed 9/5/2019).
- 39 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -August 2019).

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.

Priority 2 - Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

Strategies

1. Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations
2. Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
3. Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)

- The Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians presented training at the August OWEB All-staff meeting, sharing information about their tribal government structure, cultural resources and environmental protection and restoration program.
- Sent six staff to the 2019 Oregon Diversity Conference
- Staff engagement:
  - A staff Lunch & Learn featured Oregon Public Broadcasting's "Logger's Daughter" documentary
  - Activity to practice communicating OWEB's mission using language appropriate to the needs of diverse audiences

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:

- Staff has participated in 258 hours of training (July 2018-September 2019).

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.

Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategies

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	
1. Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	- Staff finalized a Request for Proposals to secure a consultant to complete design and implementation of the retrospective evaluation of OWEB's capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.	- 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.	- 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:** - Under development **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	- OWEB staff participated in place-based planning 'learning and discussion' session, hosted by Water Resources Department and the Ford Family Foundation, to cultivate learning circles and build capacity of place-based planning groups around the state.			
3. Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	- OWEB continues to support the Tide Gate Partnership's work with state and federal agencies related to agency coordination and communication on tidegate permitting.			

Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategies

	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	
1. Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	- OWEB is taking a leading role to support the Governor's office in the roll-out of Oregon's 100-year water vision, including participating in the launch of the vision at the 2019 Oregon Coastal Caucus Economic Summit in August. - Mitigation sub-group made recommendations to Water Core Team for near-term actions that aim to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Oregon Department of Transportation's mitigation investments and Department of State Land's in-lieu fee program. A statewide mitigation group is proposed to be convened by Core Team to explore options for a comprehensive approach to strategically invest mitigation funding in high-quality restoration. - Entered into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for federal funding to be provided to OWEB in order to enter into grant agreements with soil and water conservation districts involved in enrolling landowners in Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances toward conservation of sage-grouse. These grant agreements will help provide capacity to the districts to engage in long-term monitoring efforts.	- 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 can partner.	- 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				
3. Explore creative funding	-			

	opportunities and partnerships with the private sector		- 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.		
	4. Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources	- Continued engagement with the state's process to update the Oregon climate adaptation framework, including options for oversight and coordination of the agency implementation of adaptation actions. - Helped support Business Oregon to develop a new grant program for tidegate repair and replacement related to infrastructure.			
Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health					
Strategies	1. Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission met to review the feasibility analysis of valuing conservation management plans and investigate future funding strategies.	**So That:** (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.	**To Make This Difference:** (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.	**Near-term measure:** - Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance. **Potential impact measure:** - 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	- Presented information on Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) to Regional Review Teams 2, 3, 4 and 5 to increase understanding about how SIA restoration projects to improve water quality fit into OWEB's funding priorities. - A targeted set of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) received SIA Technical Assistance grants for activities to support coordinated streamside management, including conservation planning on farms to address water quality issues.			
	5. Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations	- Opened solicitation for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance grants to support costs associated with local CREP program implementation. The CREP program restores, maintains, and enhances streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality.			
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness					
	1. Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Staff worked with seven "Telling the Restoration Story" grantees to continue outreach product development, with expected deliverables available in November 2019. - Engaged the John Day Middle Fork IMW Working Group to update the private landowner brochure with recent findings and distributed the restoration practitioner fact sheet to state, federal and tribal agencies through Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership. - Convened the annual meeting of the Conservation Effectiveness	**So That:** (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 resources that describe restoration investment	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies	Near-term measure: - Four outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-September 2019). Potential impact measure: - Increased public awareness about

		Partnership (CEP) with member agencies (Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality, and OWEB) and advisor agency (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) directors to review progress, reflect on the role of CEP, and develop a vision for the coming year of collaborative work.	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.	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.
	2. Invest in monitoring over the long term				
	3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- Partnered with OrCP to co-host a webinar on drones to describe how emerging technology is being used to document changes associated with restoration actions, included speakers from Gilliam SWCD, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, and Oregon State University. - Convened CREP technicians to discuss monitoring and reporting for CREP performance and outcome tracking. - Three local SIA monitoring teams convened their first meetings. ODA and OWEB are developing technical resources to SIA project leaders to facilitate their monitoring efforts.			
	4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Staff met with OWEB Region 2 practitioners to learn about restoration and monitoring challenges and successes with tidegate removal and replacement.			
	5. Define monitoring priorities				
	6. Develop and promote a monitoring framework				

Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

		In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	**So That:** (outputs)	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes)	**Near-term measure:**
Strategies	1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	- Pre-application consultations occurred for the new Partnership Technical Assistance grant that provides funding to create a new or enhance an existing strategic action plan and supports partnership capacity. - Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed an Adaptive Management Guidance document to support local partners and Focused Investment Partnership grantees to apply adaptive management strategies to complex, landscape-level restoration. - The five new I-FIP partnerships: John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative, Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction, Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative, Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative, and Clackamas Partnership Restoration for Native Fish Recovery received funding awards, initiated activities, and organized technical review teams.	- 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.	- 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~~ at evaluating risk. - OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.	- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan. Potential impact measure: - 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	- Board approval of a programmatic monitoring funding request for Stage 0 restoration monitoring and information sharing. The scope includes the following: monitoring of Stage 0 projects in South Fork McKenzie River, Upper Willamette Basin and Upper Deschutes Basin; data compilation and synthesis of existing knowledge; and workshops to convene stakeholders.			

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	5. Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations	- Opened solicitation for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance grants to support costs associated with local CREP program implementation. The CREP program restores, maintains, and enhances streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality.			
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness					
	1. Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Staff worked with seven "Telling the Restoration Story" grantees to continue outreach product development, with expected deliverables available in November 2019. - Engaged the John Day Middle Fork IMW Working Group to update the private landowner brochure with recent findings and distributed the restoration practitioner fact sheet to state, federal and tribal agencies through Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership. - Convened the annual meeting of the Conservation Effectiveness	**So That:** (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 resources that describe restoration investment	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies	Near-term measure: - Four outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-September 2019). Potential impact measure: - Increased public awareness about

		Partnership (CEP) with member agencies (Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Department of Environmental Quality, and OWEB) and advisor agency (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife) directors to review progress, reflect on the role of CEP, and develop a vision for the coming year of collaborative work.	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.	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.
	2. Invest in monitoring over the long term				
	3. Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- Partnered with OrCP to co-host a webinar on drones to describe how emerging technology is being used to document changes associated with restoration actions, included speakers from Gilliam SWCD, Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission, and Oregon State University. - Convened CREP technicians to discuss monitoring and reporting for CREP performance and outcome tracking. - Three local SIA monitoring teams convened their first meetings. ODA and OWEB are developing technical resources to SIA project leaders to facilitate their monitoring efforts.			
	4. Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Staff met with OWEB Region 2 practitioners to learn about restoration and monitoring challenges and successes with tidegate removal and replacement.			
	5. Define monitoring priorities				
	6. Develop and promote a monitoring framework				

Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

		In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	**So That:** (outputs)	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes)	**Near-term measure:**
Strategies	1. Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	- Pre-application consultations occurred for the new Partnership Technical Assistance grant that provides funding to create a new or enhance an existing strategic action plan and supports partnership capacity. - Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed an Adaptive Management Guidance document to support local partners and Focused Investment Partnership grantees to apply adaptive management strategies to complex, landscape-level restoration. - The five new I-FIP partnerships: John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative, Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction, Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative, Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative, and Clackamas Partnership Restoration for Native Fish Recovery received funding awards, initiated activities, and organized technical review teams.	- 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.	- 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~~ at evaluating risk. - OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.	- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan. Potential impact measure: - 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	- Board approval of a programmatic monitoring funding request for Stage 0 restoration monitoring and information sharing. The scope includes the following: monitoring of Stage 0 projects in South Fork McKenzie River, Upper Willamette Basin and Upper Deschutes Basin; data compilation and synthesis of existing knowledge; and workshops to convene stakeholders.			

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Agenda Item F supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: Working Lands.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Background

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (commission) is appointed by the board, and is authorized by statute to recommend grant projects for succession planning, conservation management plans, and conservation easements and covenants on working lands. This staff report provides an update on Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program activities, and provides a recommendation to the board to reappoint Mark Bennett to the commission.

II. Valuing Conservation Management Plan Implementation

At its September 24 meeting, the commission discussed a report submitted by Highland Economics that analyzed the feasibility of valuing conservation management plan implementation, and funding strategies for the working land grant programs authorized in statute. The approach used in the report reviewed the biophysical effects of conservation practices and the economic value of these biophysical effects. The biophysical effects and economic values were assessed for:

- Water quality
- Carbon dioxide
- Water quantity
- Functional habitat.

The conservation practices selected for analysis are those that have the potential to provide significant environmental benefits, and are based on Natural Resources Conservation Service effectiveness ratings. The commission expressed preference for valuation methodologies that are fair, transparent, relatively easy to use, and that have a high degree of certainty.

In addition to the criteria expressed by the commission, Highland's feasibility analysis added the methodologies should result in a reasonable level of accuracy such that the public will, with a reasonable level of certainty, receive benefits at least equal to payments made.

Overall feasibility ratings were developed for a suite of conservation management practices. The ratings are a composite of three feasibility factors: 1) the availability of transparent,

accepted, and reasonably accurate tools/methods to quantify biophysical estimates in an easy to use and understandable manner; 2) the inclusion of a particular agricultural conservation practice by each biophysical quantification tool/method; and 3) availability of published (or derived) economic values for the environmental benefit type as quantified by biophysical tools.

The feasibility of a valuation methodology for carbon was rated high across all key conservation measures. Riparian and wetland habitats were rated high; grassland, woodland, and sage-grouse habitats were rated medium to low. Water quantity benefits related to irrigation methods, land leveling, and water made available for wildlife were rated high. Water quality was rated medium for all key conservation measures except animal waste management, for which there is little available quantification of biophysical effects.

III. Budget

The 2019-2021 budget adopted by the legislature did not include funds for the OAHP. At its September 24 meeting, the OAHC discussed desired principles in developing a funding strategy for its programs.

IV. Commission Reappointment

By statute, the commission is nested under the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board is tasked with appointing commissioners. The commission was established in 2018, with four-year terms that were initially staggered from one to four years. Commissioner Mark Bennett of Unity represents natural resources interests on the commission, and his initial two-year term expires in January 2020. Commissioner Bennett is interested in serving another term on the commission.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board reappoint Mark Bennett to the Oregon Agricultural Commission for a four-year term.

October 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-1: Key Performance Measures Reporting

This update describes this year's Key Performance Measures (KPM) reporting.

Background

As part of the agency's Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) to the Oregon Legislature, OWEB reports on a number of KPMs. These metrics are part of an approach to measure performance and outcomes of state government. Measures must: gauge progress toward agency's goals and mission; identify performance targets to be achieved during the two-year budget cycle; use accurate and reliable data sources; and measure customer satisfaction.

During the 2017 legislative session, OWEB requested significant updates to its KPMs to ensure the metrics are appropriate measures of the agency's progress toward its mission and able to quantify performance of its business processes.

Results of 2019 APPR

This year is the third year of OWEB's reporting on the new slate of KPMs. Results submitted in the 2019 APPR are listed below, with comparisons to 2018 shown in parentheses.

Operations – Percentage of total funding used in agency operations, with a target of 11%
- **2019 result = 9.88% (2018 = 10.3%)**

Payments – Percentage of complete grant payment requests paid within 24 days, with a target of 100%
- **2019 result = 100% (2018 = 100%)**

Customer Service – Percent of customers rating their satisfaction with the agency's customer service as "good" or "excellent": overall customer service, timeliness, accuracy (provide information correctly the first time), helpfulness, knowledge and expertise of employees, and availability of information, with a target of 91% for each measure
- **2019 results: Overall = 92.5% (2018 = 93%); Timeliness = 86.7% (2018 = 88 %); Accuracy = 91.7% (2018 = 91.3%); Helpfulness = 96% (2018 = 95.6 %); Expertise = 95.6% (2018 = 94.5%); Availability of Information = 83.7% (2018 = 80.3%)**

Fish Populations – Percentage of monitored native fish species that exhibit increasing or stable levels of abundance, with a target of 75%
- **2019 result = 71% (2018 = 71%)**

Funding from Other Sources – Percent of funds contributed from other sources on OWEB-funded restoration projects, with a target of 40%
- **2019 result = 60.2% (2018 = 66.8%)**

Grant-Making Across Oregon – Percent of Oregon's 76 sub-basins (defined as 8-digit hydrologic unit code areas) within which Oregonians benefit from OWEB's grant programs, with a target of 90%
- **2019 result = 97.37% (2018 = 93.42%)**

Timeliness of Grant-Making – Percent of open solicitation grant agreements executed within one month after board award, with a target of 95%
- **2019 result = 26.67% (2018 = 18.13%)**

Watershed Council Governance – Percent of OWEB funded watershed councils that demonstrate effective organizational governance and management using OWEB merit criteria, with a target of 100%

- **2019 result = 100% (2018 = not reported due to timing of funding cycle)**

Streamside Habitat – Number of riparian miles restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 233.7 miles

- **2019 result = 203 miles (2018 = 242 miles)**

Native Fish Habitat Quantity – Miles of fish habitat opened as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 138.8 miles

- **2019 result = 131 miles (2018 = 179.2 miles)**

Upland Habitat – Acres of upland habitat restored or enhanced as a result of OWEB-funded grants, with a target of 47,560 acres

- **2019 result = 52,188 acres (2018 = 42,984 acres)**

Native Species Habitat and Water Quality – Percent of restoration, acquisition or technical assistance funding invested to address habitat for threatened, endangered or species of concern, or water-quality concerns identified on 303(d) listed streams, with a target of 90%

- **2019 result = 96.2% (2018 = 89.3%)**

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

October 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-2: Focused Investment Partnerships

This update briefs the board on items related to the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program.

Background

The FIP program continues to evolve several years after the first grant awards were made in 2016. The 2019-2021 biennium marks the third and final biennium of awards for the original cohort of FIP partnerships that were awarded in 2016. OWEB also is in the process of reassessing the board-identified FIP priorities of significance to the state for the first time in the program's history. This update discusses two items related to these program milestones.

Board-Identified FIP Priorities Results Chains

Over the past two biennia, OWEB has been working in partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) on FIP program development and assessment (see Agenda Item O). As part of this work, BEF has engaged with each Implementation FIP to create results chains that illustrate the connections between habitat/species limiting factors and conservation strategies, outputs, and outcomes. Results chains serve as a means to measure and communicate progress toward achieving ecological outcomes and as a tool to inform adaptive management of FIP restoration initiatives by partnerships.

OWEB and BEF are developing results chains for each of the seven board-identified FIP priorities of significance to the state. The FIP program requires that FIP restoration initiatives fall under one or more of these priorities (see Agenda Item J). The full set of priority results chains will be available in early 2020, at which time staff and BEF partners will present them to the board. However, given the board's discussion of FIP priorities at the October 2019 board meeting, staff have provided an example of a completed priority results chains. Attachment A to this report is the results chain for the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat priority.

First Completed FIP

The Ashland Forest All-land Restoration initiative will be the first Implementation FIP to have the final biennium's award obligated in project-level grant agreements. This is an important milestone in the FIP program, and worth noting to the board. Once a FIP initiative has the final biennium's board award obligated in project-level grant agreements, OWEB considers the FIP "completed", although it is acknowledged that project implementation will take additional time as will broader monitoring efforts to gauge the ecological uplift accomplished through the FIP initiative.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator, at andrew.dutterer@oregon.gov or 503-986-0034 or Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. FIP Board-identified Priority Theory of Change Diagram – Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

THEORY OF **CHANGE**

Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Size and spatial extent of sage-grouse populations is increased

Movement of sage-grouse between vital resources, breeding locations and populations is enhanced

Sage-grouse habitat connectivity is increased and maintained

Connectivity of desired plant communities is increased across the landscape

Habitat providing nesting cover and food for sage-grouse is restored



Greater sage-grouse

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Post-fire plant community recovery favors desired plant species

Native and desired plant species outcompete invasive grasses

Avian predator populations are reduced to natural ranges

The frequency of high-intensity fires is reduced

Woodland type plant communities decrease

Extent of perennial bunch grasses and forbs is increased and their condition is improved

Suppressed understory vegetation and water resources are released

Artificial avian predator perches and food resources are reduced

Mortality of sage-grouse and other native species is reduced

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

Treatments to control invasive grasses and prevent their spread are implemented

Grazing management plans are developed and carried out

Juniper are removed from sage-grouse habitat

Artificial food sources, nesting and perching structures, and avian predators are identified and reduced

Fences in high risk collision areas are marked

Wildlife escape ramps are installed in livestock watering troughs

STRATEGIES

1 **Control Invasive Grasses & Weeds**

2 **Support Sustainable Grazing Practices**

3 **Remove Juniper**

4 **Reduce Human Influenced Mortality**

5 **Outreach & Engagement**

Landowner outreach to increase awareness of sage-grouse habitat enhancement programs is conducted

Private landowner enrollment in voluntary sage-grouse habitat enhancement programs increases

Outreach and engagement foster public values that recognize the importance of sage-grouse habitats and enable the implementation of the above strategies.

0 YEARS ..... 10 ..... 20+ YEARS

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, February 2019.

October 15-16, 2019 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-3: Salmon License Plates

This Item updates the plan to update Oregon's Salmon License Plate in partnership with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and provides the final design to the board.

Background

Oregon's current salmon license plates were approved in 1999. Salmon license plate revenues are distributed equally between the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) and OWEB. Over the last few biennia, salmon plate revenues to OWEB have averaged $483,000. Those funds are invested directly in OWEB grants that support salmon habitat, or removing barriers to salmon migration.

Developing a New Salmon License Plate

To coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Salmon License Plate, OWEB and OPRD staff worked with the Oregon Department of Transportation's Department of Motor Vehicles, and the Oregon Lottery through a process to select a new salmon license plate design.

Next steps

The design has been selected and staff will present it to the board at the October meeting. It will be presented to the State Parks Board in November. Staff are in the process of developing a marketing strategy to promote the new plate while also supporting those who continue to want the current salmon plate. The board will be updated on the marketing strategy at the January 2020 board meeting after it is finalized.

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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Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Council Capacity Grant Technical Correction
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At the July 2019 meeting the board awarded the 2019-2021 Council Capacity Grants. This staff report requests the board make a technical correction to the award date of these grants.

II. Background

Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds. These grants have historically run for 25 months, for example from July 1, 2017-July 31, 2019.

III. Technical Correction

The July staff report to the board and associated funding recommendation referenced funding councils for the full biennium (which begins July 1); however the motion recommended by staff was silent on the start date of the grants. Without a specific date included in the motion the default start date is always the date of board action, in this case, July 17, 2019. The staff intent, as in all previous council capacity awards, was for a July 1, 2019 start date so councils can begin billing at the beginning of the biennium. A July 17, 2019 start date would create a hardship for many councils who have planned to bill many organizational expenses to the council capacity grant beginning July 1, 2019.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board make a retroactive technical correction to the award date of 2019-2021 Council Capacity grants to July 1, 2019.

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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Spring 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2019 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 36 restoration grants, 18 technical assistance grants, and 7 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Spring 2019 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

A total of 133 applications were received requesting $18.3 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, one application (220-2001) was withdrawn by the applicant.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant applications for review to the agency's 6 Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled site visits to as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited to 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. 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. Salmon License Plate Projects

Using the board's 2015 policy related to projects funded with Salmon License Plate dollars, staff recommend distributing $240,000 for this offering to three projects listed in Attachment B.

IV. 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 that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. For the Spring 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, one project (220-5002) recommended for funding meets these criteria, requesting $143,454. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is $7,747,130. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new four-year total will be $7,890,584, including investments through the Focused Investment Partnership Program.

V. Funding Recommendations

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

Table 1: 2019-21 Spending Plan and Spring 2019 Grant Offering Staff Funding Recommendations

Grant Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Grant Funds Available	Staff Recommendations	Recommended Grant Funds Remaining
Restoration	$31,200,000	$0	$31,200,000	$8,047,622	$23,152,378
Technical Assistance	$3,100,000	$0	$3,100,000	$991,132	$2,108,868
Monitoring	$3,500,000	$0	$3,500,000	n/a	$3,500,000
Stakeholder Engagement	$1,000,000	$0	$1,000,000	$245,429	$754,571
TOTAL	$38,800,000	$0	$38,800,000	$9,284,183	$29,515,817

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2019-2021 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment C includes 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.

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
April 29, 2019 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	3	7	13	23
Region 2	2	11	18	31
Region 3	2	5	14	21
Region 4	3	8	9	20
Region 5	0	1	23	24
Region 6	3	4	7	14
Totals	13	36	84	133

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	83,908	402,267	3,999,306	$4,485,481
Region 2	101,396	654,873	4,304,488	$5,060,757
Region 3	159,479	177,939	2,847,878	$3,185,296
Region 4	76,395	492,242	1,804,346	$2,372,983
Region 5	0	37,783	2,139,777	$2,177,560
Region 6	109,683	178,768	737,811	$1,026,262
Totals	$530,861	$1,943,872	$15,833,606	$18,308,339

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Spring 2019 Grant Offering Salmon License Plate Projects

Application #	Title	Project Objectives	Total OWEB Grant	Salmon License Plate Contribution
220-1006	Peterson Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Improvement	A fish barrier will be replaced with a bridge on Peterson Creek, a tributary of the Miami River in Tillamook County that provides important habitat for salmon and lamprey. Access will be restored to over 6 miles of stream habitat.	$372,300	$80,000
220-1012	Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project, Phase 5	This project completes the final phase of a 10-year collaborative landscape-level floodplain restoration project in the Tahkenitch Lake basin south of Florence. Activities to be completed include stream channel reconstruction and native plant revegetation.	$362,704	$80,000
220-2003	Tioga Creek Instream & Fish Passage Restoration	Coho salmon habitat structures will be placed in two miles of Tioga Creek and three fish barriers will be replaced to provide access to fish habitat.	$448,377	$80,000
			Total	**$240,000**

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Spring 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%	Funding
1	10	5	50%	$2,165,921
2	15	4	27%	$1,885,959
3	12	7	58%	$1,344,260
4	6	4	67%	$1,219,842
5	16	10	63%	$754,572
6	6	6	100%	$677,068
Total	**65**	**36**	**55%**	**$8,047,622**

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%	Funding
1	4	3	75%	$173,187
2	11	5	45%	$290,930
3	3	2	67%	$76,364
4	6	5	83%	$315,034
5	1	1	100%	$37,783
6	2	2	100%	$97,834
Total	**27**	**18**	**67%**	**$991,132**

Stakeholder Engagement

Region	RRT	Staff	%	Funding
1	2	2	100%	$57,928
2	1	1	100%	$29,385
3	0	0	-	$0
4	3	3	100%	$76,395
5	0	0	-	$0
6	3	1	33%	$81,721
Total	**9**	**7**	**78%**	**$245,429**

North Coast

Southwest

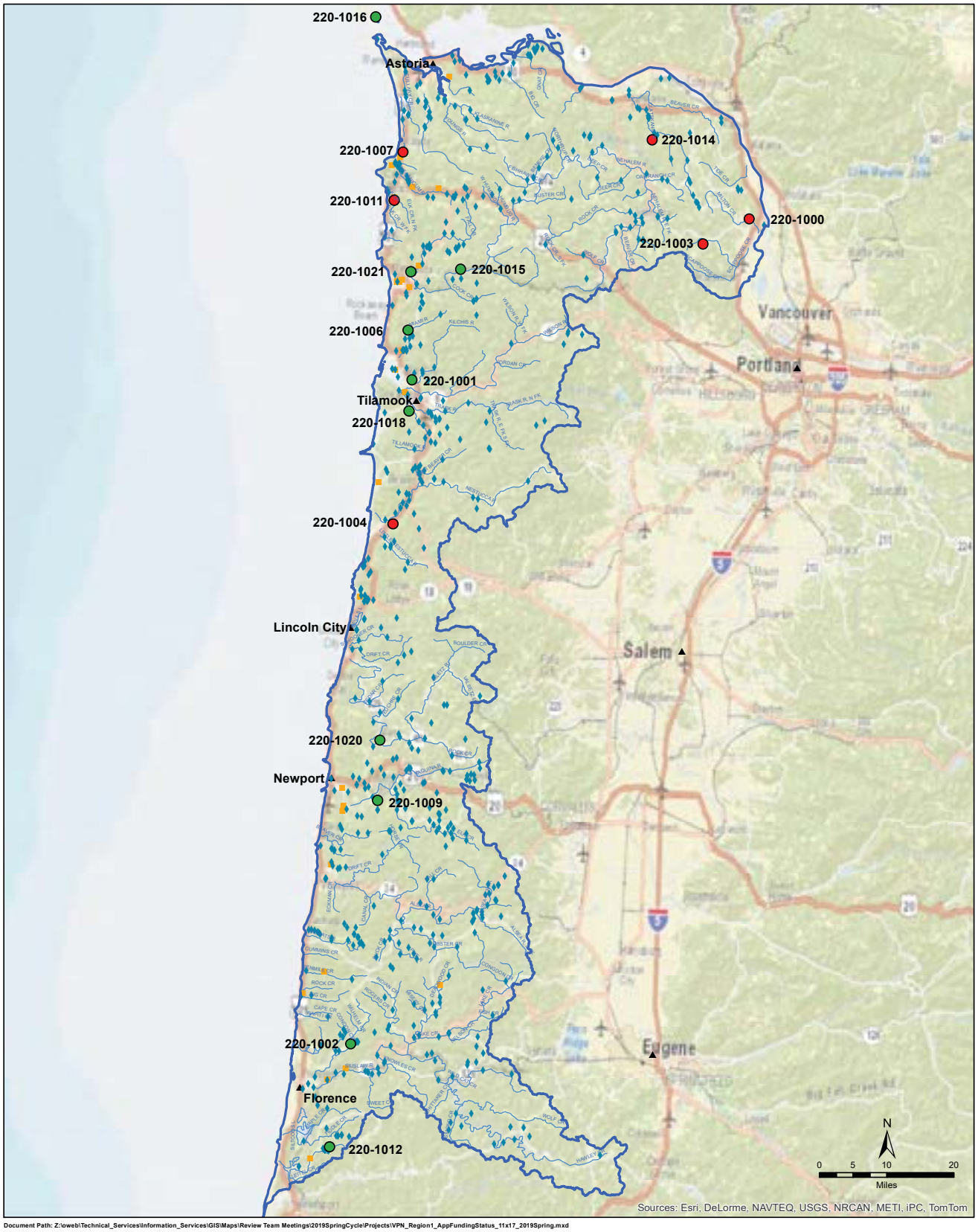
Willamette Basin

Central Oregon

Eastern Oregon

Mid-Columbia

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2019 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6. NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 20190923

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Fall 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

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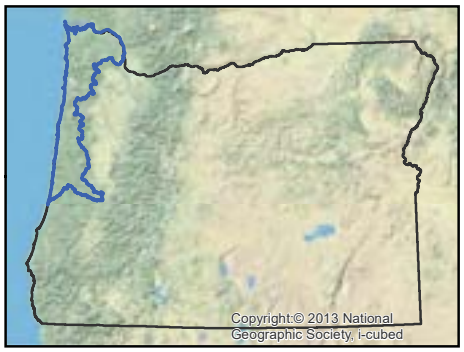

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-1009	MidCoast WC	Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration	A 55-acre site along the Yaquina River will be restored to its native tidal wetland habitat. Restoration actions will remove portions of a remnant dike, create new tidal channels, and plant native vegetation.	435,736	Lincoln
220-1006	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Peterson Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Improvement	A fish barrier will be replaced with a bridge on Peterson Creek, a tributary of the Miami River in Tillamook County that provides important habitat for salmon and lamprey. Access will be restored to over 6 miles of stream habitat.	372,300	Tillamook
220-1012	Siuslaw WC	Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project, Phase 5	This project completes the final phase of a ten-year collaborative landscape-level floodplain restoration project in the Tahkenitch Lake basin south of Florence. Activities to be completed include stream channel reconstruction and native plant revegetation.	362,704	Douglas
220-1001	The Nature Conservancy	Kilchis Porter Tidal Wetland Restoration Project_2019	Tidal wetlands will be restored on a 60-acre site in the Kilchis River estuary on Tillamook Bay. Restoration actions will remove dikes, recreate tidal channels, and restore native vegetation.	468,084	Tillamook
220-1002	Siuslaw SWCD	Bessey's North Fork Siuslaw & McLeod Creek Floodplain Restoration	This floodplain restoration project addresses limiting factors for coho salmon in the Siuslaw watershed. Restoration will reconnect the North Fork Siuslaw River to 14 acres of floodplain and restore stream habitat.	527,097	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**2,165,921**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-1004	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Clear Creek Fish Passage Restoration	A fish barrier culvert will be replaced with a bridge on Clear Creek, a tributary to the Nestucca River in Tillamook County. Access will be improved for salmon and lamprey to over 4 miles of habitat.	354,570	Tillamook
220-1003	Scappoose Bay WC	Brush Creek Large Wood Enhancement	Stream habitat will be improved and a fish barrier will be replaced in Brush Creek, a tributary to North Scappoose Creek in Columbia County.	263,652	Columbia
220-1007	Necanicum WC	Coho Creek Fish Passage Project - Seaside	Fish barriers that restrict access for juvenile and adult salmon will be replaced on Coho Creek, a tributary to Neawanna Creek in the Necanicum watershed. Fish access will be improved to 1.4 miles of habitat upstream.	355,979	Clatsop
220-1011	North Coast WS Assn.	ECFR Beaver Habitat Restoration	This project will support, expand, and retain beaver populations in the Ecola Creek watershed through the construction of beaver habitat.	34,678	Clatsop
220-1000	Scappoose Bay WC	Lower Milton Creek Stream Restoration	Streamside vegetation will be planted and stream habitat constructed along a priority reach of Milton Creek in the Scappoose Bay watershed. Restoration activities support the recovery of Lower Columbia River salmon.	189,563	Columbia
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**3,364,363**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-1005	MidCoast WC	Bummer Creek Tributary Fish Passage	48,390	Benton
220-1008	North Coast WS Assn.	Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning	195,059	Clatsop
220-1010	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Neskowin Fish Passage Improvement Project	391,494	Tillamook

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-1018	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	Tillamook River Wetlands: Engineering and Design	Final designs will be achieved for the Tillamook River Wetlands project, a 73-acre restoration project located on a site in the Tillamook River estuary.	74,998	Tillamook
220-1016	CREST	Coastal Dune Prairie Habitat Restoration at West Sand Island	Designs will be developed for coastal prairie restoration and enhancement at West Sand Island, an island in the Columbia River that contains rare habitat.	24,049	Clatsop
220-1015	Lower Nehalem WC	Lower Nehalem Tributary Junctions Large Wood Engineering Designs	The project will develop designs for stream restoration at key locations on the lower Nehalem River, addressing habitat limitations for juvenile salmon on the River.	74,140	Tillamook
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**173,187**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-1014	Columbia SWCD	Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design	Technical services will be provided to develop designs that address a fish barrier on Page Creek within the Clatskanie River basin. Restoration at this location will restore fish passage to 1.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for lower Columbia River fish.	50,380	Columbia
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**223,567**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-1013	Columbia SWCD	Strategic Action Plan Data Synthesis and Finalization	49,500	Columbia
220-1017	Lower Nehalem Community Trust	Alder Creek Restoration and Enhancement Project	54,208	Tillamook
220-1019	Upper Nehalem WC	Fishhawk Lake Replacement Fish Passage Construction Design	74,992	Clatsop

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-1020	Lincoln SWCD	Bay to Headwaters: Siletz River Community Outreach, Engagement & Conservation	This project funds a multi-year outreach campaign to engage stakeholders within the Siletz River watershed. Building a network of community connections will increase capacity to carry out restoration projects identified in the Siletz Coho Business Plan.	33,469	Lincoln
220-1021	Lower Nehalem WC	Lower Nehalem Anchor Habitats Landowner Outreach	The project will engage landowners about restoration in 38 distinct areas of the Lower Nehalem River identified as important habitat in the Nehalem Coho Strategic Action Plan.	24,459	Tillamook
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**57,928**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**57,928**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-1022	Tillamook Bay WC	Tillamook Bay Tide Gate Stakeholder Engagement		25,209	Tillamook
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**2,397,036**	**26%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,284,183**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1000-16950

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Milton Creek Stream Restoration

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $189,563

Total Cost: $239,349

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Milton Creek, a 6th field HUC located within the Scappoose Bay 5th-field watershed, contains 17.8 miles of mainstem stream channel and 6.6 miles within five tributary channels that are utilized by ESA-listed Coho salmon. However, natural and anthropogenic changes to the creek have resulted in significant channel simplification from extreme low mainstem wood complexity. This has precipitated an historically low use of the creek by Coho salmon, as well as ESA-listed Lower Columbia Spring Chinook, steelhead, cutthroat, and lamprey, due to reduced summer stream habitat function that has engendered the greatest hindrance to smolt production in Milton Creek.To address habitat limiting factors for fish production potential in Lower Milton Creek (LMC) as identified in the 2012 LMC Limiting Factor Analysis (LFA, SWBC), SBWC identified select stream segments with the highest potential for sustainable habitat enhancement in LMC. The first of these segments with strong landowner interest is located at approximately RM 3.4, upstream of the city of Saint Helens in Columbia County. The site is located directly downstream of Anchor Habitat M2, as identified in the Milton Creeed LFA. SWBC has partnered with ODFW, Waterways Consulting, Inc., CSWCD, and four landowners to develop an implementation project that aims to address the deficiency in summer rearing habitat through installation of large wood structures, removal of invasive species, and native riparian plantings.The preliminary designs propose to expand and enhance riparian buffers along with the installation of multiple large wood structures to improve spawning and rearing habitat, and increase channel-floodplain interactions. This project will complete the designs, obtain permits, construct during the in-water work window, and follow with riparian planting. The project includes support to work with the landowners on invasive species management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project reach is within anchor habitat for Lower Columbia steelhead and coho. Work at this location will support the implementation of the Recovery Plan for Lower Columbia Chinook Salmon, Lower Columbia Coho, Columbia River Chum and Lower Columbia Steelhead (2013).
- The proposed actions are appropriate to improve habitat conditions and address limiting factors. The site will benefit from the addition of large wood and the proposed plantings are significant in size and scale.

- The applicant has capacity to implement this type of work and a proven track record with habitat complexity and native plant community restoration projects.
- There is a current window of opportunity to conduct work within this reach to capitalize on recent successful landowner recruitment efforts in an area that has been challenging to secure landowner interest in voluntary conservation. Implementing the project could be a catalyst for future work along Milton Creek.
- Milton Creek is within a focus area for the Columbia SWCD.
- The project is the result of an OWEB funded Technical Assistance grant (#218-3035) and implementation will build on prior investments in the watershed.

Concerns

- The project design relies heavily on boulders to stabilize the large wood material, and boulders are not a natural component of the Milton Creek watershed. More detail and justification as to why boulders are an essential part of the design would be helpful to evaluate technical soundness of the design approach.
- Boulders will be placed on a meander bend, which could shift the stream's energy toward existing buildings. Resulting fluid dynamics and increased water velocities could make soft streambanks susceptible to erosion.
- Outdated designs were submitted with the application that included pinning and bolting large wood structures, which is not a preferred design approach. Clarification was provided after the review site visit, however, there is some uncertainty on what final project designs will be exactly.

Concluding Analysis

Milton Creek is recognized as a priority location to restore habitat for lower Columbia fish. The project reach was selected for restoration after a thorough analysis, and the applicant has built support and participation for the project among a suite of critical landowners. While there is some uncertainty on the exact final project design, there is confidence that a design approach can be arrived at that will achieve restoration goals and objectives given the capacity and experience of the applicant and project engineer with this type of work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

$189,563

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1001-16971

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kilchis Porter Tidal Wetland Restoration Project_2019

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $468,084

Total Cost: $1,267,490

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will restore and enhance a total of 60 acres of estuarine habitat, a high priority habitat for restoration in the north coast basin.
- Restoration at the site will build on past conservation investments in the lower Kilchis watershed, expanding the habitat connectivity and ecological benefits of prior work.
- The applicant has a proven track of record of success implementing a similar restoration project on the adjacent property.
- Significant benefits to water quality are expected as a result of project implementation.
- The planting plan is tailored to reflect lessons learned from past projects.

- The project adopts an aggressive approach to revegetation that is likely to succeed.
- The post-project monitoring that is proposed for this project and that has occurred on the adjacent restoration area will produce valuable information that can help design similar projects in the future.
- The project will provide excellent ecological benefit for the proposed cost involved.

Concerns

- Previous project evaluation concerns regarding high planting densities are not addressed. The high planting densities are driving up the project cost. Additional explanation on why the planting densities were chosen and necessary for achieving the proposed restoration goals would be helpful to evaluate the project cost-effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration of the Kilchis Porter site will create and enhance 60 acres of both existing and new estuarine habitat, a high priority for the north coast basin. The adjacent Kilchis project designed and implemented by the same applicant is functioning well and the proposed project will increase the landscape-level benefits provided to the watershed by building on this past investment. The applicant responded to many of the previous project evaluation concerns and shows a willingness to adaptively manage the project to successfully establish native vegetation on the site. The applicant is experienced with estuarine plant communities and the likelihood of achieving the stated goals and objectives is excellent.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
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Review Team Recommended Amount
$468,084

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$468,084

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1002-16986

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bessey's North Fork Siuslaw & McLeod Creek Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Siuslaw SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $527,097

Total Cost: $1,145,822

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project area is located at the confluence of the North Fork (NF) Siuslaw River and McLeod Creek, extending into each of the Upper and Lower NF Siuslaw 6th Field HUC's, both of which are identified as priority watersheds for restoration in the Siuslaw Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The Siuslaw SAP (Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP), 2018) identifies the major stresses limiting Coho production in the Lower NF Siuslaw 6th Field HUC as decreased lateral connectivity, altered riparian function, and increased water temperatures. The Siuslaw SAP also identifies the major stresses in the Upper NF Siuslaw 6th Field HUC as decreased lateral connectivity and lack of in-stream complexity. The Federal Recovery Plan For Oregon Coast Coho (NOAA, 2016) recognized the primary habitat related limiting factors as lost habitat (especially floodplain habitat), reduced complexity, and degraded water quality. Stream complexity and water quality were also determined to be the primary and secondary limiting factors in Oregon's Coastal Coho Assessment (ODFW, 2005). The NF Siuslaw River is listed under section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act as being water quality limited by temperature and sedimentation. This effort will address each of the major stresses and limiting factors for Oregon Coastal (OC) Coho identified in each of the fore mentioned local, state, and federal plans; which is why it was ranked #3 overall out of the hundreds of proposed projects identified within the Siuslaw SAP. Partners include: Siuslaw National Forest, NOAA, Wild Salmon Center (WSC), Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC), McKenzie River Trust (MRT), and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI). Measurable Objectives: Hydrologically reconnecting ~14.2 acres of floodplain, developing ~.5 mile of anastomosing off-channel habitat, increasing instream complexity to ~.5 mile of stream, establishing ~15.37 acres of native riparian vegetation and ~2.69 acres of native upland vegetation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a top-ranked priority in the Siuslaw Coho Partnership’s Strategic Action Plan and addresses key limiting factors for Oregon coast coho salmon. The project reach is within anchor habitat for all life stages of coho.

- Proposed restoration is the result of an OWEB funded Technical Assistance grant (#217-1015) and will build on previous work in the North Fork Siuslaw watershed. The applicant took a big picture approach to the design work and incorporated previous project evaluation recommendations to consider watershed processes more broadly in the design.
- The design directly addresses limiting factors in the sub-watershed, including habitat complexity and lateral floodplain connectivity.
- Previous project evaluation concerns are addressed in the application. A monitoring plan is now incorporated to help determine the effectiveness of this type of work, and the application includes a clear explanation of how watershed limiting factors will be addressed with the project.
- The project approach is innovative and watershed process-based. It addresses the root causes of the problem, not just the symptoms.
- The concerns from the previous project review about erosion from restoration actions causing increased downstream sedimentation are mitigated by information in the application. Also, it was confirmed during the site visit that the project area has a depositional reach where sediment is likely to drop out instead of eroding and transporting downstream. The stream is also already eroded to bedrock in portions of the project area, which will control the streambed elevation because the stream will not be able to further erode.
- The project designer has extensively modeled potential impacts of proposed restoration work to the road and adjacent landowners and found minimal risk.
- The design team is highly qualified and well-respected with a proven track record of implementing similar types of work.

Concerns

- A monitoring plan is referenced in the application but not included. The proposal would benefit from more details on the type and scope of monitoring proposed.
- There is a level of risk that short-term impacts from this type of work will negatively affect stream conditions; and the timeframe needed for habitat features to establish and function is unclear. A phased approach could offer opportunity to implement a portion of the project and see how the stream system responds. However, there may be risk that a phased approach could extend those short-term impacts over a longer time period or prevent the restoration approach from fully functioning over the target stream reach.

Concluding Analysis

The design approach constructs an inset floodplain within a heavily incised reach of the North Fork Siuslaw River, a priority location to improve habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon. The project is ranked as the #3 priority in the Siuslaw Strategic Action Plan, and the innovative design looks beyond traditional bank stabilization techniques to address the root causes of erosion. The project will directly address key limiting factors in the North Fork Siuslaw basin, which will provide a high cost-benefit to watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$527,097

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$527,097

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1003-16988

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Brush Creek Large Wood Enhancement

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $263,652

Total Cost: $329,627

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in Brush Creek, a tributary to North Scappoose Creek in the southern third of Columbia County. North Scappoose flows into Scappoose Bay, the Multnomah Channel and the lower Columbia River. The project addresses key salmon-production limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan (ODFW, 2011) and the Scappoose Creek Limiting Factor Analysis (SBWC, 2012): 1) lack of physical habitat quality and complexity, including low quantity of instream large wood and loss of pools and refuge habitat, and loss of floodplain connectivity; 2) an undersized culvert that is a partial fish barrier; 3) low numbers of riparian conifers for future wood recruitment and poor riparian vegetation; and 4) temperature limitations in mainstem North Scappoose. This project also stems directly from the Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Action Plan (SBWC, 2018), which identified restoration actions that address areas with high potential for ecological benefits. The project will install 180 log pieces of large wood along 1.5 miles of creek in summer 2020, replace the existing culvert with a bridge to allow full fish passage, and plant 5000 native confers, small trees and shrubs during winter 2020-2021. Project is supported by ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, and Scappoose Bay Native Plant Nursery.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will benefit multiple lower Columbia fish species, including coho, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey. The location is within identified anchor habitat.
- Multiple limiting factors within Brush Creek will be addressed by the project by improving habitat complexity and restoring fish passage.
- The project is cost-effective for the amount of work proposed.
- The applicant proactively incorporated previous project review recommendations to address a fish passage barrier within the reach affecting juvenile fish.
- Partnerships strengthen the project and the applicant has effectively worked with the landowner on a solution to the fish passage barrier.
- The design-build approach for the fish passage project elements is technically sound for the low-gradient reach and the installed bridge will allow the stream to move freely in its floodplain.

- The plan for the riparian planting incorporates a diversity of plant species, including the installation of shrubs for beaver forage.

Concerns

- More detail in the planting plan would be helpful to the project evaluation. There is no plant protection included in the plan, which may be beneficial to mitigate impacts from beaver as the trees and shrubs become established. If plant protection is not going to be used, the applicant should consider planting more willow to mitigate potential impacts from beaver.

Concluding Analysis

This cost-effective project addresses multiple limiting factors in a priority location within the Scappoose Bay watershed. The revised project application now includes replacing the road crossing with a bridge and installing large wood structures throughout the project reach to improve habitat complexity. While the planting plan lacks some detail, based on the applicant's track record with implementing similar riparian projects there is high likelihood for achieving successful outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$263,652

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1004-16991

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Clear Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $354,570

Total Cost: $516,820

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Clear Creek fish passage restoration project is located on Tillamook County owned Jenck Road just south of the community of Cloverdale. This culvert is the only mainstem fish passage barrier on Clear Creek. Clear Creek is a 4th order tributary to the Nestucca River that drains a 3,700 acre watershed. From its headwaters, the stream flows through Siuslaw National Forest managed lands before entering private lands and reaching its confluence with Arstell Creek and emptying into the Nestucca River. Clear Creek provides 4.4 miles of fish habitat with 2.5 miles that support spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed Coho. Chum, steelhead, fall Chinook, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey are also present. The existing culvert is a corrugated metal pipe arch undersized and poorly aligned for the stream. The culvert is approaching failure. 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 greater than 1.5x Active Channel Width (ACW).Project partners include: US Forest Service (USFS),US Fish & WIldlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Trout Unlimited (TU), Tillamook County and Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council (NNSL). USFS, in cooperation with the County and NNSL, has developed a stream simulation plan. Bridge designs were provided by a private engineering firm in cooperation and consultation with the County and USFS. USFS will take the lead to: prepare the project's federal permit under ARBO II, provide NEPA compliance and secure the state DSL permit. 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 and design review and will provide construction oversight and construction easements with affected landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will restore full passage for all life stages of fish to 4.4 miles of low gradient and high quality habitat in the Nestucca watershed. The existing structure is likely a full barrier to Pacific lamprey and its replacement will also improve passage for chinook, coho, chum, steelhead, and cutthroat trout.
- Clear Creek is an important source of cold water refugia in the Nestucca watershed.

- There are strong partnerships established in support of the project that include the County and the USFS.
- The structure slated for replacement is on the Salmon SuperHwy barrier list.
- Restoration of fish passage at this location will build on previous conservation work in the watershed, which includes riparian planting efforts implemented downstream.
- The project is well designed and considers climate change in the design approach.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar types of fish projects in the basin.

Concerns

- The structure is only a partial barrier to most aquatic species and is water velocity limited to salmon. The overall cost-benefit of the investment is limited because there is currently some passage at the site. Addressing the barrier may not have significant impact to watershed health for the cost.
- A planting plan is not included in the application, and portions of the project area would benefit from additional riparian vegetation cover.
- The project is at 30% designs currently, meaning a design-build approach will be taken to get the project implementation-ready. This can result in unexpected cost fluctuations and some uncertainty that the budget may not include all necessary costs for implementing the project.
- The line item in the budget for traffic control expenses seems high.

Concluding Analysis

Replacing the Clear Creek culvert will restore access to 4.4 miles of habitat for a variety of aquatic species, including Pacific lamprey. While the project is only at 30% designs, given the experience of the project team and the local support behind the project, there is a likelihood of success in achieving the expected outcomes with a design-build approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$354,570

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1005-16992

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bummer Creek Tributary Fish Passage

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $48,390

Total Cost: $60,840

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 as 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 in Bummer Creek. The LFA identified two major co-limiting factors for coho production: 1) a limited availability of high-quality spawning gravel, and 2) excessive summer stream temperatures. In a similar vein, the 2016 Coho Recovery Plan notes that for the Alsea coho population, the primary limiting factor is stream complexity, with water quality (excessive summer temperatures) identified as a secondary limiting factor. This proposed project addresses these limitations by restoring fish passage to 0.85 tributary miles with cold water refugia and extensive rearing habitat in a perennial pond-wetland complex, arresting a headcut, and adding complexity by placing large wood and stream bed materials. This work compliments past and on-going work with many partners in the sub-basin. On this project, active partners include the landowners and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoration at this location has the potential to benefit a myriad of terrestrial and avian wildlife species.
- The project aims to stabilize a headcut on a tributary of Bummer Creek, which will restore fish passage.
- Bummer Creek is a high priority for salmonids and the project could increase access to beneficial overwintering stream habitat.

Concerns

- Previous project evaluation concerns and recommendations from restoration and technical assistance applications are not addressed. The application does not address concerns regarding the in-line pond and its effect on temperature, the design for the culvert and the inclusion of armoring, and the use of boulders in the system. Designs submitted in the application include project components that

were previously identified as concerns during the project evaluation, such as installation of water control structures, but are not described in the application.

- A major benefit of the fish passage work described in the application is cool-water refugia, but the subject tributary is seasonally dry and would not be able to contribute cold water habitat during the summer when it is most needed.
- The active channel width is not listed in the application, making it difficult to gauge the effectiveness and technical soundness of the design approach.
- It is unclear how connecting the in-line pond will provide fish habitat benefits. Since the in-line pond has complete solar exposure, it is unlikely to address temperature water quality issues.
- Overall habitat goals and objectives do not match the watershed landscape and the proposed restoration actions do not have a clear connection to addressing limiting factors in the watershed.
- The site has limited potential for restoration.

Concluding Analysis

Overall, the site seems to have limited potential for providing watershed health benefits as a result of the type of restoration proposed, and the planned actions do not clearly connect to and address the limiting factors in the basin. Due to the lack of proposal clarity, it is difficult to determine the technical soundness and likelihood of success for this 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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1006-16996

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Peterson Creek Aquatic Organism Passage Improvement

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $372,300

Total Cost: $992,260

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

An existing 8.0 ft culvert located where Miami Foley Road crosses Peterson Creek, a tributary of the Miami River (Tillamook Bay Watershed, Tillamook County, Oregon) is undersized for the size of stream it conveys and its outlet is perched during low water conditions. As a result, the culvert adversely affects aquatic organism passage (including blocking or impeding passage of juvenile salmonids and all life stages of Pacific lamprey) to approximately six miles of upstream habitats. It also adversely affects stream processes, including transport of stream bed materials and organic matter. In addition, due to its size and condition, the existing structure is at risk of catastrophic failure and, thus, poses a serious risk to human health and safety as well as to downstream water and habitat quality and survival of aquatic organisms.Construction-ready designs were completed in April 2019. The proposed project will remove the existing culvert and construct a 48-ft open span, concrete bridge. To assure long-term aquatic organism passage and proper stream function, the project will construct approximately 85 feet of stream simulation channel in the area disturbed by construction of the new bridge. Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife has reviewed project designs and issued a fish passage authorization letter (Authorization No. PA-01-0150). We have initiated other permitting processes, but none are final at this time. Post-construction monitoring will be consistent with NOAA Tier I guidelines and OWEB requirements.OWEB funds will support contracted services needed to construct the replacement structure. They will supplement funds and in-kind support from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin., US Fish & Wildlife, Tillamook County, US Forest Service, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and Trout Unlimited.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A culvert that is nearly a full passage barrier will be replaced with a bridge, restoring full access to all life stages of salmon and Pacific lamprey to 6 miles of high quality stream habitat.
- There are strong partnerships behind the project that includes a collaboration with the County, USFWS, NOAA, and USFS.
- The project is an identified barrier on the Salmon SuperHwy list and is a priority for replacement for state and federal natural resource agencies.
- The project also has ancillary social benefits. Since the existing structure is close to catastrophic failure, replacing the culvert will prevent impacts to downstream landowners.

- The designs have been completed and are technically sound. The appropriate agencies are involved and have issued fish passage approvals.
- The applicant is professional with capacity to implement the project; there is a high likelihood of success given their previous track record for implementing similar types of projects.
- The project capitalizes on other planned projects by coordinating implementation with similar work nearby to reduce project costs.

Concerns

- Additional detail about the use of boulders in the project design would be helpful to understand how they are necessary for increasing habitat diversity.
- The project's planting plan is minimal and given the extent of non-native vegetation present on the site, this plan may miss an opportunity to improve native plant diversity.
- Portions of the application are repetitive, reducing overall proposal clarity.
- For a project proposed as an Aquatic Organism Passage project, details are missing in the application about other species besides salmon that would provide helpful context to understand the extent of habitat benefits that will be gained from this investment.

Concluding Analysis

This shovel-ready project will restore full access to over 6 miles of high priority habitat in Peterson Creek, a tributary of the Miami River. The structure to be replaced is the only barrier within the system, and it is currently perched during low water conditions. It is likely a full barrier to all life stages of fish for extended periods throughout the year, and its replacement is a priority for project partners working within the Miami watershed. The collaboration and partnerships behind the project are strong and extensive, and the County's involvement with another crossing nearby allows the project team to achieve cost savings and efficiencies during implementation. There is high likelihood that the stated restoration goals and objectives will be achieved.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$372,300

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$372,300

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1007-16997
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Coho Creek Fish Passage Project - Seaside
Applicant: Necanicum WC
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $355,979
Total Cost: $580,740

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration builds upon previous OWEB investments in fish passage upstream of the project site, and this crossing is the last remaining barrier in the system.
- The designs for the crossing replacement are technically sound.
- The applicant has organizational capacity for completing this type of project, and has experience with similar projects such as the successful upstream fish passage project that is functioning well.
- Coho Creek has a thriving coho population that could be negatively impacted if the subject crossing were to fail. Replacing the crossing will improve rearing habitat for multiple species of salmonids.
- The project provides habitat connectivity with an upstream tidally-influenced wetland with an alder-slough sedge-skunk cabbage plant community that is considered globally rare.
- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed with this submittal, and the project cost is reasonable for the expected watershed health benefit.
- The City of Seaside is a committed and engaged partner, which is demonstrated by inclusion of funding for the project in the current City’s budget. Delaying implementation may put this funding at risk.

Concerns

- There is funding in the budget for turbidity monitoring, but monitoring details are unclear in the application.
- Restoration will result in limited fish passage benefit because the crossing provides access to only 1.4 miles of fish habitat and it is not a complete barrier currently; fish are still able to access upstream habitat to a limited extent.

Concluding Analysis

Replacing this barrier at Wahanna Road in Seaside will improve fish passage to valuable rearing habitat in the Neawanna estuary. While the project is likely to succeed in meeting restoration goals, it will provide minimal ecological benefit due to the relatively short length of resulting restored stream habitat compared with similar fish passage projects. Given the significance of the stream to the local community, the project is a reasonable investment for the watershed benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$355,979

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1008-17019

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $195,059

Total Cost: $279,669

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Camp 7 Spur is a 1.2 mile stretch of legacy logging road adjacent to Big Creek that encroaches on the floodplain and needs to be abandoned. This project is located on Hampton Lumber forest land upstream of the Big Creek Fish Hatchery and the town of Knappa, 15 miles east of Astoria. This legacy haul-route roadbed constricts Big Creek's width, confining it to a much narrower floodplain and the basin's logging history has left the channel largely devoid of complexity and structure. Big Creek upstream from the ODFW fish hatchery is a priority stream for ESA listed species in the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed because it is the only location in the watershed inaccessible to competition from hatchery fish. This project proposes to implement restoration actions to improve fish habitat and channel processes including: 1) obliterate sections of road that are in the stream floodplain including removing road fill, 2) remove existing cross drains and restore natural drainage, 3) remove tributary culverts and associated road fill, 4) plant conifer along road bed, 5) remove two bridges and abutments, saving one for re-use 6) install large wood placements to improve spawning and rearing habitat, promote floodplain connectivity, and increase off-channel refugia. This project has been identified by local residents and the Nicolai-Wikiup Watershed Council as the number one priority for implementation. This project is top priority for NCWA because there is strong community support to see it through and we need to take advantage of the landowner's willingness to move forward on the project. Bringing in OWEB funds will allow us to install large wood structures along this vital stretch of spawning habitat that will no longer be accessible on the ground after abandonment. This project will have downstream effects and multi-species benefit.Project partners include the private landowner, Hampton Lumber and the North Coast Watershed Association (NCWA).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Big Creek is a high priority area to improve habitat for ESA-listed species in the Nikolai-Wikiup watershed, including coho salmon.
- The project will remove and alter sections of a road in the riparian area, decreasing its impact on fish and wildlife and reducing the amount of sediment that enters the stream.
- A planned timber harvest in the basin will provide the necessary material for the large wood placements.

- The application addresses some of the previous project evaluation recommendations by altering project designs for road decommissioning accordingly.
- The landowner is engaged and committed to a successful restoration project.

Concerns

- There are no dimensions or calculations within the project designs provided in the application to demonstrate how the volumes of cut-fill material to remove roads were arrived at.
- There seems to be a disconnect between the technical provider and the remainder of the project team on the biological intent of the project. As a result, it is unclear how the plans for addressing the landslide and accessing the project area will effectively achieve targeted watershed outcomes.
- The designs as proposed will leave a significant amount of fill in the floodplain. The applicant explained on the review site visit that this fill would be left on site for the stream to take care of through flood events that will carry it downstream.
- Some previous project evaluation concerns are not addressed, for example, the upstream bridge will be left in the forest. Further explanation on why the bridge must remain would provide helpful context for evaluating the project.
- The planting plan is basic and lacks diversity.

Concluding Analysis

This project will address limiting factors in the Nicolai-Wikiup watershed and is a priority location to improve habitat for lower Columbia fish species. Project designs provided for the road removal and decommissioning are not sufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed approach it is difficult to determine the likelihood of success for this project. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide proficient design details and technical explanation of the plans for fill and bridge removal.

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1009-17040
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration
Applicant: MidCoast WC
Region: North Coast
County: Lincoln
OWEB Request: $435,736
Total Cost: $639,026

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project restores a 55-acre tidal wetland site along the Yaquina River just upstream of the town of Toledo. The Yaquina estuary has lost about 70% of these vegetated tidal wetland habitats due to diking, ditching and tide-gating. This has reduced salmonid rearing habitat and other valuable ecosystem services. Restoration will increase tidal water inundation and connectivity to the marsh by removing about half of the remnant dike, filling drainage ditches, creating new tidal channels to increase rearing habitat for fish, placing sediment and large wood structures in strategic areas. Extensive seeding and planting of native forbs, shrubs and trees will also occur. These activities will also help to restore tidal flow, encourage the development of emergent wetland and transitional shrub and spruce swamp by fostering conditions that allow for the spread and establishment of high and low marsh vegetation and scrub-shrub and spruce swamps, to increase habitat diversity and complexity and provide traditional materials for native basketry and other uses. Additionally, restoring sediment and wood inputs and tidal flow will allow for the re- establishment of marsh vegetation whose growth and senescence is critical to building up the marsh plain which is highly subsided due to its long diking history, providing resiliency to sea level rise. Conservation ownership in perpetuity by The Wetlands Conservancy (TWC), will assure the restored ecosystem functions continue to sustain and support endangered coho salmon and other federally listed species (e.g. green sturgeon, eulachon). Other partners include: City of Toledo, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, The Wetlands Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will restore and enhance 55 acres of estuarine habitat, a priority habitat type in the central coast. Restoration at this site is an identified priority in the Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative (OCCEC) Strategic Action Plan.
- The design approach is technically sound and innovative, including features such as embedding large wood to use as a sponge to retain water. The approach also considers and plans for long term climate change impacts and employs an adaptive management approach.
- The project is likely to achieve significant water quality benefits in this section of the lower Yaquina.

- Restoration of tidally influenced habitat at this site will benefit many species. In addition to chinook, coho, and chum, habitat will be restored for marine species, such as flounder and bay shrimp.
- The project builds on previous conservation investments in the watershed and is the result of a previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant.
- The planting design is well-thought out and includes a diverse array of estuarine plant species.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified during the review.

Concluding Analysis

The project will restore and enhance 55 acres of tidally influenced habitat in a priority location within the Yaquina estuary. The design approach is thoughtful and considers past lessons learned with similar types of work as well as recent research looking at climate change resiliency. The project has built strong partnerships and the owner of the site is a land trust, ensuring the property and restoration work is protected into perpetuity. Restoration at this location is an identified priority in several strategic action plans and will benefit multiple fish and wildlife species. The assembled project and design team has capacity to implement the work and there is a high likelihood of success in meeting the stated restoration goals and objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$435,736

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$435,736

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1010-17044

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Neskowin Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $391,494

Total Cost: $556,494

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project site is located in the town of Neskowin, Oregon at the southern end of Tillamook County. Neskowin Creek, Hawk Creek and Butte Creek run through Neskowin and join to form an estuary before emptying into the Pacific Ocean. Hawk Street is a private foot path that runs north from the OPRD owned Neskowin Beach Wayside. Hawk Street crosses over two tide-gated arch culverts draining Butte Creek, one culvert draining Hawk Creek and one culvert draining a small wetland channel. Fish passage and natural stream function are currently limited in Hawk and Butte Creeks due to these crossings; the culverts and associated tidegates are undersized and failing. The culverts are velocity barriers to juveniles during high flows, and limit the ability of the fish to access critical rearing habitat and refuge areas. Wetlands, including the Neskowin Marsh managed by USFWS, are on both sides of Hawk Street and provide important refugia and rearing habitat for aquatic species. During high winter flows and storm surges, the culverts in the project site are often overtopped and easily clogged with debris, posing a flood risk for Neskowin residents and a maintenance challenge for the County. Hawk Street itself acts as a partial dike, blocking flow between the North and South portion of Hawk Creek. This area is inundated during winter storm events. The wetlands lower flood peaks, reduce water velocities, hold run-off, trap sediments and filter pollutants and nutrients. These factors reduce flood risk and improve water quality and habitat on Hawk and Butte Creeks.By replacing the culvert and tidegate structures with bridges, this project seeks to improve fish passage and habitat access. The project will additionally improve hydraulic connectivity reduce flood risk and increase resiliency.Project partners include: Tillamook County, US Forest Service, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department and private landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Work within the Neskowin stream system could benefit coho fish populations by adding diversity to the gene pool.
- Improved water flow conveyance will benefit water quality.
- The project could improve connectivity to a nearby marsh with fish rearing habitat.

Concerns

- Hawk and Butte Creeks have dependent populations for coho. Dependent populations are small and isolated, and persist by attracting strays from other basins. As a result, these creeks are not considered priority locations to restore fish habitat.
- The proposed project is part of an emergency egress road construction project. By designing the fish passage work in connection with this egress project, the cost for addressing fish passage is substantially high for the benefit to fish. The design also precludes a more complete approach to habitat restoration within the estuary that considers watershed process and function for the entire floodplain. As a result, the project cost for the resulting watershed benefit is high.
- The project nexus with the emergency egress road work creates uncertainty for whether an investment of conservation funds can achieve meaningful ecological benefits at a reasonable cost. The application would benefit from more explanation as to the expected uplift resulting from this project to help determine project cost effectiveness for the watershed outcomes.
- The application includes design information that indicates a 1.5:1 active channel width ratio will be achieved to meet federal fish passage criteria. During the review site visit it was determined this criteria will actually not be met. Increasing the width of the crossings to meet federal fish passage standards will significantly increase the project cost.

Concluding Analysis

This fish passage project involves constructing two bridges and associated tidegates to improve fish passage along a proposed emergency egress road being constructed in the City of Neskowin. While the project will improve fish passage, the dependent status of the fish populations reduces the priority of an investment at the project location. Additional detail explaining how the emergency egress and fish passage project components are integrated to achieve meaningful impact to watershed health would provide information useful in evaluating the likelihood of success for the project to achieve cost effective ecological benefits.

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1011-17066
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: ECFR Beaver Habitat Restoration
Applicant: North Coast WS Assn
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $34,678
Total Cost: $44,098

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Ecola Creek Forest Reserve (ECFR) comprises of 1,040 acres within the Ecola Creek watershed. Historically in the Oregon Coast watersheds, there was an abundance of beavers, however due to land management practices, the number of beavers has drastically decreased leaving an irreplaceable impact on the landscape and disruption in ecological processes. Beavers benefit the watershed by creating pools of water off of main channels where nutrient rich sediment attract a complex food web supporting salmonids and other aquatic life. The pools store cool water from winter runoff ultimately creating a more stable water supply and provide rearing habitat for salmonids while the air and surface water temperatures rise in the mid summer months. The goal of the project is to support, expand, and retain beaver populations in the watershed as a natural promotor of habitat complexity. By recovering beaver habitats in the ECFR we improve the health of the watershed by restoring needed forage to support the vital ecological functions provided by beaver. North Coast Watershed Association is partnering with The City of Cannon Beach to hire a contractor to implement beaver restoration. The contractor will develop a habitat survey and replanting plan and create habitat recovery sites to attract and support populations of beaver that are struggling to reestablish within the reserve due to habitat shortages. This project will restore beaver habitat in the Ecola Creek Forest Reserve, meeting needs identified in the 2013 ECFR Stewardship Plan to support beaver populations in this protected system.The desire to work on beaver restoration has been building at the Ecola Creek Watershed Council since reviewing the "ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon: Strategies and Actions for the North Coast Stratum" at a meeting about two years ago. This opportunity is a perfect example of a grassroots effort inspired by national science and supported by local government and nonprofit.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Enhancing beaver habitat is a priority in the north coast and provides opportunity for a low-risk habitat restoration technique at a reasonable cost. Legacy beaver activity has been noted in the watershed, indicating there is possibility of successfully attracting the species to return.
- The project builds upon other restoration work in the Ecola Creek watershed, including a recently-implemented large wood placement project.

- The landowner and project partners are engaged and enthusiastic about beaver restoration. The City of Cannon Beach has worked to conserve the municipal watershed and is eager to accomplish restoration work that benefits watershed health. The City has contributed funding for a beaver survey that will help tailor the resulting restoration design.
- Restoring beaver habitat within the Ecola Creek Forest Preserve will improve floodplain connectivity.
- There are opportunities to raise public awareness at this project location given the high public use and visibility.

Concerns

- It is unclear as to why beaver are not currently present at the project site, it may be that existing habitat is not suitable for beaver. The proposed plan to increase plantings may not be enough to address the habitat limitations causing beaver to not utilize the site. Without understanding the causes for beaver to be absent, there may not be a lot of existing restoration opportunities within the Ecola Creek watershed.
- There may be missed opportunities to consider a whole watershed approach to more effectively achieve restoration outcomes.
- The project would benefit from more partnerships with state and federal wildlife agencies.

Concluding Analysis

This is a cost-effective project with a committed landowner that will encourage beaver in the Ecola Creek forest. Establishing beaver within the forest could help improve floodplain connectivity and fish habitat, and build on other past restoration completed within the basin. Legacy beaver structures have been encountered within the forest, and the City's enthusiasm in encouraging beaver in the watershed is commendable. The project provides an outreach opportunity to raise public awareness about beaver, and the resulting restoration has potential for high ecological benefit if beaver return to the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

$34,678

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1012-17073

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project, Phase 5

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Region: North Coast

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $362,704

Total Cost: $693,179

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This application is in support of Phase 5 of the ten-year, multi-phase, collaborative Fivemile-Bell Restoration Project (Project). The Project area is located about 10 miles southeast of Florence, Oregon, and includes the sub-watershed of Fivemile Creek of the Tahkenitch Lake basin 6th-field watershed in Douglas County (Maps 1 and 2). Phase 5 project actions are focused in Middle Bell Creek, with additional actions planned in Upper Bell Creek and in Middle and Lower Fivemile Creek (Maps 4-7). Phase 5 is the last anticipated phase of the Fivemile Bell Project.Tahkenitch Lake is home to the healthiest run of wild Coho salmon in Oregon. The estimated population of returning adults in the winter of 2010/2011 was over 10,000 Coho. Tributary streams of Tahkenitch Lake consistently have hundreds of adult Coho salmon spawning each year per mile of stream. While strong when compared with Coho returns throughout the other Oregon Coast Coho populations, historic runs have been estimated near 23,000 (Lawson et al, 2007). Declines in the Tahkenitch Lake salmon runs since the late 1800s correspond to land and resource use actions that reduced the available high quality habitat, including the introduction of warm-water fish species to the lake, the draining and diking of wetlands, the clearing of valley bottoms and channelization of streams to increase available agricultural land, and timber harvest practices. As a result, existing conditions in the Fivemile Creek sub-watershed, the largest tributary to Tahkenitch Lake, were found to have adversely affected Coho salmon production and a landscape-scale restoration project was developed (USFS 5M LMP, 2012). Proposed work in Phase 5 includes channel reconstruction, valley regrading and re-contouring, large wood placement, invasive plant control and native plant revegetation. Project partners include the Siuslaw National Forest, the Siuslaw Institute, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is the final phase of a decade long, award-winning restoration project that has achieved landscape level benefits in a rare opportunity to restore an entire valley bottom.
- The Tahkenitch Lake watershed is a coho stronghold and the project addresses fish habitat limiting factors by increasing rearing habitat in an area that provides juvenile fish protection from predation by introduced warm water fish species present in the lake.

- The restoration design is process-based and addresses causes of watershed disturbance instead of symptoms, which will provide a myriad of ecological benefits.
- The diverse and comprehensive planting plan is modeled after the reference site conditions of nearby Leitel Creek, and a decade of vegetation monitoring has occurred to track success in meeting that objective. A diverse native plant community will be re-established that includes sedges, grasses, and forbs.
- The project team has a proven track record of success and has adopted a well-considered approach to adaptive management of the project, responding with each phase to lessons learned on the ground during previous phases of project implementation
- After the project's conclusion, the partners plan to compile lessons learned and ten years of monitoring data into a document that can be utilized by others planning similar types of work.

Concerns

- There is the potential for short term stream impacts with this process-based restoration design, including stream temperature increases.
- Extensive biological monitoring has not been completed with this type of restoration work. The application would benefit from a proposal to conduct additional monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the restoration techniques proposed.

Concluding Analysis

The Fivemile-Bell project is a long-term effort where the results of the initial phases are already visible and highly regarded by restoration practitioners around the Pacific Northwest. The project serves as a model for other similar restoration and has received wide acclaim in the restoration community. Since coho are highly adapted to this type of restoration and the watershed health benefits outweigh the potential for short term impacts to the stream, the restoration technique proposed is low risk with potential for high ecological gains. Proposed restoration has a high likelihood of success in achieving cost-effective ecological benefits at a scale that will have significant impacts for watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

$362,704

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$362,704

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1013-16999

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Strategic Action Plan Data Synthesis and Finalization

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $49,500

Total Cost: $66,800

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (LCRWC)is pivoting toward a more strategic approach to developing restoration projects. A Draft Strategic Action Plan (SAP) has been developed to provide guidance to identify and develop restoration opportunities in collaboration with LCRWC partners. The draft SAP along with existing spatial datasets provides the basis for identifying high value restoration strategies and project types to support fish habitat and restoration needs throughout the Council's watersheds. More information is necessary to verify the utility of datasets used in the development of the SAP that underpin the strategies used to identify and address limiting factors broadly outlined in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan. The proposed assessment will provide resources to identify existing gaps in stream habitat information and other data, target areas for additional field data collection, and evaluate the data to identify reach-specific limiting factors. Additional information on stream habitat and reach-specific limiting factors will be incorporated into the SAP. The Council will use an established Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that will develop a solicitation package to select a qualified consulting firm to complete the assessment. The consultant will work with TAC to develop and target an approach to prioritize areas in selected reaches of the Lower Columbia watersheds. TAC will meet regularly with consultant team to review data analysis and translation into the SAP. Spatially-explicit information from this effort will overlaid with existing basemaps and new habitat assessment information to refine existing data sets. The new information will identify reach-specific limiting factors and contribute to a prioritized restoration strategy. The Council has included an environmental education component that involves high school environmental education students to assist in assessment and collection of field data.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is pivoting toward a more strategic approach to project implementation, and completing the proposed strategic action plan will assist with that goal.
- The consultant team providing the services to the Council is familiar with the area.
- The project has ancillary community engagement benefits.

- The project area has considerable habitat potential; however, it is an area that is often overlooked by other funding sources.
- The described data synthesis is well-intentioned by building a strategic approach in the Clatskanie watershed, which is a priority location for native fish habitat restoration.

Concerns

- The organizational capacity of the applicant is uncertain given their current model of utilizing a consultant to provide coordinator services. Without a staff person dedicated to the Council, it is unclear whether future eligible restoration projects can successfully be developed and implemented in a timely manner.
- The application does not have enough detail on the scope of work to understand the deliverables expected from this project. The description of the proposed field surveys is vague, both the survey locations and the type of survey work proposed is unclear.
- Developing lesson plans for the local high school is not an eligible use of OWEB funds because the primary purpose is education.
- The Strategic Action Plan is currently in draft form, and it is unclear how the addition of reach-specific data as proposed will inform the limiting factor analysis or how it will add value to the existing plan.

Concluding Analysis

The project area is a priority location for many natural resource agencies and the transition into a strategic approach to project planning is appreciated and encouraged. However, previous project evaluation comments are not addressed in this application. Plans for the survey work are still unclear because key details are missing about the type and location of the field surveys and how the data will be incorporated into the existing draft Strategic Action Plan.

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1014-17016

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Page Creek, Fish Passage and Habitat Complexity Design

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $50,380

Total Cost: $63,130

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Page Creek watershed has undergone a number of restoration treatments to the expand amount of available habitat for needs local salmon and steelhead populations. The proposal solicits resources to expound upon the success of previous restoration efforts to maximize the ecological potential of the Page Creek subwatershed in the Clatskanie Basin (RM 8.8). Funds will be used to procure technical services related to removal of a fish barrier to re-establish access to spawning habitat. Scope of effort also includes design elements that contribute to instream habitat complexity. Pre-design information is needed in the form of topographic and geotechnical surveys necessary for understanding existing condition as well as informing design alternatives. Funds will be used to solicit proposals from established engineering firms to conduct hydrologic and hydraulic analysis to ensure sustainable design to balance both regulatory and local community needs . Scope of engineering services include 30% design sets for new road crossing, instream woody debris placement and climate change resiliency experience. Selected firm will work collaboratively with the watershed council and partners to incorporate baseline information and local knowledge into design process. Firm will also be responsible for assisting the watershed council in vetting design concepts with regulatory community and provide input to permitting applications. Project represents a unique project management structure that partnering with ODFW expertise as well as timber companies local knowledge, equipment, and materials to maximize restoration effort and project cost-effectiveness.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Clatskanie basin is a high priority for ODFW for Lower Columbia fish habitat restoration.
- The technical assistance work will lead to the replacement of the last remaining barrier on Page Creek and complement previous fish passage investments downstream.
- The landowner is highly supportive and engaged in the project.
- Geotechnical work will be conducted as part of this complex project, which is an important activity to ensure the technical soundness of the design approach.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant has the organizational capacity to manage the proposed technical assistance work. Since the budget lacks a line item for project management of the technical services work, it is unclear how the applicant plans to ensure the project is successfully implemented.
- Inclusion of broader partnerships would strengthen the project.
- It is unclear what the plan is to achieve 100% designs.

Concluding Analysis

The application is improved from the previous submittal with the inclusion of a broader geotechnical investigation and a more refined and specific budget for the technical assistance work. While the project would benefit from additional partnerships, the opportunity to repair the last remaining barrier on Page Creek will provide high ecological benefit to the Clatskanie basin. The engaged and active landowner and committed Council board indicate the project has a likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$50,380

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1015-17021

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Nehalem Tributary Junctions Large Wood Engineering Designs

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $74,140

Total Cost: $94,540

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed projects are located at 7 high priority cool water tributary confluences with the lower Nehalem River beginning at Foley Creek at Nehalem river mile ~6 on the downstream end to Spruce Run Creek at Nehalem river mile ~30 at the upstream end and includes Fall Creek, Lost Creek, Cook Creek, Hellof-Rector Creek, Salmonberry River inbetween. All but one site is located within Tillamook County. Spruce Run Creek is located in Clatsop County. The project goal is to develop engineering design alternatives for large wood placements at the confluence zones of these tributary streams. During the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's recent (2018) Rapid Bio-assessment Assessment channel surveys, these tributaries were identified as cool water refugia. These cool water pools provide refuge from the high temperatures in the mainstem Nehalem River, but juvenile fish are holding at these confluence zones that are completely devoid of any complexity or cover, making them susceptible to increased predation. Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will convene a Technical Team to participate in design review and evaluation. LNWC will also conduct outreach to the private landowners who own the properties at 2 of the 7 potential project locations. Project partners include: Wild Salmon Center, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Forestry and NOAA Fisheries. OWEB funds will be used to support: project management and engineering design services to conduct an analysis of LiDAR data and bathymetric survey data, develop a HEC-RAS model and evaluate engineering design alternatives for installing large wood at these tributary junctions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area focuses on anchor habitats for coho identified during the Strategic Action Planning process for the Coho Business Plan in the Nehalem watershed. The core team for that planning process is involved in the proposed project work.
- Designs will be developed for large wood placements in the mainstem Nehalem River, which has extremely high water velocity and temperature issues that are limiting factors for juvenile fish. The tributaries at the project locations provide important cool water refugia.
- The technical assistance need for this type of large wood placement project is well-established. Much of the mainstem in the target reaches is scoured to bedrock and large wood placement will encourage gravel recruitment to restore streambed complexity important for fish.

- The design approach is well-thought out with the technical assistance slated to provide alternatives to consider for three selected sites. The project could be a pilot for similar types of work.

Concerns

- Locating appropriately sized material for large wood structures for the subsequent project implementation will be a challenge in this area.
- The scope of work described in the application would benefit from more clarity. Specific details about the design process and expected deliverables would be helpful to understand technical soundness.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on work underway in the watershed focused on benefiting Oregon coast coho salmon, and this technical assistance work will help to implement the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for coho in the Nehalem. The locations chosen are all anchor habitats identified in the SAP and are recognized as priority places to work to address limiting factors for juvenile fish in the watershed. The cautious design-oriented approach to mainstem work is well-considered given the complexity of the proposed sites located at confluences of cool water tributaries and the mainstem river. The resulting design alternatives could prove to be a pilot for additional projects in coastal mainstem rivers in the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,140

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,140

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1016-17025

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coastal Dune Prairie Habitat Restoration at West Sand Island

Applicant: CREST

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $24,049

Total Cost: $32,393

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed Coastal Dune Prairie Restoration Project site is located on West Sand Island in Clatsop County, OR, along the Columbia River in Baker Bay. The island is a former sand shoal that stabilized after the establishment of the jetty system in the late 1800's. The southern portion of the island contains the rare coastal dune prairie habitat that is home to a variety of rare and threatened plant species. Invasive species were introduced to the island during the 20th century and are encroaching on the coastal dune prairie habitat. Encroaching species include gorse, scotch broom, European beach grass and the native shore pine. The proposed project will utilize manual, mechanical, and fire treatment to manage the encroachment of the aforementioned species and setback succession of the coastal dune prairie habitat. These methods, in addition to the implementation of a native revegetation plan , will be utilized in order to restore a rare and native habitat that would benefit a variety of rare native vegetation, while supporting the habitat needs of ESA listed species such as the moth and the streak horned lark.The project is a partnership between CREST, the North Coast Watershed Association, the United States Army Corps of Engineers as the land owner, and the Center for Natural Lands Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will benefit a host of birds and insects that occupy coastal prairie habitat and contribute to the biodiversity of the Oregon coast, including the streaked horned lark and the yellow sand verbena moth.
- The application is well-written with clear goals and quantifiable objectives.
- The project will tie in with existing work occurring on West Sand Island, potentially together achieving cost efficiencies during coordinated implementation.
- The project has built partnerships and engages the appropriate level of expertise needed to achieve the stated outcomes.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more information about the need to utilize herbicides on the island.

- Management goals for the bird species on the island will need to be coordinated where there is overlapping habitat between species and competing natural resource concerns.

Concluding Analysis

The project on West Sand Island will improve critical coastal prairie habitat, a habitat type on the Oregon coast which is imperiled due to invasive species encroachment and anthropogenic development. The project capitalizes on a unique opportunity to restore this habitat type by collaborating with an aquatic habitat restoration effort slated to occur in the near future. The applicant and project partners have the appropriate expertise to implement the work described and this project has a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,049

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$24,049

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1017-17042

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Alder Creek Restoration and Enhancement Project

Applicant: Lower Nehalem Community Trust

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $54,208

Total Cost: $74,408

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Project location:The project is located on Alder Creek - a direct tributary to Nehalem Bay in the town of Nehalem, Oregon. The majority of the project area is located on Lower Nehalem Community Trust owned lands. The project area is defined as Alder Creek and the associated floodplain from the culvert at Highway 101 - south to the mouth of Alder Creek at Nehalem Bay.2) Project needThe project is needed to enhance and expand rearing habitat for Oregon Coast coho salmon within the Nehalem estuary and watershed. This habitat type is a limiting factor for recovery of the species and is in short supply within the basin. 3) Proposed Work:The proposed work is to develop a project design that will restore and enhance Alder Creek, the riparian corridor within the project area, and habitats within the adjoining floodplain.4. Proposed Partners:Tillamook Estuaries PartnershipLower Nehalem Watershed Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The site location provides excellent potential for fish and wildlife habitat enhancement in the lower Nehalem. Engaging the right technical expertise will help develop a sound project.
- A portion of the project will occur on Alder Creek Farm, which was purchased in part with an OWEB Acquisition grant. This project builds on this prior conservation investment.
- The application demonstrates a more active initiative on behalf of the Lower Nehalem Community Trust to managing the natural areas of the site for ecological benefits. The passive restoration techniques previously utilized on the site have had limited effectiveness.
- The project's location is highly visible and a restoration effort could provide opportunity to raise public awareness.
- The property will benefit from increased stewardship guidance and partnerships that a restoration project may provide.
- Descriptions of the design process and potential deliverables have significantly improved from the previous application submittal.

Concerns

- Previous project evaluation concerns are not all addressed in this application; in particular there is still

a need to broaden partnerships, build relationships, and engage technical experts.

- The plans for the old dairy infrastructure adjacent to Alder Creek are unclear.
- It is unclear whether the applicant has the organizational capacity to manage the proposed technical assistance because the volunteer project manager may not have the time or ability to oversee a successful project.

Concluding Analysis

The goals and objectives described in the application have more detail than was provided in the last submittal; however, the expected scope and scale of the resulting restoration project and the desired future conditions of the site are still unclear. Organizational capacity has limited the applicant's ability to start conversations needed to recruit expertise from state and federal fish and wildlife agencies and partnerships that can increase the likelihood of success in planning future 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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1018-17050

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tillamook River Wetlands: Engineering and Design

Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $74,998

Total Cost: $190,069

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The “Tillamook River Wetlands” project (TRW), is a significant opportunity to improve tidal wetland function, habitat complexity, species diversity, and water quality in Tillamook Bay. TEP in partnership with NCLC, proposes a $193,636 project ($74,988 OWEB) to develop final engineering designs, construction specifications, cost estimates, and permit documentation to implement restoration of the 73-acre TRW. Located in an unincorporated portion of Tillamook County four miles from Tillamook is situated at river mile three of the Tillamook River, one of five major rivers entering Tillamook Bay. TRW is tidally influenced and represents historic spruce swamp, emergent wetland, and tidal channel habitat. Availability of estuarine wetland is an issue of critical importance facing Oregon’s coastal watersheds. With an estimated 68% loss between 1870-1970, no other habitat type has been more impacted on the Oregon Coast than estuarine wetlands (Oregon, 2000). In Tillamook Bay, levee construction, draining, and filling have altered 85% of Tillamook Bay’s tidal wetlands and has resulted in the decline of sensitive species and habitat types (Brophy 2012). Tillamook Bay is critical habitat for federally threatened Oregon Coast Coho salmon (ESU) and NOAA’s recovery plan states the primary limiting factor for recovery is access to intact rearing habitat in tidal wetland. Tillamook Bay, Oregon’s second largest estuary is located along the Pacific Flyway, providing indispensable habitat for a myriad of migratory bird species. In total, the project area supports 17 federal and/or state species of concern, 13 of which are OWEB North Coast priority species. This proposal will finalize ecological characterization of the site and advance the preferred Phase I preliminary design to final “shovel ready” engineering designs. Final designs will be utilized to acquire implementation funding and construct the TRW project. Partners: USFWS, USFS, ODFW, TBWC, TCPW, DU, TU, IAE, and CTSI.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The technical assistance work will provide designs for restoring 73 acres of estuarine habitat, a critical habitat type within the north coast basin.
- The project is in a highly visible location and a restoration project will provide opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.

- The resulting restoration project will provide benefits to a diversity of wildlife, and some unique opportunities exist to restore a forested wetland fringe that has spring-fed inputs. Habitat restoration will result in a wide range of salinities will support a myriad of wildlife.
- The technical assistance work is taking a big picture view of possibilities at the site.
- The project is a priority in the Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative (OCCEC) Strategic Action Plan.
- Partnerships are well established and the appropriate stakeholders are engaged to achieve the stated outcomes.
- The project builds on previous OWEB investment because the project site was funded in part by an OWEB Acquisition grant.

Concerns

- The use of lead by the adjacent gun club could negatively impact benefits from the future restoration project if not managed appropriately.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance effort will build on past investments in the conservation of the Tillamook River Wetlands site and complete final designs for the restoration of the project property. The design approach considers a wide range of alternatives for the restoration, resulting in broad possibilities restoring priority tidally influenced habitat. The technical assistance effort is likely to be successful as the applicant has built strong partnerships around the project and engaged adjacent landowners in the work. The project is an identified priority in several local and regional planning efforts and the expected ecological benefit is high.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,998

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,998

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1019-17060

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fishhawk Lake Replacement Fish Passage Construction Design

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $74,992

Total Cost: $161,726

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located in NW Oregon in the coast range, the Fishhawk Lake dam was constructed in 1967 and is managed by Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community (FLRC). The need is to replace the 52 year-old fish ladder that does not meet current fish passage standards and creates a flow-dependent passage barrier for juvenile and adult Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (ESA Threatened), winter steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, and coastal cutthroat trout. The fish ladder is a complete barrier to juvenile upstream migration of all these fish species.Replacing the fish ladder is a high priority for FLRC, the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council (UNWC), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The Fishhawk 6th field HUC (including Fishhawk Lake) exists with the Nehalem 4th field HUC of the North Coast Basin, including rural portions in Clatsop and Columbia Counties. There is approximately 34.4miles of fish habitat upstream of Fishhawk Lake Dam of which 13.5 is considered to be high quality for Coho Salmon. Fishhawk Lake Dam is on the 2019 state of Oregon's high priority fish passage barrier list.This request is for Technical Assistance to develop up to an 85% engineering design and construction plans for a replacement fish ladder at Fishhawk Lake dam. Project partners include FLRC, UNWC, and ODFW with substantial technical assistance provided by NOAA Fisheries, along with guidance support offered by the Clatsop and Columbia County Soil and Water Districts and the Oregon Water Resources Department.The new fish ladder is one part of a larger effort by the FLRC and UNWC that includes an integrated water supply and water quality enhancement program. These efforts are referenced herein as context for strategies included in this application and to help the reviewer understand the broader restoration goals for the watershed. Together these projects will create a more functional, healthier aquatic and fish migration environment in Fishhawk Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoration of fish passage at the project location is a priority for ODFW, and the Fishhawk Lake Dam remains on the state barrier list.
- The Coho Business Plan for the Nehalem watershed identified both this project and the habitat upstream as a priority for coho salmon.
- The project will build on past investments, including a nearby planting project completed as part of ODA's Strategic Implementation Area program.

- Appropriate permitting agencies have now been engaged since the previous application submittal and have provided feedback on design possibilities for the fish ladder.
- The Fishhawk Lake Reserve Community remains an actively engaged partner.

Concerns

- The project is linked to the Fishhawk Lake Dam replacement, and it is unclear what the outcome would be if only one of these project components received funding. The linkage of the dam and fish ladder projects creates uncertainty for the timeliness and surety of the fish ladder project implementation.
- The project has unclear watershed conservation focus because of the juxtaposition of the dam replacement with the fish ladder construction.
- There is not consistent understanding among technical reviewers about the quality of upstream and lake habitat so it is difficult to determine the extent of habitat benefits that will result from providing fish access to the stream above the lake.
- The water quality in the lake negatively impacts fish. Temperatures in the lake are significantly higher than adjacent streams, and the project is unlikely to address this important limiting factor for salmonids. The lake currently has lethal water temperatures for salmon in the summer and dissolved oxygen is also not meeting state standards.
- The new proposal for dam improvements involves a significant amount of dredging, which will be harmful to Pacific lamprey. Dredging is not ecologically sound management for a number of aquatic species.
- There is no easement secured for the adjacent property downstream of the dam, which will be necessary for successfully implementing the resulting construction project.
- There is a significant amount of sediment in this system, with estimates of 1600 cubic yards per acre-foot. Sediment, gravel, and large wood are unable to move downstream because the dam interrupts this watershed transport process that is important to downstream habitat. The proposed fish ladder and dam improvements will not address this watershed limitation.
- The lake has poor summer rearing habitat and providing juvenile passage at the ladder will not improve these conditions.
- The budget has a lump sum of match for $55,000 and there are no details provided.

Concluding Analysis

Fish passage at the Fishhawk Dam is a priority for ODFW and there has been an increased level of agency involvement in the design process. The proposed technical assistance will fund the fish ladder design in conjunction with an ongoing design effort to replace the Fishhawk Dam. There is uncertainty about how the two projects will be sequenced and whether the fish ladder design and implementation will be impacted if the dam improvements do not materialize. The resulting ecological benefit of improving fish passage at this site is limited due to the water quality conditions in the lake and the lack of passage for materials, such as large wood and gravel, that are unable to move downstream to restore habitat-forming processes.

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-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1020-16980

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Bay to Headwaters: Siletz River Community Outreach, Engagement & Conservation

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $34,240

Total Cost: $55,077

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

To help alleviate negative anthropogenic impacts to the Siletz River, the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) will carry out a multi year outreach campaign to reach private residents, agricultural producers, timberland managers, tribal entities, and other diverse stakeholders along the Lower Siletz River (1710020407), Middle Siletz River (1710020405), and Rock Creek (1710020406) HUC-10 watersheds. Building a network of community connections will: increase the district and partner organization's capacity to carry out restoration projects identified in the Siletz Coho Business Plan; teach the public about the benefits of conservation on private lands; increase citizen buy-in and volunteerism; allow local ecological knowledge to collaboratively inform future project designs; and implement best management practices aimed at increasing water quality on a landscape scale. Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) most recent 303d report of impaired waters lists the main-stem Siletz and a number of its tributaries because of abundantly warm water temperatures, E.coli presence, limited dissolved oxygen, and high turbidity rates. For endangered Coastal Coho Salmon in the Siletz basin, limiting factors impacting productivity and resilience stem from a lack of habitat supporting the fish's alternate life stages such as floodplain connectivity loss, channel complexity needs, warm summer temperatures, and low summer flows. Resulting restoration work resulting from this multi-year in-depth Stakeholder Engagement project will focus around bolstering anchor habitats identified in the Siletz Coho Business Plan in coordination with a litany of partners including the DEQ, the MidCoast Watershed Council, Wild Salmon Center, Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife, Lincoln County Environmental Health Department, and the Oregon Water Resource Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The stakeholder engagement timing is appropriate with several planning efforts underway, including the Coho Business Plan for the watershed and a current Focus Area of the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District.
- The many letters of support presented are indicative of the potential partnerships that could result from this work.
- The application is well thought out and organized.

- The coordination of the project with the MidCoast TMDLs will integrate water quality into the outreach effort.
- The proposed project implementation approach will divide the project area into smaller river reaches that will be effective at reaching target audiences.

Concerns

- Measuring project success by the number of OWEB Restoration projects funded through this effort may not be the best indicator of success.
- Some of the indicators for the listed objectives are not quantifiable. More specific and achievable targets would help clarify the likelihood of success for the project.
- There may be costs in the material and supplies budget section that are not eligible.

Concluding Analysis

The Siletz watershed is a significant ecological resource and the project is timely for engaging the local community in developing restoration opportunities. The project approach and commitment by project partners has a high likelihood of success for generating future watershed restoration with multiple watershed benefits to the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$34,240

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Budget costs for two lines items in Materials and Supplies are not eligible. The applicant indicated some line items are for general uniform costs for SWCD employees that will be used for other purposes besides this project, these costs are considered indirect expenses. The $701 in uniform costs should be removed from the budget along with the associated indirect costs, bringing the total recommended award to $33,469.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$33,469

Staff Conditions

Costs for uniforms and associated indirect costs shall be removed from the budget and the grant award will be reduced to $33,469.

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1021-17022

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower Nehalem Anchor Habitats Landowner Outreach

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $24,459

Total Cost: $43,159

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Nehalem River watershed is divided between the Upper Nehalem Watershed Council and the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council (LNWC). LNWC operates in all waters downstream from Humbug Creek. This area includes portions of both Tillamook and Clatsop County. LNWC is currently implementing OWEB grant 218-1037, Lower Nehalem RBA and LFA Light. Through this grant the LNWC has already identified 38 distinct coho anchor habitats in tributaries to the Nehalem river that are priorities for habitat enhancement. Additional coho anchors will be identified in the North Fork Nehalem River during the summer of 2019. The enhancements will vary from anchor to anchor but may include large wood placement, riparian plantings, or other projects.The implementation of these enhancements will require cooperation from state, industrial, and independent landowners. This project will provide time for approximately 8 hours a week of the Council Coordinator's time to focus on this outreach for two years. The Council Coordinator will use this time to build relationships with landowners, send targeted mailers, hold community meetings, conduct landowner surveys, site visits, and develop landowner agreements. The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council will receive support for this effort from the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Weyerhaeuser, and Lewis and Clark Timberlands in the form of coordination, technical advice, assistance with educational outreach, and cash donation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a strategic approach focused on anchor habitats for coho and is based on the work done with the Coho Business Plan process in the Nehalem basin. The project will help to implement the Strategic Action Plan developed through that effort.
- Proposed stakeholder engagement builds on past and current work underway with an OWEB-funded monitoring project conducting a Rapid Bioassessment in the lower Nehalem.
- The application contains a thorough description of the timeliness of engaging stakeholders at this juncture.
- The application exhibits proposal clarity and is well-written with a budget that contains a detailed cost breakdown for the work proposed.

- There is a cost effectiveness to the work as the staffing approach will make efficient use of staff time to accomplish the proposed goals and objectives.
- TMDLs are in place throughout the project area, and stream temperature has become one of the signature issues of concern in the Lower Nehalem. This project has the potential to make strides addressing this issue.
- The watershed council has capacity to accomplish the proposed work and has built relationships with forest landowners in the watershed.

Concerns

- The numbers for objectives and associated success indicators seem conservative.
- The budget proposes only 8 hours of staff time each week toward this effort, which may not be enough of a time investment to make significant progress towards the goals and objectives.
- The Tillamook SWCD is not mentioned in the application and could be an effective partner to assist with landowner engagement.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed stakeholder engagement builds upon past and ongoing strategic planning efforts in the Lower Nehalem, and the applicant is well positioned to accomplish the proposed stakeholder engagement work. The approach is well-thought out and structured in a manageable way that is likely to be effective given the Council's positive relationships with timber landowners in the basin. While the numbers of landowners and proposed generated agreements seem conservative given the magnitude of the land base involved, much of the ownership of the anchor habitats lies within only a few key landowners that need to be engaged. The project is well-timed to take advantage of ongoing interest in the watershed and has a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,459

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$24,459

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1022-17030

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Tide Gate Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $25,209

Total Cost: $34,709

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Tide gates have been used extensively throughout the Tillamook Bay estuary and sub-basins, including the Wilson, Trask, Kilchis, Miami, and Tillamook rivers as well as numerous direct-to-bay tributaries surrounding the town of Tillamook. While dikes and tide gates have increased the available land for agriculture and development, they have also exacerbated flooding and resulted in a massive loss of critical habitat for the rearing of threatened Coastal Coho salmon. Additionally, many tide gates have reached or surpassed their design-life, and most are of top-hinge design, greatly restricting fish passage and wetland function. All are under-sized compared with the upstream basins they drain, inhibiting drainage, enhancing erosion around tide gate structures, and creating velocity barriers that further limit fish passage windows. Over the last two years, state, county and local stakeholders have been engaged in the Tide Gate Working Group aimed at streamlining the permitting process and kick-starting high-value tide gate replacement projects. As part of that state-wide effort, OWEB has recently completed a synthesis of available data intended to set the stage for comprehensive regional inventories, project prioritizations and project development. This grant application is intended to provide the funds to a) analyze available tide gate data and determine data gaps; b) plan and execute focused outreach and engagement with tide gate owners and stakeholders; and c) develop a working group that will plan, prioritize and develop high-priority projects. Partners include City of Tillamook, Tillamook County, OSU Extension Service, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and the Salmon SuperHwy Executive Committee.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will build on momentum occurring to address tide gate issues along the Oregon coast.
- The timing is right to begin engaging more landowners around tide gates, and the community is aware of the state working group and efforts to streamline tide gate replacements.
- There is a clear need in Tillamook County for more landowner engagement focused on tide gates in the low gradient reaches of the watershed.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the applicant has organizational capacity for the proposed work. An explanation on how the applicant is uniquely positioned among the agricultural community and qualified to serve as a convening entity for this engagement would provide helpful context to determine the applicant's capacity for the proposed work.
- The applicant may not have the organizational staff capacity to successfully implement the project.
- In many instances, tide gate work does not have an effective cost-benefit ratio because water quality benefits are often limited for a high cost.
- Evidence of key partner support in the watershed, particularly the agricultural community, is missing in the application.
- The project approach of hosting large workshops may not be effective in leading to timely development of eligible projects. A coffee klatch-like approach more face-to-face small groups may be more effective.
- The project scope of work includes conducting a tide gate inventory and prioritization methodology. However, several existing tide gate prioritization efforts are underway and proposed work may be duplicative of these efforts.
- The timing may be premature for stakeholder engagement work around tide gates. The statewide Tide Gate Working Group is currently focusing on streamlining the permitting process. Waiting until that process is concluded would provide more complete information to landowners.

Concluding Analysis

The need for this type of community engagement around tide gate work is well established and if done effectively, could help improve habitat in the lower gradient reaches around Tillamook Bay that are critical for many aquatic species. However, the project approach centers on using larger workshops as an outreach technique, which has proved ineffective in reaching key landowners in the past. The inclusion of smaller face-to-face outreach efforts in addition to the larger group events would strengthen the application. The substantial uncertainty about whether the applicant has capacity to accomplish the work as proposed makes it difficult to determine the likelihood of success for this 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

Southwest - Region 2 Spring 2019 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 20180923

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Fall 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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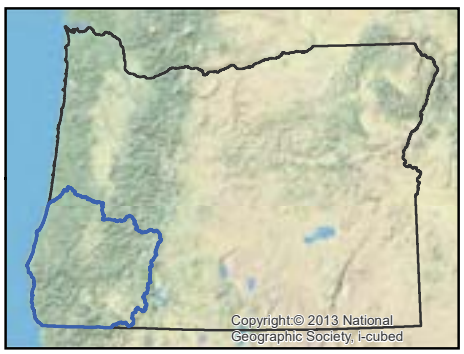

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-2011	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Glover Estuary Enhancement	Two failing tidegates will be replaced with new tidegates to improve coho passage to thirty acres of winter rearing habitat on a Smith River ranch, near Reedsport.	723,973	Douglas
220-2015	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Lower Bridgepoint Dam Fish Passage Project	A fish passage barrier on Williams Creek, a tributary to The Applegate River near Williams, will be replaced with a new water intake system that will eliminate the dam and improve passage for coho to upstream habitats.	328,850	Josephine
220-2005	Coos Watershed Association	Catching and Boone Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration	Trees will be planted and fencing installed along a two mile section of Catching and Boone Creek near Coos Bay to enhance stream habitat and improve water quality for coho.	384,759	Coos
220-2003	Coos Watershed Association	Tioga Creek Instream & Fish Passage Restoration	Coho salmon habitat structures will be placed in two miles of Tioga Creek and three fish barriers will be replaced to provide access to fish habitat.	448,377	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,885,959**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-2013	Coquille Watershed Association	North Fork Riparian Restoration	Trees will be planted and fencing installed on four properties along 2.6 miles of the North Fork Coquille to help protect and restore coho habitat and the drinking water source for the City of Myrtle Point.	252,406	Coos
220-2010	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Windy Creek Instream Restoration	Habitat structures will be placed along a one mile section of Windy Creek, located near Glendale, for coho and steelhead.	69,164	Douglas
220-2006	Coquille Watershed Association	Woodward Creek Restoration	Habitat structures for coho will be placed along 2.1 miles of Woodward Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Coquille River near Coquille. Additionally, barriers will be placed to restrict illegal off-road vehicle access to the stream to help reduce sediment runoff into the drinking water source for the City of Myrtle Point.	250,018	Coos
220-2016	Rogue River WC	Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement on C2 Ranch Project	Two seasonal dams that block fish passage on Salt creek, a tributary to Little Butte Creek Above Eagle Point, will be replaced with new diversion structures, restoring coho and steelhead passage to 1.6 miles of stream.	65,218	Jackson
220-2002	Coos Watershed Association	Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration	Habitat structures will be placed in a four-mile section of Marlow Creek to enhance coho habitat. Improvement of passage through a boulder falls will make an additional two miles of habitat avaliable for salmon.	204,574	Coos

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order Continued					
220-2014	Coos Watershed Association	North Slough Riparian Restoration	Trees will be planted and the noxious weed, Policemen's Helmet, will be treated on seven properties along 1.1 miles of North Slough near North Bend to improve stream health and water quality.	117,402	Coos
220-2009	Elk Creek WC	Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration	Habitat structures will be placed in a 1.5 mile section of Ellenburg Creek located near Drain, to enhance habitat for coho.	178,975	Douglas
220-2000	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Upper Phillips Dam Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project	A fish barrier for steelhead and coho will be eliminated at a dam on the Little Applegate River near Ruch. Irrigation improvements will result in more efficient use of diverted water and the potential for increased stream flows.	212,142	Jackson
220-2012	Jackson SWCD	Antelope Creek Water Quality Improvement Project	A new irrigation system will help reduce runoff of warm, polluted water into Antelope Creek, helping to improve the water quality of the stream.	75,628	Jackson
220-2007	Smith River WC	Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration	Native plants and trees will be planted and invasive blackberries will be removed on 17.7 acres along Wasson Creek, a tributary to the Smith River near Reedsport.	78,305	Douglas
220-2004	Coos Watershed Association	Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement	Salmon passage through the Five Mile Creek Quarry falls area, located on Williams River, will be improved by moving a road and widening the channel.	328,844	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**3,718,635**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-2017	Curry SWCD	Ranch Creek Passage	239,907	Curry
220-2008	Smith River WC	Spencer Creek Instream Restoration	155,786	Douglas

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2025	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Murphy Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Project	Engineering design alternatives will be developed for addressing fish passage at the Murphy Dam, located on the Applegate River.	74,987	Josephine
220-2020	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Evans Cr Fish Passage - Wimer Siphon	An engineering design will be developed for the removal of a dam on Evans Creek, located near Wimer, to help improve fish access to upstream habitat.	36,614	Jackson
220-2026	Water Watch of Oregon	Slate Creek Dam Removals Phase 1	Engineering designs will be developed for removal of three dams and replacement irrigation systems on Slate Creek located near Grants Pass. When constructed, the improvements will provide access to 15 miles of habitat for steelhead and coho.	67,500	Josephine
220-2018	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Tenmile Lakes Watershed Big Creek Land Acquisition Technical Assistance	The project will complete necessary land transaction elements for a potential acquisition of a property on lower Big Creek, located near Lakeside, for its important ecological values.	36,841	Coos
220-2024	Coos Watershed Association	Palouse Tide Gate Replacement Design Analysis	Engineering design alternatives will be developed for the replacement of the Palouse Creek tide gate, located near Coos Bay, to enhance passage for coho and protect agricultural uses above the site.	74,988	Coos
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**290,930**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2019	Coos SWCD	Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design	Engineering designs will be developed to improve habitat for overwintering coho on agricultural land within the Beaver Slough Drainage District behind the newly completed China Camp Tidegate.	74,946	Coos
220-2028	Siskiyou Field Institute	Siskiyou Field Institute Deer Creek Center Restoration and Management Plan	A management plan will be updated for preserving and restoring the ecological values on the 850 acres Siskiyou Field Institute Deer Creek Center property near Selma.	60,291	Josephine
220-2022	Coquille Watershed Association	Big Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development	The project will assess and prioritize restoration actions for the 16,600-acre Big Creek basin, a tributary of the Middle Fork Coquille River near Myrtle Point.	55,077	Coos
220-2023	Coos Watershed Association	South Fork Coos River Road Assessment and Project Development	Road inventory surveys will evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River to identify water quality and habitat problems and develop plans to address road and fish passage issues.	64,690	Coos
220-2027	Curry SWCD	Spatial datasets to inform planning on the South Coast	The project will develop maps and narrative to support prioritization of partner organizations' restoration objectives in 13 coastal watersheds largely within Curry County.	61,589	Curry
220-2021	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Elkton Reserve Restoration Project	An updated management plan will be developed for the 410 acre Elkton Reserve, located on the mainstem of the Umpqua River near Elkton, with the goal to enhance the overall ecological value of the property.	47,350	Douglas
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**654,873**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
None				

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2029	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Lower Williams Cr Landowner Engagement	Landowners on the lower reach of Williams Creek, near Provolt, will be engaged to discuss restoration opportunities in stream corridors.	29,385	Josephine
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**29,385**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**29,385**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-2030	Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	Upper Bear Creek Ashland Watershed Engagement		72,011	Jackson
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**2,206,274**	**24%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,284,183**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2000-16960

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: $212,142

Total Cost: $1,307,945

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Phillips Fish Passage and Irrigation Efficiency Project will restore fish passage at Upper Phillips Dam; install a new headgate and fish screen; dedicate conserved water instream; and conserve water through piping 1.8 miles of irrigation ditch that serves 11 properties 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 high priority, 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 structure efficiencies will reduce the amount of water diverted and conserved water will be dedicated instream for the benefit of aquatic species in a DEQ-listed flow-limited stream. Two fish passage barriers below the dams have been removed and this project continues the momentum for restoring passage upstream. 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 approach is to combine the Upper and Lower Phillips Ditch points of diversion in order to maximize the efficiency of the system and provide the greatest likelihood of conserved water. The project has the potential to gain an instream water right of up to 0.5 cfs through use of the allocation of conserved water statute. Instream water will 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.
- This project builds on previous work within the Little Applegate River, which resulted in over 13 cfs being allocated instream and three diversions being removed.

- The project is a resubmittal and the application provided additional detail about coordination with NOAA on fish passage. The project will provide access to 1 mile of historic coho habitat and 19 miles of steelhead habitat.
- Besides benefiting fish passage and stream flows, the project will improve the water conveyance in the ditch as well as create opportunities for users to become more efficient irrigators.
- Fish passage barriers below this project have already been addressed. The next diversion point upstream, a partial passage barrier is 1,500 feet upstream and on the list for the applicant to address.
- The applicant and ditch associations are coordinating closely with OWRD.

Concerns

- The designs were not reviewed by ODFW and NOAA to determine if fish passage criteria will be met. Juvenile fish passage upstream is most heavily impacted during the summer months when the seasonal push-up dam is installed.
- Merger of the two ditches is key to realizing conserved water instream, but the two ditch associations have not yet committed to combining the ditches. The project cost is high for the potential ecological benefits due to the unknowns regarding the ditch merger and the bearing that has on likelihood of success.
- The status of the match funding being sought from OWRD to support piping both Upper and Lower Phillips ditches is still listed as pending and the related support email provided was from 2016.
- It was noted that there is a bedrock feature just upstream from the confluence with the Applegate River that can impact passage.

Concluding Analysis

Fish passage and water quantity are critical limiting factors in this watershed. There has been a great deal of success in removing barriers and putting water back instream in this system. The project would build on the instream flows that have already been realized from previous projects downstream. Potential savings from this project could range from 0.25 cfs to 0.5 cfs but the final volume will not be known until after the project is implemented. The application demonstrated increased landowner commitment to the project, which is critical to realizing conserved water instream by combining the ditches. The applicant plans additional outreach to the ditch associations to help insure project success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

12 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

$212,142

Review Team Conditions

Conserved water will be returned instream via the allocation of conserved water statute.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2001-16982

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase VI

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $185,760

Total Cost: $809,348

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The upper South Umpqua River contains one of two coastal spring chinook populations passing all six criteria for population stability, with an annual average of less than 200 returning fish over a 30-year period. This project directly addresses limiting factors for spring Chinook salmon identified within the FY 2011 Skillet-Emerson Watershed Restoration Action Plan and the 2014 ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan which identifies the lack of spawning gravel is a primary limiting factor for this population. The project is located in Douglas County Oregon, approximately 21 River Miles upstream of Tiller on in the mainstem of the South Umpqua River from the Buckeye Creek confluence (RM 207.0) to just below South Umpqua Falls (RM 207.8). Phase VI of the project proposes to treat 1,000 feet of important spawning and rearing habitat, and increasing habitat diversity by creating 1.4 acres of stable spawning habitat. The project treats the highest priority area within the basin, which cumulatively (1963-2009) accounts for 20% of spring Chinook use. Project partners included NOAA; USFS Umpqua National Forest, Tiller Ranger District; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife -- Roseburg Umpqua Watershed District; and SURCP.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

Application was withdrawn from consideration by applicant.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Withdrawn

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
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2002-16995
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $204,574
Total Cost: $304,359

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

In Coos County, Marlow Creek is the furthest downstream of the three main tributaries to the East Fork Millicoma River and has been heavily impacted by past land management practices, which has degraded in-stream habitat throughout the basin (Attachment 1). Marlow Creek provides important habitat to fall chinook, chum and coho salmon and steelhead trout, along with other important aquatic species (e.g. Pacific lamprey). With its high spawning and rearing activity, the Marlow Creek subbasin has been a focal area of previous habitat restoration in the Coos basin for more than two decades, but there is still room for habitat improvements. The Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration project is a multi-faceted project that seeks to address a lack of stream complexity, fish passage, and water quality by proposing to 1) place 104 pieces of wood over 4 miles to enhance spawning and rearing habitat, 2) improve passage through the boulder falls near the 5 Mile Marker on the 1000 Rd to open 2 miles of spawning and rearing habitat, and 3) improve and maintain the 1000 Road surface and current drainage to reduce chronic sediment input into Marlow Creek. OWEB funds will be used for project management, travel, contracted services, materials & supplies, and indirect costs. The Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA),Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Department of State Lands (DSL), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will provide matching funds for contracted services, materials & supplies, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmittal and the applicant addressed the previous concern regarding the low benefit to cost ratio. The proposed bridge placement was removed from the application, reducing the project cost accordingly.
- Marlow Creek is a highly productive stream that supports important ESA-listed coho spawning and rearing habitat. The project addresses critical limiting factors impacting coho related to simplified instream habitat conditions and access.
- The proposal demonstrates a strong working relationship among partners through involvement in design, implementation, and funding.
- 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.

- Marlow Creek is the only consistent stronghold for chum salmon in this system.

Concerns

- Additional detail in the application describing “improved road surfaces” would be helpful for better understanding the proposed work activities and intended benefits from that project component.
- It is unclear whether the boulder falls are natural or were created by road construction.

Concluding Analysis

The project partners have established a successful track record of implementing instream habitat enhancement and fish passage improvements. The project objectives are clearly articulated and the design approach has a high likelihood of resulting in a successful restoration project. The project builds on restoration activities implemented downstream of the project reach. The proposal has a good potential to increase Marlow Creek’s productivity for ESA-listed coho and other aquatic species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$204,574

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2003-17002

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tioga Creek Instream & Fish Passage Restoration

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $448,377

Total Cost: $575,931

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Tioga Creek is the large tributary that combines with Williams River to form the South Fork Coos River in the Coos basin. The Tioga Creek subbasin is a flashy, coastal system in Coos County that provides important salmon and steelhead spawning and rearing habitat, along with other important species (Pacific lamprey, cutthroat trout); but stream cleaning, riparian logging, road construction, and removal of conifers from side draws have led to decreased wood loading and degraded aquatic habitats. Restoration activities have occurred throughout the Tioga Creek subbasin since 1980s, however recent habitat assessments and project prioritization have led to a collaborative restoration effort by all landowners within the Tioga Creek subbasin for the first time. The Tioga Creek Instream & Fish Passage Restoration project is a multi-faceted project that seeks to address degraded stream complexity, water quality, and fish passage by proposing to 1) place 137 pieces of wood and 300 cubic yards of boulders in over 2 miles of Tioga Creek, 2) replace 3 undersized, double culvert crossings with bridges to open access to 1 mile of tributary habitat and release a large amount of coarse sediment into the newly added wood structures, and 3) plant 2000 conifers along 1.5 miles of riparian buffer on the Tioga mainstem. OWEB funds will be used for project management, travel, contracted services, materials & supplies, and indirect costs. The Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bavarian Olympus Timber LLC (BOT), and Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) will be providing match that includes project management, travel, stream crossing designs, contracted services, materials & supplies, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous fish passage and instream habitat activities within this basin. Project partners are practicing adaptive management by using observations from previous projects; the proposal utilizes larger wood and employs a 1-2 year waiting period after culvert removal to observe sediment distribution prior to culver replacement.
- The project approach and technical designs are sound and have a high likelihood for success.
- The project culverts were added to the 2019 ODFW fish passage priority list and are among the top five priority barriers for the Coos system.

- The project presents an opportunity to work with a new land manager who has demonstrated commitment to the project through match donations and active participation in project development.
- The project would improve access and instream conditions in critical habitat areas for ESA-listed coho.

Concerns

- The applicant needs to work with NOAA to ensure the bridge designs will meet fish passage criteria.
- The project has increased mobilization costs because heavy equipment will need to visit the site for culvert removal and again for installation of the new structures.

Concluding Analysis

The project has been vetted through the applicant's technical team process and incorporates lessons learned from previous work on passage and habitat enhancement projects in the basin. The poor condition of the culverts makes the timing of this proposal critical. The project area is a priority for protection and restoration in the draft Coos Coho Strategic Action Plan and the effort will benefit fish access and improve habitats that ESA-listed coho rely on. The project partners are committed and experienced, and the work has a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$448,377

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$448,377

Staff Conditions

Culvert designs must meet NOAA Fish Passage Criteria.

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2004-17007

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Williams River Quarry Falls Fish Passage Improvement

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $328,844

Total Cost: $511,807

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

In the Coos basin, the Williams River is a main tributary to the South Fork Coos River, providing important habitat for chinook, coho, and steelhead, among other aquatic species. The 1960s road building and quarry operations constrained the Williams River at the Five Mile Creek Quarry in Douglas County against a bedrock hillslope, drastically increasing the stream gradient to establish the Quarry Falls. These falls are a major concern and are the top priority barrier on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority List in the Coos basin. CoosWA and Weyerhaeuser have collaborated to tackle the other major priority barriers on the Millicoma Tree Farm (OWEB 212-2047, 216-2012), with a focus now on tackling the last major priority barrier, the Quarry Falls. This project proposes to address fish passage issues and the simplified channel complexity that stem from the high velocities and jump heights present in the falls by shifting the 5000 Road over nearly 50 feet, widening the channel by up to 45 feet, and planting 400 trees and shrubs along 700 ft of stream. These activities will improve stream complexity, establish a more beneficial riparian buffer, and improve adult and juvenile access to nearly 21 miles of the furthest extent of anadromous fish habitat in the Coos basin. Migrating adults often have limited access to the high quality spawning habitat above the falls, which leads to overpopulated rearing reaches downstream. Juveniles tend to rear in the William's cool, productive waters significantly longer than streams lower in the Coos basin, emphasizing the importance of spawning distribution above the falls to increase the survival of out migrating juveniles. OWEB funds will fund project management, travel, supplies, contracted services, and indirect costs. Weyerhaeuser, CoosWA, ODFW, and NOAA will be providing match to cover project designs, permitting, road relocation activities, contracted services, technical assistance, and some indirect costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a resubmittal and the applicant addressed concerns from the previous application related to the technical team differences on design approach.
- This barrier is the final one in the system and builds on other fish passage and extensive instream habitat restoration work both upstream and downstream of the site. The project will facilitate passage for multiple species including ESA-listed coho, with juveniles benefiting the most from the project.
- The costs associated with earth moving are reasonable for the amount of work proposed.

- Project partners have experience in successfully addressing challenging fish passage projects. The application demonstrates strong working partnerships and commitment necessary to design, fund, and implement a project of this magnitude.

Concerns

- Fish passage is not a priority limiting factor for coho in this watershed.
- The rationale for a high project cost to gain a limited fish benefit, eliminating delay in spawning, was not clearly articulated in the application.
- It remains unclear if the project is “shovel ready” because consultation with NOAA and ODFW has not yet occurred.
- While the application corrected two of the three letters of support from the prior submittal, the third support letter is for a different project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed approach to improve fish passage at the site should lessen gradient and flow velocity and assist in both adult and juvenile passage for multiple species. While passage is not a critical limiting factor in this system, the work will complete fish passage restoration efforts and connectivity between upstream and downstream habitats. The high project cost for the expected ecological benefit resulted in a lower priority ranking.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
15 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$328,844

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2005-17011

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Catching and Boone Creek Fish Passage and Habitat Restoration

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $384,759

Total Cost: $566,108

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project proposes to restore watershed function through riparian planting/fencing, improving fish passage, access to off-channel habitat, and address 11 fish passage crossings. The Catching and Boone Creek sub-basins are DEQ 303(d) listed tributary's that drain to Catching Slough near Coos Bay, situated along a narrow agricultural valley that's been heavily impacted by past land management practices, resulting in stream channelization and removal of riparian trees and shrubs. The project proposes to install 17,325 feet of livestock exclusion fencing along more than 2 miles of stream within these sub-basins, provide riparian setbacks ranging between 20 and 30 feet. These buffers will be planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species according to the existing planting plans. Prior to planting, invasive blackberry will be addressed throughout the project area. Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years after the planting to insure a goal of 80% plant survival. To address the 11 failing and drastically undersized (18-48") stream crossings we will install 3 concrete slab bridges, 6 culverts (24"-96"), and fully decommission 2 crossings. Crossings have been sized to pass 100-year peak flows and will meet NOAA fish passage criteria (1.5xACW and >20% embeddedness). These crossings will improve existing drainage issues and provide access to nearly 7 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat, which are the key limiting factors for the Catching Creek sub-basin. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, engineering designs, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. The landowner, County Road Department, Coos SWCD, and ODFW will provide match contributions in the form of contracted services/labor, project supplies/materials, and technical expertise during the duration of the project. OYCC match will fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities for the next 5 years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project restores important habitat for ESA-listed coho and will also address water quality, which is a critical limiting factor.
- The crossing designs meet NOAA fish passage criteria. The project will open access to 7 miles of fish habitat.

- The fencing plan is sound and the property already has off-channel livestock watering. The planting plan is appropriate for the area and the stewardship plan is likely to result in plants achieving “free-to-grow” stage.
- NRCS is planning to work in the Coos River basin as one of the agency’s next priority areas.
- The project builds on previous restoration work in this sub-watershed. The applicant has a successful track record of implementing and stewarding similar projects.
- The project is in a highly visible location that could help gain support for future restoration projects. The landowner is committed to the success of the project and is actively engaged in design and implementation and planned stewardship activities.

Concerns

- The landowner is currently not interested in CREP. The streams were simplified through historic land use practices and there is low likelihood of restoring historic meander patterns.
- It is unclear whether the road beds would need to be raised to accommodate the new crossings.
- There is some discrepancy in the application on the amount of cost share the county will provide for the bridge costs.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides an opportunity to implement important restoration work in a highly visible location. The low gradient, near estuary stream systems are identified as priority areas for restoration in the draft Coos Coho Strategic Action Plan. The project is technically sound, involves a highly engaged landowner and has a high likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

$384,759

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$384,759

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2006-17012
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Woodward Creek Restoration
Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $250,018
Total Cost: $443,848

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Woodward Creek is a major tributary to the North Fork Coquille River and has important spawning and rearing habitat for coho, Chinook, steelhead, cutthroat and Pacific lamprey. The project area, near Fairview in Coos County, OR is designated as critical habitat for the ESA listed Oregon Coast coho salmon and it is a BLM Priority Watershed. The Woodward Creek Basin is suffering from the legacy of historic land use. The limiting factors currently facing Woodward Creek are a lack of stream complexity, habitat and refugia and excessive sediment loading from the road network, exacerbated by illegal recreational activity. Partnering with the BLM, timber companies, Coos County Forestry and a private landowner, CoqWA is continuing a holistic restoration effort aimed at addressing all of the limiting factors in Woodward Creek. Restoration actions include wood placement for habitat, installing barriers to restrict illegal recreational activity, replacing three failing culverts on fish bearing tributaries and six on non-fish bearing tributaries, partially decommissioning a valley bottom road and performing education and outreach to the local community. Together, these actions will provide benefits for native fish, water quality and the local community across an extremely important sub-watershed. Specifically, OWEB funding will be used to support the in-stream habitat enhancement, culvert replacements on fish bearing streams, and the partial road decommissioning. In-kind match and cash match from the BLM and Drinking Water Providers Partnership will accomplish the remaining deliverables in this holistic approach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The North Fork is the drinking water source for Myrtle Point. The project will help address 303(d) listed water quality issues including sedimentation and temperature.
- The project partners are committed to stopping off-road vehicle use in riparian and stream areas. The proposal takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the problem, including outreach to the public and local user groups, blocking access points on main entry roads and arterial roads, placing physical impediments near stream access points, and increased security presence.
- The budget has reasonable rates and is cost effective for the proposed scope of work.
- The project will improve instream habitat for ESA-listed coho and builds on the benefits attained from previous large wood placement in the stream.

Concerns

- Curbing off-road vehicle access to riparian areas and streams is a difficult proposition. From a technical perspective the locating of areas and placement of access impediments is challenging. It is unclear from the design information provided in the application how the installation of slash materials and logs will reduce sediment inputs. The culvert replacement designs are not provided because they are still in the technical design phase.

Concluding Analysis

Woodward Creek provides important habitat for ESA-listed coho and also contributes to the drinking water source for the City of Myrtle Point. Project activities will improve instream habitat and water quality. Off-road vehicle activity has been a long-term concern that requires combination of approaches. The ecological benefit will be high should the effort be successful. Increasing public awareness will be a key component in achieving long-term success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$250,018

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

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

Staff Recommended Amount
$250,018

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2007-17024

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Wasson Creek Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $78,305

Total Cost: $164,807

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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. Part of the project area is located in the tidal zone.The primary issue is Riparian Process and Function. 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 over a six year period. Monitoring of native tree plantings will be conducted for an additional two years to ensure escapement. 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 with manual removal and herbicide treatments occurring twice during year 3, and once for years 4-6. The need for subsequent treatments will be evaluated during years 7 and 8 to ensure escapement for plantings to the free-to-grow stage (Forest Practices Program, Oregon Department of forestry, 1994). If further treatments are required after year 6, funds for needed maintenance will be acquired from the USFS Siuslaw NF Stewardship Group. This maintenance may also be performed by the USFS if they purchase the project lands from Ecotrust Forest Management within the next 3-4 years.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, Ecotrust Forest Management and CTCLUSI. 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 site preparation approach and the planting plan are reasonable and tailored for the site conditions. In response to a prior evaluation concern, the application includes a contingency plan in case additional plant stewardship efforts are needed after year six.
- Restoration of the riparian area will help improve riparian function, benefit water quality, and support large wood recruitment to the stream. Upper portions of the watershed are under Ecotrust ownership and present an opportunity for future large wood recruitment instream.

- The application presents a concise description of the watershed's limiting factors and the discussion of the restoration alternatives is helpful in understanding how the proposed solution will address the limiting factors. The stream is a lower tributary to the Smith River and is closely connected to tidally influenced habitats important to ESA-listed coho.

Concerns

- The contingency plan for plant stewardship is dependent upon securing funds from USFS at the time of need; the likelihood of obtaining those funds is unclear in the application.
- The project hours associated with the Executive Director seem excessive based on the scope of work. Additional detail on how the time was estimated would be helpful.
- According to the application, the area to be planted is subject to inundation and has wet areas. It is unclear if the planting prescription is tailored to cope with these conditions.

Concluding Analysis

The project helps restore native riparian function in a reach of Wasson Creek, near the confluence with the Smith River, which is heavily impacted by invasive species. The work will benefit riparian function, as well as help improve water quality and restore future large wood recruitment in an area that will benefit ESA-listed coho and other native salmonids. The challenging nature of the existing conditions makes it important that ample thought and active management is applied to plant stewardship to assure the plantings are successful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
14 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$78,305

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2008-17026

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Spencer Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $155,786

Total Cost: $347,703

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Spencer Creek is a tributary of the Lower Smith River located 25 miles east of Reedsport, Oregon. Spencer Creek is located near the head of tide and the lowest 0.25 miles of Spencer Creek is tidally influenced during large high tides. Spencer Creek is the closest major tributary downstream of the Smith River Falls fish ladder. Spencer Creek is classified by ODFW as having higher to highest intrinsic potential rankings for the entire mainstem. Spencer Cr currently has the lowest quality winter habitat from the ODFW Limiting Factors Model.Historical land use practices have greatly impacted the natural function of streams throughout the Smith River Watershed. These impacts have led to bedrock dominant systems lacking substrates, decreased subsurface flow leading to high peak summer temperatures, a lack of large wood recruitment, and ultimately greatly reduced production of anadromous trout, salmon, lamprey, and other aquatic species. This project seeks to maximize ecological uplift by providing an increased trajectory for rehabilitating historic stream processes. Funding will be used to mitigate environmental impacts, increasing anadromous species production and improving overall habitat and stream function through instream restoration structures. Instream log/boulder placements have been designed by SRWC and ODFW Western Oregon Habitat Restoration Biologist Eric Himmelreich.47 structures containing 507 logs and 1640 boulders will be placed over 4.5 miles of stream. A large constructed log jam will be placed below Spencer Creek falls to improve fish access to 8.5 miles of stream habitat. This is a low flow barrier to anadromy that was modified by the Oregon Fish and Game Commission in the 1970's. We will also remove a boulder from a key jump pool, remove exposed rebar and concrete/rebar debris from a failed fish ladder.Project partners are the Coos Bay District BLM, Roseburg Resources Company, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Trout Unlimited.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Spencer Creek is important habitat for ESA-listed coho and the project will help improve instream complexity, which is a primary limiting factor.
- The project partners have extensive experience with large wood placement in the basin.

- Fish passage at the bedrock falls downstream of most of the proposed large wood structures was a concern in the previous application evaluation. The current approach is to improve passage through placement of a large wood and boulder structure directly below the falls. The site will be monitored to determine passage success by salmonids.

Concerns

- Project partners should revisit the size of logs proposed in the application. With an active channel width of 36’ and a proposed average log size of 40’, an excessive number of boulders will be required to anchor the large wood structures. Sites 1 and 24 need to be well-anchored to prevent movement and site 3 requires review by a fish passage engineer to minimize the potential for the large wood to become bouyant.
- There is no contingency plan for addressing fish passage issues if the proposed approach to address the low flow barrier at the falls is unsuccessful or if modification is necessary.

Concluding Analysis

The bedrock falls pose a challenge to fish passage and the approach to improve passage has been revised from the previous submission. Rather than alteration of the bedrock falls, the application proposes to improve the jump pool and holding area by placing a large wood and boulder structure below the falls. Fish passage at Spencer Creek Falls should be addressed successfully before investing funds in placing additional material upstream. The project is a good candidate for a Technical Assistance project to provide the information needed to develop alternatives for consideration in addressing passage at the site.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2009-17036

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $183,375

Total Cost: $246,375

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration project will place 210 key logs, and 100 whole trees with root wads, at 28 sites in 1.5 miles of Ellenburg Creek. LWD structures will slow water, capture bedload, and create complex pools that will improve both winter and summer rearing habitat for juvenile coho salmon and steelhead. Sites and key log designs were completed by Eric Himmelreich, ODFW Habitat Biologist, and approved by Jim Muck, NOAA Fisheries. Fish passage designs were reviewed by Aaron Beavers, Hydrologist, NOAA Fisheries. Whole trees will be donated by Seneca Jones Timber Company.The Elk Creek fifth-field watershed is an important coho spawning and rearing watershed in the the Umpqua Basin. It has more miles of "high intrinsic potential" coho habitat (172 miles) than any other fifth-field in the Umpqua. It was designated a Tier 1 Key Watershed in the NW Forest Plan, and ranked #1 for restoration by the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council (1998).Ellenburg Creek is a tributary to Sand Creek in the Lower Pass Creek sixth-field watershed. There are nearly three (3) miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat in the Ellenburg Creek subwatershed [ODFW data]. The lower part of the creek (0.4 miles) is managed for agriculture (grazing); the upper reaches are private and industrial forest land. Past land management practices, most notably stream cleaning, removed most of the large wood, increased water velocities in the creek and eroded much of the streambed to bedrock. Though there is ample gravel, there are few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival.Cross sections will be established at three (3) sites to monitor project effectiveness.Project partners include ODFW, Seneca Jones Timber Company, two private landowners and NOAA Fisheries.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project was identified through a recent rapid bioassessment, which identified the reach as a priority for instream habitat restoration. The system provides important habitat for ESA-listed coho.
- The project partners effectively engaged the landowners in the project.
- The designs have a high level of clarity, with photos, drawings, and an explanation of the purpose of each structure. NOAA staff have previously reviewed and approved them.
- The project has a favorable cost to benefit ratio with the potential habitat improvement being high for the investment.

- The project approach is technically sound and has a high likelihood for success.

Concerns

- There is a passage issue below the project site that the applicant should consider addressing before this project is implemented.
- The time budgeted for project management is excessive for a fairly straightforward scope of work. When asked for clarification during the site visit, the project manager subsequently provided the basis for their calculation and recommended reducing the project management hours from 400 to 320.
- It was noted that the design for site 28 could be strengthened by providing a clearer rationale for log and boulder placement. The applicant should consider using larger key log pieces and larger boulders to help secure the habitat structures.
- The application was quite lengthy with a substantial amount of assessment and action plan information included as uploads. The applicant should consider providing summarized information in the future to facilitate application review.

Concluding Analysis

The project reflects a successful working relationship between project partners and landowners. The project approach is technically sound and will benefit habitat upon which ESA-listed coho depends. The habitat structures will be enhanced by adding donated large wood salvaged from winter storm damage near the project site. The applicant is encouraged to work with the landowners to help reduce sediment runoff into the stream systems from the road, which has native material surface.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority
11 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$178,975

Review Team Conditions

Reduce project Manager hours from 400 to 320 and adjust budget accordingly.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2010-17038
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Windy Creek Instream Restoration
Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $69,164
Total Cost: $108,766

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in Windy Creek, which flows into Cow Creek in the Middle Cow Creek 5th Field Watershed just northeast of the rural community of Glendale in Douglas County. Fish present in the watershed include winter steelhead, coho salmon, Pacific lamprey, cutthroat trout and other native fish. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Surveys and associated maps identify Windy Creek as having areas of higher to highest winter intrinsic potential for coho salmon. Winter rearing habitat for fish in the project area is limited by a lack of instream large wood (Middle Cow Creek Watershed Assessment, 2002). PUR, in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, will place logs and trees at 22 sites throughout 1.06 miles of the creek to generate pools, cover, gravel deposition and access to off-channel areas that are currently limited in the area and needed for quality winter rearing and spawning habitat. Structures will vary by site including trees, root wads, and imported logs for a total of 37 logs and 44 trees placed into Windy Creek. Oregon Department of Forestry will contribute trees from the adjacent timber stand and staff time to help manage the project. OWEB funds will be used for PUR project management, logs, log placements, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project implements recommended actions in several assessments and action plans, targeting a stream system with high intrinsic potential for coho but deficent in habitat for overwintering juvenile ESA-listed coho.
- The planned wood structures include large numbers of individual pieces of wood of an appropriate size for the system. The wood addition is expected to create increased opportunities for improving over-wintering habitat.
- The project partners are experienced in this type of work. The design approach is technically sound and the project has a high likelihood of meeting objectives.
- There is a great deal of partner support and involvement in the project as articulated in the numerous letters of support in the application.

Concerns

- Outreach opportunities were not identified in the application. The project will take place on public land, which could create greater opportunities for outreach activities.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is well-written and presents a straightforward, technically sound project with a high likelihood of meeting objectives. The proposed work complements other restoration efforts within the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$69,164

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2011-17039
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Glover Estuary Enhancement
Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $723,973
Total Cost: $956,254

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Many estuarine wetlands along the coast have been filled, cleared, diked and drained for agriculture or urban development. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River were converted to pastures on 135 acres of the Glover Ranch by building levees, reconfiguring stream channels to ditches and installing tidegates to control the incoming tide. Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers (PUR), Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District (USWCD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Glover Family are collaborating to complete fish passage, tidal channel work and livestock management needed to improve ecological conditions in the Umpqua Estuary. During 2020, two failing tidegates will be replaced and retrofitted to increase fish passage, tidal channels will be expanded and/or rebuilt, livestock management fencing and complimentary off-channel water systems will be built, and tidal channels will be enhanced with native plantings. Muted Tide Regulators will be adjusted at each tidegate to provide 30 flooded acres at each high tide during the winter season and 15 acres during high tides occurring in the summer. Approximately 5.38 miles of livestock fence is proposed to be built 20’ from the channel, and over 5,300 native plants will be established along the tidal channels. This project is located in the tidal wetlands of the Umpqua River Estuary, an area important to ESA listed Oregon Coast coho and eulachon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey and a variety of other native fish. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, fence materials, mileage, and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project approach and design is based on the results of an OWEB TA project (#218-2037). The application presents a well thought-out project that has a high likelihood of success and will provide access to 30 acres of enhanced over-wintering tidally influenced habitat for ESA-listed coho and numerous other species.
- Invasive plants have been well-managed in the past couple of years with the landowner taking an aggressive approach to eradication. The landowner is highly engaged in the project design and implementation and in future stewardship of the project.
- The proposal will remove old, failing infrastructure and replace it with two new structures designed to maximize fish passage and habitat potential.

- Engineering concerns from a previous application evaluation have been addressed and the new design approach will result in reduced cost and a simplified approach. The project is ready to be implemented.
- NOAA has reviewed the water management plan and the fish passage designs.
- There is a high degree of potential for future adjacent landowner interest in similar restoration projects based on contacts with project partners during this design phase.

Concerns

- The proposed timing of channel maintenance is infrequent (every 10 years) but the landowner feels this is reasonable based on the low sediment inputs from the small drainage above.
- There are no spawning or rearing opportunities in the streams that flow into the project area. A culvert at the main road crossing blocks access and the small size of the basin reduces the likelihood for spawning opportunities.
- The applicant should consider developing a post-implementation effectiveness monitoring plan.

Concluding Analysis

Increasing overwintering habitat opportunities in estuarine areas is critical to recovery of ESA-listed coho and the project will create and provide access to 30 acres of this type of habitat. The proposal was developed from a technical assistance grant and is technically sound with a water management plan in place.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$723,973

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$723,973

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2012-17041

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Antelope Creek Water Quality Improvement Project

Applicant: Jackson SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $75,628

Total Cost: $324,789

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project occurs on a ranch near Eagle Point, in the Antelope Creek Watershed, an important tributary to Little Butte Creek. The ranch is part of the NRCS Bradshaw Drop Agricultural Water Quality Improvement CIS (Conservation Implementation Strategy) Area.2) Water quality monitoring in the Little Butte Creek Watershed shows that flood irrigation tailwater returns to waterways with increased temperature, bacteria and sediment. Many of the waterways in the watershed, including Little Butte Creek and Antelope Creek, where this project occurs, are water quality limited, with TMDL's developed. However, these same waterways are important habitat for a number of aquatic species, including T&E species such as Coho, summer and winter steelhead, and rainbow and cutthroat trout. It is assumed that the same water quality benefits that enhance habitat for these species will also improve habitat for Klamath smallscale suckers, reticulate sculpin, pacific lampreys and giant pacific salamanders, although less is known about these species.3) As a result of the water quality monitoring done that showed the impact of flood irrigation on water quality in nearby streams and rivers, Jackson SWCD partnered with NRCS to write a 5-year Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) for the watershed. When it concluded, the partners submitted a new CIS for landowners affects by the piping of over 3 miles of Rogue River Valley Irrigation District's main canal, which is a WISE demonstration project. Through this CIS, the partners are helping landowners convert from flood irrigation to eliminate polluted tailwater returns and improve water quality.4) This project is supported by many partner agencies, including the Rogue River Watershed Council, but the majority of the project work will be managed by the Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will tie into the newly piped Bradshaw Drop Project (OWEB Restoration grant #218-2025) and will be the first farm to convert from flood irrigation to a high pressure sprinkler system.
- The designers have experience with similar projects and are familiar with local soils, conditions, and irrigation needs. The proposed designs are technically sound and tailored to meet the requirements and needs of the areas to be irrigated.
- This is an NRCS focus area and matching EQIP funds have been secured.

- The landowner is supportive of the project and the ranch manager is extremely knowledgeable about irrigation and will be able to utilize the proposed system to its fullest potential.
- The project will improve water quality by reducing sediment, which benefits salmonids in Antelope Creek. The new system will use up to half the water required under the current flood irrigation method.
- The Jackson SWCD has had a baseline monitoring program in place for three years in this system and has accumulated baseline data to measure improvements stemming from on-farm irrigation systems in the watershed.

Concerns

- While there will be water savings from implementing this project, the conserved water will not be allocated instream.
- There are higher priorities for instream water in the Little Butte Creek watershed, where temperatures are lethal in summer.
- The monitoring plan should be reviewed and approved by the DEQ volunteer monitoring program.

Concluding Analysis

Flood irrigation results in the potential for 2 cfs of pasture runoff to reach Antelope Creek. While the land manager's conscientious efforts to use tailwater on adjacent properties before it reaches the stream reduces potential impacts, converting to sprinkler irrigation will reduce the long-term potential for sediment runoff.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
13 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$75,628

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2013-17048
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: North Fork Riparian Restoration
Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $252,406
Total Cost: $315,551

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The North Fork is a main tributary of the Coquille River in Coos County, Oregon near the town of Myrtle Point. This project continues our systematic restoration approach in the North Fork Coquille River (NFCR) to address habitat limiting factors within the entire basin. The four project sites are located at the lower end of the NFCR, near the Myrtle Point drinking water intake plant. This ecological restoration project will address DEQ 303(d) water quality limiting factors by re-establishing processes, functions, and biological and physical linkages between the aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Water quality limiting factors include low dissolved oxygen (DO), high fecal coliform count, sedimentation, and high summer temperatures that are a result of degraded riparian ecosystems and extensive livestock presence. Previous projects were identified with DEQ 319 technical assistance and new projects have come from positive word-of-mouth and continued outreach as the project is located in the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) Focus Area. Restoration activities will include wildlife-friendly fencing to exclude livestock access from the river and establishing native plant communities in the riparian areas. This project will protect approximately 25.5 acres of riparian ecosystem with 15.5 acres to undergo weed treatment and supplemental riparian planting. We will plant 4,800 native trees and shrubs, locally harvest and plant at least 2,550 willows, and install 12,425 feet of livestock-exclusion fencing along 2.6 stream miles. OWEB funds will be used for materials and supplies, travel, project management, contracted services for the planting and fencing, and fiscal administration. Project partners include the Coos SWCD and the North Fork landowners listed in this grant proposal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The North Fork Coquille is the drinking water source for Myrtle Point. The watershed is also a focus area for the Coos SWCD and is listed on the DEQ 303(d) list for temperature and sedimentation. The resulting restoration will address water quality impairments, which in turn address limiting factors for ESA-listed coho production.
- Project partners have been able to enlist four landowners into one project effort which demonstrates good communication and coordination skills and results in a more efficient project.
- The project is highly visible and may encourage additional project interest in an area where landowner engagement has been challenging. Word of mouth helped bring the current project landowners to the effort.

- Each property has had an individual conservation plan and the resulting designs are tailored accordingly.
- The planting and plant stewardship plans are reasonable for the sites and have a high likelihood of getting the trees to the “free-to-grow” stage.

Concerns

- The project partners need to take appropriate measures to identify any potential archeological resources.
- The landowners are not interested in the CREP program due to concerns about CREP easements.

Concluding Analysis

The project partners have made progress toward implementing a comprehensive approach to restoring water quality in a system important both for coho habitat and to the adjacent community as a drinking water source. Success here could lead to additional restoration in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$252,406

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2014-17053
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: North Slough Riparian Restoration
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $117,402
Total Cost: $162,662

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

North Slough, located in the northern part of the Coos Watershed, supports an important population of the ESA listed coho salmon. The Coos Watershed Association has been removing the state-listed noxious weed, policeman's helmet, from the North Slough for four years with OSWB funding and is looking to build upon the current restoration efforts with riparian plantings. This is the only population of policeman's helmet in Coos County, so there is high importance to restore this area specifically. Since policeman's helmet is an annual weed and dies back at the end of every summer, it leaves banks exposed to be partially washed away during winter storms. When our stream banks are washed away, this results in large amounts of sediment loading, subsequently increasing stream temperatures and degrading instream habitat. Currently, North Slough a DEQ 303(d) listed stream for stream temperatures and bacteria. The proposed riparian restoration will continue our previous control efforts in North Slough where this high priority noxious weed is removed every summer, in order to improve water quality in spawning and rearing habitat. Through this project, CoosWA seeks to improve bank stabilization, reduce sediment production, limit bacterial inputs, and decrease stream temperatures. This project proposes toplant nearly four gross acres of riparian buffer along 1.1 miles of North Slough and build 1,300' of fencing to improve water quality and provide a native riparian area. We are partnering with seven landowners who will volunteer their time to combat noxious weeds, plant native species, perform annual site maintenance, and bolster environmental stewardship in the basin. For this project, we are partnering with the BLM Coos Bay District Noxious Weeds Coordinator, American Fisheries Society, ODFW, ODA Integrated Weed Management Coordinator, Oregon Youth Conservation District and landowner participation. OWEB funds will be used for personnel, supplies and materials, and travel,

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This stream is the only known location in the Coos River watershed for the invasive plant species policeman's helmet. Eradicating it before it spreads is critical and with its current small footprint the effort has a high likelihood of success. Project partners have been working on eradication for four years, primarily with Oregon Weed Board grants.
- The application is clearly written and the project was clearly explained at the site visit.
- Five of seven landowners have already signed agreements for project work. The applicant is having conversations with the remaining two.

- The stream provides ESA-listed coho habitat and water quality is a primary limiting factor.
- Project partners are engaged in outreach efforts employing multiple mechanisms for increasing public awareness, including general public awareness, reaching out to plant merchants, and focused on face to face contact with individual landowners. The project also engages youth in assisting with removal efforts.
- The fencing setback from the stream is adequate at 35' to 50'. The proposed planting plan and plant stewardship activities are reasonable for the area and should result in getting the plants to the "free-to-grow" stage. Additionally, the planting plan includes species specifically for the benefit of pollinators.

Concerns

- Two landowners have not yet signed on to the project leaving a potential gap in treatment of the invasive plants.
- The application identifies policeman's helmet as inhibiting adult salmonid access but did not provide detail on how that access was impaired.
- Additional detail on how livestock will be managed, including areas where flash grazing may be utilized, would be helpful for review.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides an opportunity to continue to eradicate an invasive species in the only known infestation within the watershed. The proposal builds on four years of previous work and an extensive and successful outreach approach that has informed and engaged the public in identification and eradication of the invasive.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

10 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount

$117,402

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2015-17055

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Bridgepoint Dam Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $328,850

Total Cost: $742,612

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will implement a restoration project to address fish passage 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. The current conveyance system loses 50% of water within the first section of the ditch through seepage which requires diverting a greater quantity of water in order for irrigators near the end of the ditch to receive their full allotment. Additionally, the dam maintenance has caused accelerated erosion of streambanks and disturbance of the floodplain at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard. This proposal will implement engineered designs for a new intake and siphon that will replace the current push-up dam, restore access to high quality fish habitat, and support fish population recovery for ESA-listed and state-listed species. The ditch piping 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, Williams Creek Watershed Council, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address a seasonal fish passage impediment to coho, Chinook, and steelhead, improving access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat.
- There is local support and engagement in the project as evidenced through the signed project agreements from all participating landowners. The project has the potential for bringing other landowners in the area forward with interest in similar types of restoration work.
- The design contractor provided clarifying information about the design specifications following the site visit.

- The applicant has engaged with NOAA early in the process for input on designs. Final fish passage review has not yet occurred.
- The application provides a clear discussion of the expected benefits from the project work and how it will address stresses on salmonids, including ESA-listed coho, related to passage and water quality.
- The stream is DEQ 303(d) listed for temperature. Although the project will result in less water in Lower Williams Creek through the piping and siphon, the end result will be improved water quality by preventing the poor quality ditch water from entering the creek.

Concerns

- The project is primarily for fish passage but it is possible that restoration activities will result in water savings. The project would have benefited from incorporating increased instream flows into the objectives.
- There are additional barriers within the system that may impact fish access to the habitat within the watershed. There is a barrier approximately 1.5 miles upstream of the project location and a large seasonal push-up dam downstream near the confluence with Williams Creek and the Applegate River.

Concluding Analysis

• The project builds on fish passage improvement work the applicant is undertaking in the Applegate River system. Williams Creek provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho and improving access to upstream cool water habitats and improving water quality is important to recovering their population. The project demonstrates a high level of landowner support, engagement, and ownership in the project outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$328,850

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$328,850

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2016-17063

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salt Creek Fish Passage Improvement on C2 Ranch Project

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $65,218

Total Cost: $174,460

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project is located on the C2 Cattle Ranch on Salt Creek, a cool-water tributary to Little Butte Creek. Salt Creek is one of just a few major producers of ESA-listed Coho Salmon in the Rogue Basin. It also contains healthy populations of fall Chinook Salmon, summer and winter steelhead, and resident Cutthroat Trout. Spring fed, Salt Creek maintains cold water temperatures throughout the summer months providing essential over-summering habitat for both Coho Salmon and steelhead. Fish passage restoration is a cornerstone action to address limiting factors in the Rogue Basin. Removal of smaller barriers is essential to improving salmonid access to tributary streams. During the summer months, tributary streams provide refuge from warm stream temperatures in the larger streams and during winter, provide refugia from high winter flows. Nine diversion dams block roughly 7.5 miles of high quality habitat on Salt Creek. Seven of these nine structures are listed as high priority by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) 2013 review of priority fish passage barriers in the Rogue. With full support of the C2 Cattle Ranch, the proposed project seeks funding to remove two of Salt Creek's seven high priority push up dams by reprofiling the existing ditch system, resetting the invert of the fish screen at two sites, installing two new headgates, concrete intakes, and piping the existing open ditch flows, as well as large wood placement to assist in aggrading the stream channel. The project partners include ODFW, NOAA, Oregon Water Resources Department, Jackson SWCD, BLM, Rogue Basin Partnership, Cascade Stream Solutions, and C2 Cattle Ranch.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal builds on the momentum of other dam removal projects within this system and improves the likelihood of additional restoration in the future. The project is the result of landowner interest from observing a nearby fish passage improvement project being implemented.
- The watershed was a recent NRCS focus area with a Conservation Implementation Strategy focusing on irrigation improvement projects.
- Large wood structures will be placed below the diversion to help trap bedload and aggrade the channel.
- The applicant has involved ODFW and NOAA agency review early in the process.

- The stream provides ESA-listed coho with critical cool water habitat. Passage barriers are a high stress for the fish.
- This proposal would address two of seven ODFW priority barriers for the Little Butte Creek system.
- The project resulted from an OWEB Technical Assistance grant (#217-2024). The design engineer has experience working on fish passage at diversion structures in similar stream types in this area.
- The applicant is in conversation with the landowner about the potential for instream water leases.

Concerns

- Final project designs have not yet been completed. There is potential risk when placing a highly engineered structure in an alluvial system.
- Two downstream barriers have not yet been addressed.
- The applicant needs to work with DSL to address permitting needs at the upper diversion because of the historic alteration of the stream channel to form the top of the ditch and the intent to re-water the original channel.

Concluding Analysis

• The proposed project builds on momentum by the applicant to improve fish passage in the Little Butte Creek watershed. The project area is a priority identified in the draft Upper Rogue Coho Strategic Action Plan. While two downstream barriers have not yet been addressed, the applicant is communicating with the landowners and working towards getting project commitments. Fish passage is a key stress on ESA-listed coho and improving access to cool water refugia is a high priority in this area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 15

Review Team Recommended Amount
$65,218

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2017-17084
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Ranch Creek Passage
Applicant: Curry SWCD
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Curry
OWEB Request: $239,907
Total Cost: $382,791

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Ranch Creek is a small lowland stream tributary to the Rogue River Estuary, which empties into the estuary around RM 1.5. Ranch creek has seen many restoration actions throughout the watershed over time, but still has one remaining barrier at the lowest end of the stream. Because of reduced accessible habitat, fish populations are likely limited. This lowest culvert in the system is currently a velocity barrier during high flows but passes fish successfully during low flows. The water velocity in the culvert is much too fast for the young fish to swim against, and since the creek is mostly used as a juvenile rearing area during high winter flows, it continues to act as a barrier. The existing culvert consists of two 72” corrugated metal pipes, with the first placed in 1990 and an additional pipe set in 1998 due to the insufficiency for flow of the creek.. These culverts continue to have problems each winter due to high flows and often over-top the road. Not to mention, that it is impassable to juvenile fish due to such high velocities. We are working with the County and ODFW to address this barrier.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on previous fish passage, fencing, and riparian restoration projects on this stream.
- The applicant has successfully engaged landowners and generated participation in conservation projects in the area.
- Curry County Road Department has committed $130,000 in match to the project.

Concerns

- NOAA has not reviewed the fish passage designs.
- There is no design detail provided for the bypass and temporary water management, and it is unclear if these activities were considered in the project budget.
- The applicant should investigate whether a stormwater management plan is necessary.
- The proposed project timing is somewhat confusing with the schedule in the application identifying the project as complete before OWEB’s funding decision.

- Additional information in the application describing the timing and duration of flow velocities would be helpful to understanding the extent to which the culvert creates a barrier during certain flows. Photos provided in the application depicted a backwater area above the culvert; discussion of how this ties into passage issues would help to understand current conditions.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has developed momentum working with landowners to improve the health of this stream system. Improving fish access is important, especially in this stream that drains directly into tidally influenced areas. The application left several key questions unanswered and without additional detail related to the stream velocities, timing and duration of the barrier, bedload, budget considerations, and design review, the application is premature.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2018-16967

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tenmile Lakes Watershed Big Creek Land Acquisition Technical Assistance

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $36,841

Total Cost: $46,751

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Tenmile Creek Watershed is situated in southwestern coastal Oregon. The watershed encompasses an area of approximately 98 square miles and is located in Coos County with a small portion of the upper watershed extending into Douglas County. The Tenmile Lakes subbasin consists of 10 highly productive Coho streams that flow east from headwaters in the Elliott State Forest through private agricultural lands into both North and South Tenmile Lakes. In many instances these tributaries that once meandered and contained wetland vegetation to filter out nutrient and sediment are now channelized. These channel modifications have increased the movement of Non-Point Source pollutants from the upper reaches of watersheds into the lakes and sediment loading has increased 10,000 x since Europeans settled in the region (Nutrient Study, Eliers 2002). This dramatically increased rate in eutrophication has resulted in impacted water quality and reduced salmonid habitat. Technical assistance funding will support the TLBP to work with the Wild Rivers Land Trust to investigate and conduct due diligence for the future acquisition of a lower Big Creek priority agricultural property. The specific project deliverables will be a Phase I environmental site assessment, boundary survey, title investigation and identification of relevant land use restrictions or requirements for this specific property. The Big Creek subbasin is high priority for Coho restoration efforts will multiple restoration projects successfully implemented upstream. This property is the lowest in the drainage where Big Creek and Noble Creeks meet. The property has a low gradient and although in a degraded condition, it has high potential for successful wetland restoration. Project Partners include the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership, Wild Rivers Land Trust, ODFW, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, ODEQ, DSL, and the Tenmile Lake Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Tenmile Lakes is an important system for ESA-listed coho and their populations are heavily impacted by water quality issues in the basin. The project will complement upstream restoration to reduce sedimentation and improve fish passage. This arm of Tenmile Lake is the only one with currently intact wetlands and this site can serve as an important filter and habitat complex.
- Wild Rivers Land Trust is an effective partner in this effort bringing needed transaction tools, knowledge, and experience to the project. Combined with the trust and effective working relationships Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership has built in the watershed, the project has a high likelihood of success.

- The project is cost effective and the scope aligns with project objectives. The tasks are necessary to determine the feasibility of moving this project to a full acquisition proposal.
- The proposal is consistent with goals identified in the Coos-Coquille Water Quality Management Plans to improve water quality.

Concerns

- The description of the sale of the property and the possibility of extenuating circumstances is unclear. Specifically, the timeline for the sale of the property, whether there is a first right of refusal, and the threat of sale prior to conservation acquisition are unclear?
- The application does clearly describe why this property was targeted for acquisition, including the site conditions.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is the first potential acquisition in this watershed pursued by the applicant and could serve as a powerful outreach and demonstration tool in an area highly resistant to conservation transactions. The investment in this technical assistance project will help identify any issues and determine if this property is a solid candidate for possible acquisition.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,841

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,841

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2019-16976

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $74,946

Total Cost: $118,290

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Coos Soil and Water Conservation District (Coos SWCD) & team are developing the Winter Lake Phase III tidal floodplain hydrologic connectivity project. The project is within the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) floodplain (River Mile 20.5) of the Coquille River, 2.5 miles west of Coquille, Coos County, OR. Historical water management through installation of tidegates, berms, and channel excavation in the early 1900's disconnected fish access to over 14,000 acres of tidal floodplain habitat in the Coquille River basin severely truncating production potential for coho. Early tidegate infrastructure has changed little since tidegates were installed in the early 1900's. Oregon Coast (OC) coho have declined from ~150,000 average /412,000 peak adults prior to Euro- settlement to ~18,000 annually today. Tidegate infrastructure severely impacted fish production, provided for modest pasture grass production, however, with severely limited potential for pasture irrigation. In 2017 the largest tidegate project within the Pacific Coast was installed; the C3P tidegate project on the BSDD (Winter Lake Phase I). In 2018 installation of ~8.0 miles of tidal channel was completed in Unit 2 of Winter Lake (Phase II). Coos SWCD in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, BSDD, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and landowners are proposing to develop engineering and design for replacement of undersized culverts and installation of swale channels/grassed waterways that will critically enhance the capacity of BSDD Units 1 and 3 to produce OC coho juveniles and pasture grass due to enhanced hydrologic connectivity. This project will provide the infrastructure necessary to fully utilize the investment developed through Phase I and II. The project will aim to incorporate NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (EQIP) funding with other match sources for implementation of the project. The project team includes: SWCD, ODFW, TNC, BSDD, and Coquille Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is within the footprint of the China Camp Creek Tidegate Replacement Project. The land behind the completed project includes three units with extensive channel and riparian restoration completed in Unit 2. Units 1 and 3 were reserved primarily for agricultural purposes. This project will result in designs for channel restoration compatible with agricultural practices in Units 1 and 3.
- The applicant and regulatory agencies are engaging early with the landowners.

- The project will result in additional habitat for over wintering ESA-listed coho, as well as help landowners manage and irrigate their agricultural properties during the summer months.
- The project addresses critical habitat for a number of fish species. About 5% of historic tidal wetlands remain in the Coquille valley, making landowner interest in restoring these valuable habitats notable. These wetland complexes provide a vital habitat critical to the life history of ESA-listed coho.
- A Water Management Plan is already in place and allows water exchange with the tide cycle and during the winter months coho can access Units 1 & 3. The proposed design would enhance access to habitat in these two units by replacing existing gated culverts with slide gates and providing additional channel systems for fish access as well as improving their ability to move back to the mainstem as winter flows recede. The application includes a budget line item to support the update of the document. NRCS has done preliminary work to explore water quality projects with landowners through the EQIP program.

Concerns

- The resulting project will improve habitat conditions from the current state but conditions will still be more simplified than those in Unit 2 because the land will still be managed primarily for agricultural production, including grass and livestock. Developing grazing and/or irrigation management plans could be beneficial to both the producers and water quality by minimizing runoff of manure and fertilizers into the system. A clear articulation of the watershed benefits of the proposed restoration will help determine the cost effectiveness.
- Given the proposed extensive channel excavation, archeological surveys will be a critical step in project development and need to be thorough enough to identify potential culturally significant sites and measures to protect them.
- The resulting restoration application could be expensive based on the costs of previously completed similar work for the Unit 2 restoration. The number of miles of channel construction proposed is greater than in Unit 2 but the complexity and development of new channels will not be as extensive. It will be important for the applicant to work on developing a funding strategy early in the process.
- USFWS will need to be included in the review process for updating the Water Management Plan.
- EQUIP funds will not be available for supporting the Conservation Implementation Strategy until 2021 at the earliest.

Concluding Analysis

Units 1 and 3 were designated as primarily agricultural units under the China Camp Creek project and the Water Management Plan was designed accordingly taking into account that coho would have access to these units during the winter months. The restoration work undertaken to replace the tide gates and restore habitat in Unit 2 is in the monitoring phase. There may be some advantages to delaying design development until results and lessons learned from Unit 2 can help inform the design process for Units 1 and 3. The project will result in restoration that would address a critical limiting factor impacting coho in the watershed. The project builds on momentum in the basin and coast-wide to improve fish access through tidegate infrastructure and restore the habitat behind them.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,946

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2020-16990

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Evans Cr Fish Passage - Wimer Siphon

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $36,614

Total Cost: $46,590

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will develop engineered designs for dam removal at Wimer Siphon Dam, an abandoned concrete channel-spanning, fish passage barrier on Evans Creek in Jackson County. The dam is located at the May Ellis Park in the center of Wimer. The park's purpose is to preserve wildlife and their habitats while providing recreational opportunities. Wimer Siphon 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 12+ miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 52.5 miles of habitat for ESA- listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 71 miles of habitat for steelhead, 115 miles of habitat for cutthroat trout, and 12+ miles of habitat for ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey. The removal of Wimer Siphon Dam will complement other fish passage projects on Evans Creek including the removal of Fielder, Wimer, Reece, and Upper Alphonso Dams and will continue the momentum of fish passage improvement in the watershed. Data collected for these projects will be leveraged in the Wimer Siphon Dam removal designs.This proposal will provide engineered designs for dam removal, stream restoration, and riparian plantings that will restore access to miles of high quality fish habitat thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed and state-listed species. Project partners include May Ellis Trust, 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 project will produce a shovel ready design for dam removal to be completed by a qualified consulting firm experienced with this type of project.
- The project builds on the momentum from a series of recent dam removals in the Evans Creek system.
- The goals outlined in the project are clear and the timeframe for achieving them is appropriate for the work described. This project should result in a restoration action that has a high likelihood of success without causing adverse impacts to infrastructure or the property.

- Evans Creek provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho and will help improve passage to cool water habitats upstream which are the target of active instream habitat restoration funded by OWEB (219-2032).

Concerns

- The actual dam removal project is fairly straightforward, with limited in-stream restoration. A technical assistance grant may not be necessary given the lack of complexity in design and the low cost of dam removal.

Concluding Analysis

Community concerns over the stability of the historic covered bridge directly upstream combined with the landowner's commitment to dam removal being contingent on there being no adverse impact to the property from the removal have driven the need for a technical assistance project for this fairly straightforward small dam removal project. The project would lay the foundation for the dam's removal, building on the portfolio of dam removals on the Evans Creek watershed over the last few years in an effort to improve salmonid access to important cool water habitat above.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,614

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,614

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2021-16993
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Elkton Reserve Restoration Project
Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $47,350
Total Cost: $82,143

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Elkton Reserve, located on the mainstem of the Umpqua River near Elkton in North Douglas County, comprises 410 acres of complex, high value habitats including mixed hardwood-conifer, Oak meadows, conifer forests, Northern Spotted Owl, Osprey & Heron nest sites and Core Area, ponds, seasonal streams, and two streams identified in the Oregon Statewide Hydrology map as perennial. The Reserve lies within an Oak Woodlands Conservation Opportunity Area defined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy.The property is managed for ecological conservation and restoration in partnership with the US Fish & wildlife Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Via the Healthy Forests Reserve Program, NRCS holds majority management rights. The HFRP was developed specifically to enhance recovery of the ESA listed NSO. Signatories to the HFRP agreements include the three agencies and the landowners. Though not a signatory, the USFS NSO Recovery Team is an essential partner. The South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, a 501c3 collaborative and fiscal manager for this proposal, is also a partner.While the HFRP is focused on a single species, the management plan for the Reserve recognizes other ecological values. Riparian zones along the two perennial streams are mapped as discrete management units, for example. There, culvert replacement and fish passage barrier removal reestablished Coho spawning in Whitehorse Creek.We have proposed to our partners plan revisions for selected management units intended to enhance the overall ecological value of the Reserve. Subsequent to a meeting and a site tour, the agency partners have agreed that our proposal is consistent with the purpose of the HFRP and our contractual commitments (see attachment A, letters of concurrence).The long term value of the Reserve and of this grant resources lie in the guarantees provided by a 99 year easement intended to benefit the public trust.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is committed to long-term restoration on the subject properties. A great deal of time and effort has been invested by the landowners and the applicant working with partner agencies including ODF, NRCS and USF&WS, to address concerns from the previous review. These concerns centered around the potential conflicts with the existing Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) easement held by NRCS and the proposed expansion of the management plan to include restoration and protection of other habitat types. The discussion resulted in development and support for a process that would preserve the HRFP values of the easement and allow the planning process to

move forward with a high likelihood that resulting management plans could result in implementable restoration activities.

- In addition to the HRFP, there is also a stewardship agreement with ODF and a Safe Harbor Agreement for spotted owls with USFWS.
- In this resubmittal, the applicant provided greater clarity about the proposal by submitting a e resource assessment and planning type technical assistance application rather than a technical design and engineering.
- Project match is now secured.
- The applicant will be working with ODA and USFWS on protecting ESA-listed plant species.
- The application improved the discussion on quantifying the ecosystem benefits that could result from activities implemented as a result of this planning effort.

Concerns

- The applicant should investigate if services such as the forest stand assessment are products that could be available from agencies such as USFS or ODF and not require the services of a consultant to develop.

Concluding Analysis

The project presents the opportunity to restore and protect important upland habitat areas building on efforts already in place on this property. The project will provide outreach opportunities for showcasing how properties can be managed successfully for multiple habitat benefits. This work helped lay the foundation for the first oak woodlands working group in Douglas County. The applicant has put in a great deal of effort to work with partner agencies to ensure that products resulting from this proposal would not conflict with the existing HFRP easement and would have a high likelihood of resulting in implementable restoration actions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$47,350

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2022-17004

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Big Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $55,077

Total Cost: $76,981

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The 16,600-acre Big Creek basin is a tributary of the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR), in the community of Bridge (Coos County). Big Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. The primary limiting factors in Big Creek are lack of stream habitat complexity and impaired water quality. Timber harvesting has been the leading activity to occur within the watershed and although logging practices have changed the legacy of splash dams, riparian cutting and stream cleaning have remained. These historical practices led to smaller sized riparian conifers and insufficient quantities of in-stream LWD. In addition, there is an extensive road network throughout the basin which contributes to high rates of sediment loading. We will review watershed conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat/water quality projects in the sub-watershed. Assessments include surveying anthropogenic fish passage impediments, road network surveys (Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package), macroinvertebrate sampling, and analyze existing ODFW Aquatic Habitat Inventory data to evaluate current watershed conditions and prioritize reaches for treatment. This assessment is timely as landowners in the watershed are anticipating land use activities in the next 3-5 years and we can coordinate and partner on road improvement and in-stream/riparian habitat projects in conjunction with those planned activities. This project is a seamless successor to the county road culvert replacements and LWD restoration occurring on Big Creek tributaries in 2019. This assessment will ensure that we will systematically address the priority reaches of the watershed with initial surveying anticipating development of designs for a minimum of 2 anadromous stream culvert replacements, placement of ~100 LWD components, installation of 200-400+ cross drain/road improvements and conifer understory riparian enhancement.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant is currently engaged in similar efforts in other sub-basins and this project will continue the momentum of their approach to restoration: first assessing and building strategic plans for sub-basins before engaging in restoration efforts. The watershed association is growing in capacity and has established a track record for implementing successful projects.
- The project involves the right partners and brings the necessary skills sets needed for success.

- The expected deliverables have a high likelihood of resulting in priority on-the-ground actions that would benefit a wide variety of fish species including ESA-listed coho.
- The costs are appropriate for the tasks identified to accomplish project objectives in a sub-basin of this size.
- The project is timely, coinciding with planning efforts by area land managers.

Concerns

- The Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package surveys need to be a clear priority activity because they will provide important information necessary to develop targeted projects.
- It was unclear how the proposed macroinvertebrate surveys will inform project development and whether this task was necessary to develop the project's final products. The entity that will analyze the macroinvertebrate samples was not specified.
- The applicant needs to coordinate with ODFW on the Aquatic Habitat Surveys.

Concluding Analysis

The scope and scale of the project is feasible and project partners have clearly demonstrated their ability to work collaboratively on similar projects. The assessment will identify and develop actions to address limiting factors impacting water quality and ESA-listed coho and has a high probability that it will deliver impactful and implementable restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$55,077

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2023-17005

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coos River Road Assessment and Project Development

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $64,690

Total Cost: $96,746

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 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, the Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package (GRAIP). This protocol will help us to identify road conditions and identify problems. This project will provide two tools for reducing the effects of roads 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 be used for tracking sediment reduction actions and long term asset management. The Action Plan will identify the Top 10 sediment reduction actions and all of the fish passage issues in the project area. We anticipate seeking funding for at least three of the top projects in this area, and potentially other road improvements will completed by our partners.Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Weyerhaeuser, and ODFW will help to develop future restoration projects. US Forest Service will provide training and support. OWEB funds will be used for surveys, data analysis, project management, training, travel, and limited supplies. CoosWA will provide cash and the majority of survey supplies. BLM-RAC funding will be sought to supplement assessment efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmittal. No significant concerns were identified in the last review.
- The project will survey 234 miles of road, showing a favorable cost benefit ratio.
- The project takes a watershed approach using an established methodology (GRAIP) to identify sediment sources. The applicant has successfully utilized GRAIP in other watersheds.

- The project will identify and prioritize opportunities that address sediment from road crossings and fishing access, building on previous road improvements, instream habitat restoration, and fish passage improvements upstream of the project area.
- 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.

Concerns

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project area focuses on the lower section of the Coos system encompassing mainstem reaches that are primarily migration corridors connecting to tributary habitats. The proposed assessment builds on road assessments upstream and the resulting restoration activities accomplished in other areas of the watershed. Restoration work resulting from this project can improve water quality through the reduction of sediment and may benefit habitat important to ESA-listed coho and other salmon and trout species utilizing the system; however, many areas are constrained by the configuration of the forest road network within the riparian area. A similar approach to assessing the conditions in the Tioga Creek sub-basin and the resulting targeted restoration efforts highlight the effectiveness of the approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$64,690

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2024-17008

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Palouse Tide Gate Replacement Design Analysis

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $74,988

Total Cost: $142,924

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Palouse Slough is roughly 3 miles upstream of Haynes Inlet in the Coos basin and one of the highest productivity coho anchor habitat streams on the Oregon Coast. Its primary tide gate is currently located directly under a county bridge and consists of paired top-hinged wooden doors on a tide box that is undersized, undermined, and collapsing. This project proposes to take the necessary first step in tide gate replacement and investigate the cost-benefit and technical feasibility of replacement design options for the Palouse tide gate. Design assessment will provide guidance not only for this project, but also for similar situations across the coast. Replacing the Palouse tide gate will release hydrological function that mimics natural seasonal and tidal cycles, restoring the systems hydrology and water quality up and downstream of the gate. Greater tidal connectivity to Haynes Inlet downstream will improve estuarine water and habitat quality for rearing salmonids as well as salmon forage species that accelerate growth and survival rates for salmon. This proposed project is the first step toward the comprehensive subbasin scale restoration of Palouse Slough that will protect and expand this critical area of Oregon Coast coho anchor habitat. This proposed project specifically seeks to investigate the best long-term solution for the Palouse tide gate design and placement. The joint public-private ownership of tide gate and bridge infrastructure confounds liabilities and responsibilities for replacement leading to a strong desire from stakeholders to decouple the bridge and tide gate. A technical advisory team of local partners and regional experts will be engaged through the entirety of the tide gate replacement and future upstream restoration efforts. There are currently multiple design options in need of assessment before a preferred design is selected. Cultural resource, hydrologic, and geotechnical analyses will be conducted to better inform this decision.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the need for the project and the approach that would be taken to develop alternatives for addressing the failing infrastructure. The tidegate is attached to a county bridge, creating a complicated situation compounded by crumbling infrastructure. The tide box currently covers 29% of the active channel width and adds a velocity barrier which severely impacts juvenile passage.

- The project has an urgent timeline. Currently the tidegate structure is in the process of failing as evidenced by the gate structure being currently chained to the bridge due to the failed hinge. Salt intrusion is also evidenced above the site and as the structure fails, the salinity will impact agricultural operations upstream.
- The project builds on lessons learned from other tide gate replacement efforts.
- Palouse Creek is a direct estuary tributary. The tide gate impacts ESA-listed coho access and despite the impediment, Palouse Creek is a highly productive stream for coho. The project need is highlighted by the extensive coho life cycle monitoring by the applicant in this area.
- The project will complement restoration activities implemented upstream and help lay the foundation for additional restoration opportunities following tide gate replacement.
- The application presents a sound planning approach and incorporates a geotechnical investigation. The project's planning process will evaluate four or more alternatives, including an option to decouple the tide gate from the bridge structure.
- Water management plan development will be a critical component to realizing ecological uplift. The applicant is engaging early with agencies and landowners to better inform the development of a water management plan for the new tide gate and begin to develop a holistic basin-wide restoration plan.
- Project partners are working with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Siuslaw, and Lower Umpqua Indians to better understand cultural resources in the area.

Concerns

- It was unclear if the salinity and water level monitoring identified in Objective 4 were already completed.

Concluding Analysis

The scope and scale of the project is appropriate and project partners have demonstrated ability to work collaboratively on projects. The effort engages the appropriate partners and stakeholders in a technically sound approach helping ensure ownership in the final product. The project has a high probability that it will result in restoration that will address a critical limiting factor for ESA-listed coho identified in the recovery plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,988

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$74,988

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2025-17009

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Murphy Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $74,987

Total Cost: $115,968

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council is partnering with the Two Rivers SWCD to help 38 water users of the Murphy Ditch Association improve irrigation efficiency, water quality, and fish passage on the Applegate River (river mile 12), near Murphy in Josephine County. Murphy Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Improvement Project will secure professional engineering services to develop alternatives and preliminary design options intended to mesh together viable, innovative solutions for improved irrigation conveyance, agricultural water quality and quantity, and fish passage to 52 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 90 miles of habitat for ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 176 miles of habitat for steelhead, 80+ miles of habitat for ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey, and 400 miles of cutthroat trout habitat. 90% of the Applegate Watershed's high quality spawning and rearing habitat lies upstream of Murphy Dam. The habitat includes designated core cold water habitat and high intrinsic potential habitat. Murphy Dam is listed by ODFW as # 19 in the state and # 2 in the Rogue Basin for restoration of fish passage. Project partners include Two Rivers Soil and Water Conservation District, Murphy Ditch Association, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The dam is the number two barrier in the Rogue system. The dam causes direct mortality to fish, including ESA-listed coho, creating a situation where there is no holding pool, extensive poaching, and a challenging course to navigate. The diversion has a fish ladder currently, but it is poorly situated and designed. The project will consider several alternatives to addressing the dam.
- Removing the barrier would open access to many miles of upstream habitat for several ESA-listed species.
- NRCS is working with water users on a conservation plan for on-farm irrigation efficiencies in 2021-22.
- The project brings together a diverse array of partners bringing match funding and commitment to the success of the project.

Concerns

- Objective #2 is has a broad focus and describes activities that may be more associated with ditch and on-farm activities. The objective should focus clearly on the deliverables directly associated with the dam including delivering fish passage alternatives and increasing instream flows.
- The ditch association does not support dam removal at this time and it was not clear what types of alternatives they would support.

Concluding Analysis

The scope and scale of the project is appropriate and the applicant is experienced in working collaboratively with landowners to find solutions to fish passage issues. The project will collect data necessary to inform designs and present an array of alternatives. The dam in its current condition is a critical impediment to all life stages of salmonids and its location on the lower main stem Applegate River impacts access to important upstream tributaries and their habitats where a great deal of restoration actions have been focused.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,987

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,987

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2026-17043
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Slate Creek Dam Removals Phase 1
Applicant: WaterWatch of Oregon
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Josephine
OWEB Request: $67,500
Total Cost: $101,781

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located on private property near Wilderville, in Josephine County, on Slate Creek and its tributary Welter Creek, within the Applegate River subbasin of the Rogue River Basin. 2) Three stream-spanning concrete dams block or impede adult and juvenile fish passage to approximately 15 miles of spawning habitat. Impacted species include Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, summer and winter Steelhead, Pacific Lamprey, Cutthroat Trout, and Suckers. Harboldt Dam on Slate Creek is ranked in Group 4 of ODFW's 2019 Statewide Fish Passage Priority List. Harboldt Dam does not comply with NOAA and ODFW fish passage and fish screen criteria. Two unnamed dams on Welter Creek, a Slate Creek tributary, do not appear to have fish ladders and block Coho and steelhead habitat. Both dams were heretofore unknown to ODFW. ODFW staff have visited the site and believe these two dams would have been eligible for listing on the 2019 Priority List. This project complements salmon restoration efforts ongoing throughout the Rogue Basin.3) This project would remove the three dams noted above and significantly improve access to approximately 15 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. This project includes a proposed transfer of two points of diversion of roughly 0.6 cubic feet per second total to a new point approximately 950 feet downstream on Slate Creek, providing additional benefit for fish and water quality. A new solar-powered, screened pump will be installed to maintain existing water use on the landowner’s property but increase irrigation efficiency by eliminating a leaky 1,000-foot-long canal. 4) WaterWatch's project partners include the landowner, ODFW, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, BLM, OWRD, Cascade Stream Solutions, and Rogue Basin Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project presents a great opportunity for increasing instream flows and removing three barriers that block fish passage and restoring access to 15 miles of habitat. The project addresses factors impacting ESA-listed coho and multiple other species. Flows will be increased in a 950 foot section of Slate Creek by moving the point of diversion downstream and the 1,000 foo leaky, poorly screened ditch will be eliminated and a solar pump system will be installed that diverts the appropriate amount of the water right.
- The application is well written and clearly articulates a design approach appropriate to the size and scale of the situation at the project sites.
- The landowner is engaged and supportive of the effort.

Concerns

- The planned solar pump is a 10 panel array and the design is based on delivering the current full water right as pushed through a ditch system that is leaky. The design needs a pump, panel array, and pipe sized for the water right that will be diverted. The water right date is 1938 and is a more junior right in that system, potentially limiting the possibility of conserving water instream.
- A map depicting fish distribution would be helpful in future applications.

Concluding Analysis

Improving stream flows and restoring fish passage are important activities to restore coho salmon populations in the Applegate River watershed. The project will eliminate 3 complete fish barriers and increase stream flows by approximately 0.5 cfs in a 950 foot-long section of stream. The design approach is appropriate for the situation and the resulting project should be successful in removing the three barriers and increasing stream flows within the project footprint.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$67,500

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$67,500

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2027-17057

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Spatial datasets to inform planning on the South Coast

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: $61,589

Total Cost: $100,029

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project will cover the service area of the South Coast Watershed Council [SCWC] and the Lower Rogue Watershed Council [LRWC], which includes 13 coastal watersheds largely within Curry County, and partially encompasses the service area of the Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT). The project area includes the towns of Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings-Harbor. Across and within our partner organizations (SCWC, LRWC, WRLT, and ODFW), we have multiple objectives for the restoration, protection, and assessment of natural resources. While these objectives may be distinct, they exist for the same purpose of fully functioning watersheds. In 2017, through an OWEB FIP Capacity Grant, we formally recognized our partnership as the Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership (SCEP) to achieve this common vision. However, these objectives are still identified and prioritized independently of each other in strategic plans, and broadly across watersheds. For our individual organizations and for the SCEP, this makes it difficult to prioritize amongst objectives at a fine scale to efficiently meet multiple objectives. Existing spatial data could be used to prioritize these objectives relative to each other, but this data is not readily available for planning processes, and it is not vetted specifically for our service area. We propose to create multiple high-resolution (~10-30 m), spatial data layers that are continuous across our service area, that depict and prioritize individual organizational objectives, and that also depict shared partnership objectives. All data will be vetted through meetings with technical specialists, and made readily accessible for all partners to provide transparent and objective data for planning efforts. Additionally, the data will be used to inform updates to the LRWC and SCWC Watershed Action Plans and be incorporated into the WRLT Conservation Plan.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will employ professionally accepted and appropriate methodology and is at the appropriate geographic scale. The proposed analysis builds on both the original watershed assessment and more recent strategic planning efforts undertaken by project partners spanning Curry County watersheds.
- The application demonstrates that the project will utilize the appropriate staff with the right skill sets to achieve project goals and assemble an important data set. The collected data that will be used is from known sources and would be compatible with other assessment and planning efforts including the Elk River Coho Strategic Action Plan and supporting TMDL development.

Concerns

- It is unclear if DEQ's Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System data will be used to help inform the project.

Concluding Analysis

The scope and scale proposed for the project is feasible and project partners have demonstrated the ability to develop and deliver similar types of projects. The proposed work is important to further priority restoration efforts across a large geographic landscape spanning over thirteen watersheds within Curry County.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$61,589

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2028-17088

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Siskiyou Field Institute Deer Creek Center Restoration and Management Plan

Applicant: Siskiyou Field Institute

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $60,291

Total Cost: $82,491

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located at the Siskiyou Field Institute Deer Creek Center (DCC) for Field Research and Education in Josephine County, Selma, Oregon, approximately 2.5 miles upstream from the confluence of Deer Creek and the Illinois River. The property spans 850 acres and includes nearly one mile of frontage with Deer Creek and nearly 20% of the Squaw Creek watershed. The watershed issues are fish passage barriers on Squaw Creek and impaired water quality and compromised riparian function in Deer Creek, an important coho bearing tributary of the Illinois and Rogue River systems. The location, size, water rights, unique plant communities, and riparian restoration potential make the DCC a key property for conservation, connectivity, and potential positive impact on Deer Creek summer flows and temperature regulation. The limiting factor to be addressed by this project is a revision and expansion of the outdated restoration and management plan for the property which must to be approved by OWEB prior to implementation of restoration. The plan revision and expansion will include new baseline assessments of stream, riparian and upland vegetation conditions, and prioritization and planning of key restoration projects to be accomplished in the next 5 to 20 years. Proposed Technical Assistance deliverables include: 1) an updated management plan, 2) development of a multi-agency Technical Review Team to assist with restoration planning and implementation, and 3) prioritized restoration projects with preliminary conceptual designs. Sound management and restoration directives and committed partners set the stage for future restoration implementation. Project partners include: Rogue Basin Partnership, USFWS Partners Program, BLM, USFS, IV Soil and Water Conservation District, IV Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, Oregon Department of Forestry, private restoration consultants, and Southern Oregon University.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The property is the site of an OWEB Acquisition project (#206-277) and is in urgent need of an updated management plan. The applicant has engaged multiple agencies and partners to support development of this planning effort. The application demonstrates a clear alignment of partners and vision for the project and desired outcomes. The property and streams moving through it have significant ecological value to many different plant, animal and aquatic species.

- The qualifications and experience of the staff and consultants are appropriate for the scope of the project and have a high likelihood of achieving the project objectives.
- There is a great deal of restoration potential at the project site. Currently, the landowner is looking at putting water rights instream, fish passage, pollinator habitat, restoring native vegetation patterns, and riparian health projects. A management plan will help prioritize, focus, and develop opportunities to help fund these activities.

Concerns

- The application would have been strengthened by the inclusion of better maps with labeling that depicts the property uses and habitats present.
- Additional discussion on the background and history of the acquisition and the transfer of management to Siskiyou Field Institute from South Oregon University would have been helpful in laying the foundation for why the organization needs additional resources to develop the management plan.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will develop a management plan which is critical for the landowner to move forward in developing and implementing long-term restorative and protective actions across the property. The applicant has pulled together a technical team to support the work and has demonstrated that the appropriate skill sets and technical resources will be used to develop a management plan which can guide activities across the property to achieve the restoration and protection of important ecological values.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$60,291

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2029-17018

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Lower Williams Cr Landowner Engagement

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $29,385

Total Cost: $37,524

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project focuses on the lower 5.77 mile reach of Williams Creek, from its confluence with the Applegate River (near the town of Provolt) upstream to the Williams Creek Reserve—a stream reach owned and protected by the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy downstream of the town of Williams. This reach of Williams Creek is located in Josephine County and is still primarily large ranches and farmlands. This area has been identified in both regional assessments and basin-wide action plans as priority for habitat restoration; this reach struggles with barriers, lack of instream large wood, temperature, reduced water quality, channel modification and reduced stream complexity. We will work in close collaboration with the Williams Creek Watershed Council to reach out to 41 separate landowners to discuss restoration opportunities in their sections of stream and riparian corridors. From these landowner contacts and conversations, we will develop a strategic habitat assessment and restoration project plan for this reach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal complements active restoration currently occurring on the Provolt Seed Orchard and the Lower Bridge Point push-up dam replacement.
- The project builds on outreach efforts by both Applegate and Williams Creek Watershed Councils.
- The application clearly describes the watershed, including land ownership and land use.
- The application provides sound rationale for the project footprint.
- Williams Creek provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho with water quantity, dissolved oxygen and temperature all being limiting factors.
- The need for engagement is clear with hemp production bringing new landowners to the area.
- The project will focus on building relationships with landowners through site visits and one-on-one meetings scheduled at their convenience.

Concerns

- The application does not quantify the deliverables. For example in objective 3, success will be

measured by future applications for OWEB Restoration grant project funding, but the measure does not include a target number of applications within a specific timeframe.

Concluding Analysis

There is rapid change in the watershed with increasing hemp production and associated increases in water demand. Both Applegate and Williams Creek Watershed Councils have been active in this area since the mid-1990s with project work in the area focusing on fish access improvement and irrigation efficiency. The proposal was straightforward and the effort will focus on building relationships with individual landowners rather than more traditional approaches which rely on open houses at public venues. This personalized approach should be more effective in the Williams area and has a good likelihood of resulting in future restoration opportunities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$29,385

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$29,385

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2030-17086

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Upper Bear Creek Ashland Watershed Engagement

Applicant: Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $72,011

Total Cost: $90,359

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The geographic location comprises a portion of the upper Bear Creek Watershed, inclusive of the Ashland Watershed. This is a strategic focus area of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. The area includes both the forested mixed-conifer slopes of the western portion, and the oak-woodlands and grasslands of the eastern portion of the watershed, which also contains mixed conifer forests in the upper elevations. Specifically, the project will focus on privately-owned lands which contain high conservation values and at which conservation will contribute to watershed health. This area also captures a portion of the municipal watershed for the City of Ashland. The lands on the eastern side provide the scenic backdrop of the southern Rogue Valley and contain high wildlife connectivity values, and a mosaic of oak-pine and conifer forests, grasslands, and streams and springs.The Bear Creek watershed is susceptible to fragmentation and land conversion which degrades the integrity of the watershed. The stakeholder engagement objectives aim to ultimately result in acquisition projects on high-priority lands. Successful acquisition projects will conserve high-priority properties to abate the threats of subdivision and development; land conversion (e.g., land clearing); unsustainable and ecologically unsound forest and grazing practices; and protect open space and scenic view sheds. These threats are known to fragment the landscape and negatively impact the integrity of the watershed to support wildlife, fish habitat, and ecosystem functions.Activities to engage stakeholders will comprise open-house style events, direct mailings, social media, and other methods. Follow-up with interested landowners will consist of one-on-one meetings to discuss more specific aspects of conservation opportunities.Partners include Ashland Forest Resiliency (AFR), City of Ashland, USFS, and Lomakatsi. Potential partners include Selberg Institute, the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a proven track record with land acquisitions and is well-known and respected in the community.
- The applicant addressed concerns from the previous review and the application now provides mapping along with priority lands and a scoring system.

- Objective 1 provides a rationale for how habitat types will be prioritized, with a focus on oak woodland and riparian areas. The map provided shows polygons that fill protection gaps in the private and federal patchwork landscape, conveying a strategic approach.
- The project's timing is important due to increased agricultural development in the east side of the valley.

Concerns

- The application does not describe how prospective land acquisitions will achieve goals for salmonid protection; the mapped priority areas do not include much overlap with priority habitat for ESA-listed salmonids.
- It is unclear how to interpret the priority scores used in the application.
- The application states that an outreach plan will be developed; it would be more clear if the application included the specific outreach plan that the project would implement.
- While it may not be possible to provide a specific "number of landowners interested in acquisitions" outcome, the stated outcomes of objective 4 -- success is that lessons learned, outcomes, and next steps have been adequately documented and results provided in a straightforward and usable form – does not provide a high level of confidence that the stakeholder engagement effort will ultimately result in land acquisitions.

Concluding Analysis

The Upper Bear Creek watershed is highly impacted by agricultural development. Hemp production has dramatically increased in the Rogue Valley in recent years. Acquisition is a sound strategy to help preserve and protect existing habitats in the watershed. There is potential to develop projects that could protect a wide variety of habitats ranging from upslope to riparian and land acquisition would complement restoration efforts within the basin.

The outreach approach has not yet been developed and it is important to be able to evaluate the likelihood of the effectiveness of the specific outreach activities to engage the right landowners in a meaningful way about the need for permanent protection and then turn that into viable projects. Without a well-described strategy for outreach it is difficult to determine if the expected outcomes will result in priority acquisition opportunities.

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

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2019 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Fall 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

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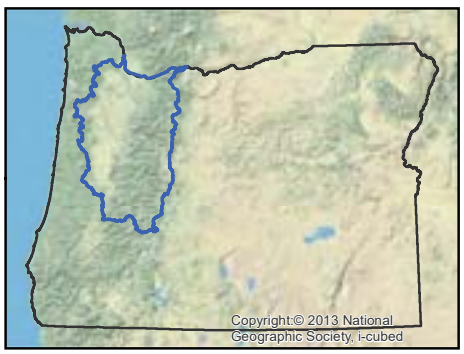

Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-3013	Calapooia WC	Upper Calapooia Steelhead Habitat Enhancement	Stream conditions for native winter steelhead will be restored in the Calapooia River headwaters by restoring natural river processes that form habitat for native fish, attenuate high water flows, and improve water quality.	156,669	Linn
220-3002	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase II	The diversity, quality, and quantity of stream and floodplain habitats will be improved in Horsetail Creek, located in the Lower Columbia River Gorge in Multnomah County. Stream conditions will be restored to provide refuge habitat for native fish and encourage additional beaver activity, and the native plant community will be restored on 30 acres of floodplain next to the stream.	168,850	Multnomah
220-3006	Greenbelt Land Trust	Bald Hill Farm Restoration Phase 3	Prairie habitat will be restored on 81 acres, and 39 acres of streamside habitat will be restored on Greenbelt Land Trust's Bald Hill Farm conservation property near Corvallis, Oregon. Agricultural pastures will be retired and converted to a diverse, native prairie plant community and a streamside forest will be restored to support sensitive native wildlife species impacted by loss and degradation of their habitats.	111,026	Benton
220-3003	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy-Salmon Floodplain Reconnection Phase II	Phase two restoration will build on previous work to continue partial removal of a levee and placement of wood structures 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.	293,320	Clackamas

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order Continued					
220-3012	Long Tom WC	Coyote-Spencer Wetlands Oak and Prairie Habitat Restoration: Phase I	Open oak and prairie habitat will be resored across 104 acres on the McKenzie River Trust's Coyote-Spencer Wetlands conservation property located at the confluence of Coyote and Spencer creeks in the Long Tom Watershed. Encroaching woody plant species will be removed and prescribed fire will be reintroduced to establish populations of rare native and culturally important plant species to restore habitats for native wildife.	163,749	Lane
220-3005	Institute for Applied Ecology	Upland prairie restoration for Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly	Prairie habitat will be restored and native Kincaid's lupine flower populations will be augmented near Corvallis and Salem to meet recovery targets for this plant to be delisted from the Endangered Species Act. This will also support recovery of Fender's blue butterfly because the Kincaid's lupine serves as the host plant to this butterfly.	245,493	Benton
220-3009	Marys River WC	Recovering System Process in the Upper Marys River Basin	Priority stream habitat will be restored in the Upper Marys River to improve water quality and habitat for native cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. Native streamside vegetation communities will be restored, fish passage barriers limiting access to stream habitat will be addressed, and instream conditions will be improved to provide habitat for native fish.	205,153	Benton
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,344,260**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-3011	Long Tom WC	Bear Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Phase 2	The final two priority fish passage barriers on Bear Creek, located in the Long Tom watershed, will be removed to allow native migratory fish to move between lowland stream reaches and headwater spawning and cold water refuge habitat.	100,289	Lane
220-3001	Pudding River WC	Abiqua Creek Aquatic Habitat Enhancement	Log and boulder structures will be placed in Abiqua Creek on private timberlands located in the low elevation West Cascades foothills of the Molalla-Pudding River Watershed to restore stream conditions for native fish.	164,880	Marion
220-3010	Calapooia WC	Truax Island Floodplain Restoration Phase 1 : Planting and Plant Establishment	Native vegetation communities and floodplain habitat will be restored along the Willamette River near Albany, Oregon by controlling invasive plant species, planting native tree and shrubs, seeding native grasses, thinning oak stands, and stewarding restored plant communities until plants are free to grow.	129,981	Linn
220-3000	North Santiam WC	Upper North Santiam Side Channel Reconnection	A historic stream side-channel will be reconnected to the mainstem North Santiam River near Idanha, Oregon. Reconnecting the side-channel and placing log structures instream will provide diverse habitat for native fish, including Chinook salmon and cutthroat trout.	159,943	Linn
220-3008	City of Portland Parks & Recreation	Forest Park - Balch Creek Watershed Restoration Project	The final phase of a 580-acre restoration project in the Balch Creek Watershed, located in the City of Portland's Forest Park, will be completed to enhance plant diversity and structure of forested uplands and streamside areas. Invasive plant species negatively impacting and replacing the native vegetation communities will be removed to set the stage for long term successful management of a healthy forest that benefits water quality and fish and wildlife habitat.	249,200	Multnomah
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**2,148,553**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-3004	Tryon Creek Watershed Council	Tryon Creek East Fork Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project	274,081	Multnomah
220-3007	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Economic and Ecological Sustainability through Restoration of Lamprey Creek	424,025	Benton

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-3017	Long Tom WC	Upper Long Tom Restoration Planning	Increasing landowner interest in the Upper Long Tom watershed near Veneta, Oregon will be turned into on-the-ground habitat restoration and conservation projects. Restoration opportunities on public and private landownerships will be prioritized and restoration plans will be developed for priority habitat areas for native fish and wildlife.	31,778	Lane
220-3016	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Creswell Butte: Restoration Design & Engineering	Restoration design alternatives will be created for a property in Creswell, Oregon that is protected by a Conservation Easement. Restoration actions will restore and protect legacy oak habitat and open meadow habitats that are overgrown with invasive plant species; these priority habitats are at risk of being lost if no action is taken.	44,586	Lane
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**76,364**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-3018	Sandy River Basin WC	SRBP Vision	The Sandy River Basin Partners will update their 2007 strategy by evaluating current habitat conditions and determing a strategy for the next 10 years of habitat restoration for native fish. Restoration will focus on addressing water quality concerns, improving stream habitat conditions, removing barriers preventing fish migration, and controlling invasive plant species to support all life stages of native salmon in the Sandy River basin.	31,084	Multnomah
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**107,448**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-3014	Tualatin River WC	Restoration Planning Using NetMap Analysis in the Tualatin River Watershed	49,980	Washington
220-3015	Benton SWCD	Increasing tools in the Ludwigia control toolbox: exploring mechanical removal for primrose-willow	20,511	Benton

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**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**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 Requested**	**County**
220-3020	Tualatin Riverkeepers	Engaging Oregonians to restore the Tualatin River watershed from Mass Wasting Events		60,000	Washington
220-3019	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Engaging Diverse Stakeholders in Floodplain Restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park		99,479	Lane
Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,420,624**	**15%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,284,183**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3000-16958
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Upper North Santiam Side Channel Reconnection
Applicant: North Santiam WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Linn
OWEB Request: $159,943
Total Cost: $311,858

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper North Santiam side channel reconnection project is located 10 miles upstream of the Detroit Dam near the town of Idanha. This site has an old 750-foot long historical side-channel that used to connect with the Upper North Santiam River at River Mile 59. Past stream cleaning and logging activities in the upper basin involved removing riparian trees and key pieces of large wood in the channel and floodplains. Side-channel development has been limited by the lack of in-stream large wood to re-direct flows off the mainstem and channel hardening and straightening activities from revetment installation. Reconnecting the side channel will primarily benefit ESA listed juvenile Spring Chinook salmon and resident cutthroat trout by increasing the availability and complexity of off-channel rearing habitat. The NSWC/CPRCD received an OWEB TA grant in 2017 to contract River Design Group to develop a list of restoration alternatives that helped the NSWC and its local technical team in identifying alternatives and the feasibility of restoring side channel habitat in this reach. Based on the alternatives analysis the NSWC is now seeking funds to implement the technical teams preferred design alternative of opening up the 750 ft historic side channel and creating an additional 150 ft side channel. Large wood structures will be placed at the inlet, outlets and throughout the reconnected and newly created side channel habitat. Grant funds will cover contracted services and supplies and materials. Project partners include ODOT, USFS, ODFW and adjacent private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- While the proposed project did not change significantly from the previous application, the applicant provided helpful explanatory information to address previous project evaluation concerns and questions.
- The proposal is a well thought out project that builds on an OWEB Technical Assistance investment.
- Stream habitat limiting factors for ESA-listed fish and other native fish and aquatic species are addressed by adding large wood and reconnecting side-channels, both of which have been largely eliminated by human disturbances in the watershed. New side-channel habitat will provide fish refuge from high water flows and could potentially benefit juvenile fish production.
- Project designs take into consideration potential impacts to adjacent properties.
- Surrounding landowners are actively involved in the project planning process.

- The project leverages a separate mitigation investment by expanding restoration benefits to an increased project scope and footprint.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the project is the result of survey and planning to identify priority locations for side-channel reconnection, or is more opportunistic by responding to landowner interest in voluntary restoration that also more generally targets a watershed limiting factor.
- The quantified benefits for ESA-listed fish, especially Chinook, presented in the application may be more speculative due to the project location above two Army Corps dams. There is limited evidence indicating there will be significant benefit to ESA-listed fish populations with the current watershed limitations caused by Corps dams.
- The project location is challenging because the mainstem channel is incised. Creating a side-channel connection with the mainstem requires excavating the side-channel streambed down to the same elevation as the mainstem river. While the new downstream side-channel features are likely to be retained long-term, the upstream side-channel connection will likely silt in and close.
- Costs are high for apex log jams, which may be due to using small wood material that requires pinning to prevent the wood structures from easily moving.
- The application budget lacks detail needed to determine whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work because costs are grouped into lump sums.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration will provide habitat to ESA-listed fish in a priority watershed for their recovery. While the restoration approach and project location limits the benefits for the cost of this project, the resulting habitat elements address priority limiting factors in the Upper North Santiam watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

$159,943

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3001-16987

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Abiqua Creek Aquatic Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: $164,880

Total Cost: $212,680

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This stream enhancement, large wood and boulder project is located on private timberlands in the low elevation West Cascades foothills of the Molalla-Pudding River Watershed. Abiqua Creek, a major east-side tributary to the Pudding River and is fully within Marion County approximately 20 miles southeast of Silverton and 5 miles from Silver Falls State Park. As identified by the 2014 Rapid Bio-assessment, (OWEB 213-3054), the site is located in a geographic transition between the Willamette Valley and West Cascades where cold spring-fed seeps and hyporheic mixing provide thermal refugia to juvenile ESA-listed native salmon and steelhead. At this site, stream rearing habitat conditions are impaired because it is missing the physical, structural element played by naturally occurring large wood recruitment. A total of 14 log structures will be constructed within 0.5 mile per design specifications from Waterways Consulting. Weyerhaeuser, the landowner, has committed to providing boulders and the transport of the boulders to the staging site. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser, Marion SWCD ($12,500 cash match), ODFW Dave Stewart, City of Woodburn, and staff and volunteers from the Pudding River Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will treat priority watershed limiting factors for steelhead in the Pudding River watershed, which supports a winter steelhead stronghold population.
- It is expected that gravel recruitment around the large wood structures will occur quickly because the watershed conditions indicate source material is readily available to move downstream.
- The site is likely to be responsive in restoring the targeted watershed process and function.
- There is a landowner located downstream of the project site that is potentially interested in partnering on future watershed restoration, which will extend impacts from this investment.
- The applicant is engaging a project team with relevant experience and proven track records with similar restoration projects.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support specifying partner contributions and involvement in the project.
- Project costs are reasonable.

Concerns

- Watershed benefits from this project are limited by a design approach that focuses on treating symptoms of watershed disturbance over causes. Integrating boulders to pin wood structures to prevent them from moving and placing wood on the stream edge instead of using full channel spanning large wood limits the extent to which watershed process and function will be restored. Placement of large wood on the stream edge also limits the amount of stream material that can be captured in the large wood structure to build streambed habitat complexity. Since this placement approach addresses landowner concerns about potential negative impacts from logs moving downstream, the design approach may be necessary to build cooperation in future restoration efforts.
- It is unclear whether ODFW large wood guidance will be met due to the lack of large sized wood material available for this project.
- The applicant's staff does not have previous experience implementing restoration projects; however, this is mitigated by the experience provided by the design team.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project provides an opportunity for the applicant to start building watershed restoration momentum in an area that has considerable potential for future restoration. The project team shows a readiness to work with community members and demonstrate successful project implementation. While the proposed design will have limited benefits to overall watershed process and function restoration, it is a reasonable approach and cost for the available large wood. The resulting project will likely be leveraged by expanding community interest in the watershed for implementing future voluntary projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
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Review Team Recommended Amount
$164,880

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3002-16989

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Project Phase II

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $168,850

Total Cost: $241,970

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) requests $168,850 to improve the diversity, quality, and quantity of instream and floodplain habitats on the Horsetail Creek floodplain in the Lower Columbia River Gorge, Multnomah County. The site is 180-acre Columbia River floodplain natural area containing two fish bearing streams and associated sloughs, ponds, drainages and wetlands, located on US Forest Service (USFS) property. It is situated between 1-84 and the Union Pacific Railroad and was significantly impacted by construction of the railroad and highway and historic land use. The proposed Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration Phase II project (Phase II) expands upon the previous project. Phase I, constructed in 2013 on the west portion of the site, improved site thermal conditions, removed fish passage barriers, restored freshwater tidal hydrology, added 600 pieces of large wood to the stream and revegetated 0.9 miles of stream habitat over the lower 35 acres of the site. Phase II, focused to the East Slough, will treat an additional 0.5 stream miles by placing 25 pieces of in-stream large wood, installing beaver dam analog structures (BDAs), and revegetating an additional 30 acres of floodplain habitat by removing an invasive understory of reed canary grass and planting 65,000 native forested wetland species. This project has the unique opportunity to leverage burned wood from the 2017 Eagle Creek Fire by felling and placing large on-site burned trees in-stream and on the floodplain. Large wood placements and the BDAs will increase habitat complexity, enhance off-channel rearing and high flow refugia habitat and encourage additional beaver activity. Restoring floodplain vegetation and closing the riparian overstory will restore process and function to floodplain forests, improve the site's cold-water refuge for anadromous salmonids, and increase macroinvertebrate prey production for juvenile salmonids.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- Proposed Phase 2 restoration is prioritized in an action plan for the Columbia Gorge.
- The project builds on a previous Phase 1 OWEB Restoration investment, and Phase 2 actions will leverage future restoration on the Columbia River currently being planned with OWEB Technical Assistance grant 219-3027, Feasibility Assessment of Pilot Cold Water Refuge Enhancement Technique.

- Horsetail Creek is the most significant cold water input in a 58 mile stretch of the Columbia River. Since the project site is located on one of the last cold water refugia areas before the Columbia River dams, restoration actions will significantly benefit rearing habitat for ESA-listed fish.
- The project is in a highly visible location at a trailhead that will provide opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- The applicant has extensive knowledge about the project site and has engaged the appropriate partners for this project.
- The applicant has capacity to implement long-term maintenance and monitoring on the project site.
- Photos are used effectively in the application.

Concerns

- It is challenging to address causes of watershed impacts with the constraints created by the project location adjacent to I-84.

Concluding Analysis

Monitoring results for the Phase 1 project provide evidence that the proposed restoration approach is successfully providing habitat and temperature benefits. The proposed project is ready for implementation and will leverage complementary past and future restoration efforts, which expands the impact of this work to provide a significant watershed benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$168,850

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$168,850

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3003-17006

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sandy-Salmon Floodplain Reconnection Phase II

Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $293,320

Total Cost: $904,470

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Sandy Salmon Floodplain Reconnection Phase II 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. Phase II restoration actions will implement habitat enhancements to the upper floodplain and a new river channel forming inside the levee, reconnecting and extending restoration completed in 2019 immediately downstream. Proposed phase II restoration actions will partially remove a levee, and enhance the newly forming channel along the upper floodplain, adding large wood structures and grade controls, enhancing side channel habitat, 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 priorities 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, as well as local residents and anglers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well written.
- The project is identified as a top priority in the Sandy Basin Partners' strategy, and will address key watershed limiting factors in a high priority watershed for ESA-listed fish.
- Proposed restoration will build on Phase 1 work and strengthen watershed resilience, improve stream and floodplain connectivity, and benefit water temperature in addition to fish habitat.
- The design team has relevant experience and a proven track record implementing large-scale stream restoration in the Sandy Basin.
- The project is in a highly visible location at a trailhead that will provide opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.

- The project is timely due to momentum generated with Phase 1, and will address levee vulnerabilities before levee failure could negatively impact the basin downstream.

Concerns

- There may be some merit to waiting on Phase 2 until after Phase 1 is completed to observe how the stream system responds, and then adapt the Phase 2 approach to any lessons learned.
- It is unclear from the application why grade control is incorporated into the project design and why a transport channel will be restored in a deposition area of the river where materials will naturally drop out and potentially close the newly created side-channel. Current conditions at the project location may be suitable for the proposed design to be effective; however, additional information in the application on why the design approach was chosen for the project location would provide helpful context.
- The overall project manager hours budgeted are high compared to similar projects. It is unclear from the application why the number of hours are necessary when project management will also be provided by contractors.
- Project related outreach should be added to the scope of work narrative in the application because there are budget items listed for outreach costs. Given the project scale and public location, outreach will be needed to communicate watershed restoration needs and outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The Sandy Basin consistently responds to restoration actions implemented by the Sandy Basin Partners with positive fish population trends, which is documented through monitoring efforts by the Partners. There is potential for the proposed project to provide significant habitat benefits for the cost in a priority basin for ESA-listed fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

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Review Team Recommended Amount

$293,320

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff will request an application revision to add outreach to the Project Scope of Work described in the narrative sections.

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$293,320

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3004-17010

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tryon Creek East Fork Fish Passage Barrier Removal Project

Applicant: Tryon Creek Watershed Council

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $274,081

Total Cost: $409,151

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located on the East Fork of Tryon Creek, which flows directly into the Willamette River, and is part of the Lower Willamette River Basin (Multnomah County, Portland, OR).2) This project will replace an undersized culvert, which is one of the last fish passage barriers within the Tryon Creek watershed, as well as increase the habitat complexity of the creek. It will improve the population carrying capacity of the creek and once the fish passage at Highway 43 is replaced (currently included on a Federal Appropriations Bill), we anticipate the return of Lower Columbia Coho, Steelhead, Coastal Cutthroat Trout, and Lamprey, as there are no other barriers downstream of the East Fork. The significant riparian revegetation that is part of the project will also improve water quality and support non-fish aquatic species such as lamprey, as well as terrestrial species living in the area. 3) The solution involves restoring fish passage through the replacement of an undersized culvert, reconstruction of the creek bed above the culvert, and replanting the riparian area. Tryon Creek was recently the subject of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service study which established that this creek and habitat can support Coastal Cutthroat Trout and other salmonid species; removing one of the final fish passage barriers is critical to the future success of this creek system as native fish spawning habitat. 4) The Watershed Council has been, and will continue to work with Metro Regional Government, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Friends of Tryon Creek, along with countless community and neighborhood volunteers to complete this project and steward the riparian area after completion.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly written goals and objectives.
- A key fish passage barrier on East Tryon Creek will be addressed to open one half mile of stream habitat, which will leverage other fish passage and revegetation work planned in coordination with the proposed project.
- Proposed restoration will provide cold water refugia benefits in a stream that flows into the Willamette River and supports a large population of cutthroat trout, as well as lamprey.

- A thorough project plan is presented in the application that is based on modeling and engineering work already completed. The 60% designs provided have significantly improved from the previous application submissions and address previous project evaluation concerns.
- The project is in a highly visible location in a state park that will provide opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- Partner support is demonstrated by significant match.
- Multiple technical experts are involved in the project and partners have a proven track record managing projects.

Concerns

- There is significant sediment built up behind the berm and it is unclear from the application whether there is consideration in the project plan for potential long-term impacts from this sediment moving downstream.
- Watershed benefits resulting from this project are limited by the downstream Highway 43 road crossing. Until this barrier is addressed, the proposed project has a limited benefit for the cost.
- Additional information on the stream habitat quality above the project site would provide helpful context for determining the extent of habitat benefits that will result from connecting this stream corridor.
- The project has a high cost for opening one half mile of stream habitat located high in a stream system and on the fringe of anadromy. Due to the small active channel width of the stream, anadromous fish are not likely spawning at this site; however, they could be using it for rearing.

Concluding Analysis

The chosen project design alternative is reasonable in balancing local conditions and constraints with overall cost to achieve restoration goals, and project costs are also reasonable for the proposed design. However, the overall cost-benefit to watershed health is significantly limited due to the downstream fish passage barrier at Highway 43.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3005-17031

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upland prairie restoration for Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $245,493

Total Cost: $544,053

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Willamette Valley prairie habitats are some of the rarest in the nation, with an estimated one percent remaining. As a result, the species that depend upon these habitats are in decline as well, some to the point of facing the threat of extinction. Drawing upon a highly functioning network of government agencies, non-profits and private landowners who are working towards prairie restoration and listed species recovery in the Willamette Valley, this project focuses on two of our most imperiled Willamette Valley prairie species: Kincaid’s lupine (threatened) and Fender’s blue butterfly (endangered). Through habitat restoration and augmentation of key populations of Kincaid’s lupine in two critical recovery zones, Corvallis West and Salem West, we will be moving this species closer to recovery and eventual delisting. Because Kincaid’s lupine is the host plant for Fender’s blue butterfly, increasing lupine and nectar species abundance will also benefit the listed butterfly and other pollinators. This proposal seeks OWEB funds to implement habitat restoration and Kincaid’s lupine augmentation activities in order to meet recovery goals in the Corvallis West and Salem West recovery zones. Specifically, funded activities will include project management, site preparation, production and purchase of seed and plant materials (including Kincaid’s lupine and nectar species), seeding and outplanting at five project sites in the Salem West recovery zone and six sites within the Corvallis West recovery zone. Reintroduction sites include protected areas on public and private land. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Benton County, Oregon Department of Transportation, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, Greenbelt Land Trust, and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has measurable goals and clear actions to implement objectives that will lead to successfully accomplishing those goals.
- Restoration actions will treat causes of habitat disturbance instead of symptoms.
- Eight watershed plans are cited in the application, and proposed actions will support ESA-listed Kincaid’s lupine and Fender’s blue butterfly.

- The project recognizes the limited availability of large acreage parcels in the Willamette Valley for proposed restoration actions by instead establishing a network of smaller restored sites with enough connectivity to achieve meaningful impacts benefitting target species.
- Reintroduction sites for target species include protected areas on public and private lands, which will increase the likelihood of protecting restoration investment gains in the long term.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar restoration work.
- A diversity of partners are engaged in the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support.
- Project costs are reasonable based on supporting documentation provided in the application.

Concerns

- Clarification on the extent to which the network of restored project sites will move ESA-listed species towards achieving delisting recovery goals would provide helpful watershed context. It is clear that if individual sites are successful, these sites are eligible to help meet recovery goals for delisting; however, it is unclear whether collectively the sites can achieve delisting if they are all successful.
- Establishing Kincaid's lupine from plugs can be challenging so there may be some risk that plugs will not succeed, and this project component will not be worth the investment.
- Not all proposed sites will integrate herbicides as a weed management tool, which will make these locations difficult to successfully manage.
- No alternatives to the proposed restoration approach were discussed in the application.
- Partners are likely to assist with maintaining sites; however, it is unclear from the application what plans are in place for long-term plant establishment.

Concluding Analysis

A collection of shovel-ready project locations will be restored to create a network of habitats for ESA-listed Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly. The project leverages committed partners that will contribute to the likelihood of success for this project to meet proposed restoration outcomes that will assist in achieving ESA recovery goals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

$245,493

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$245,493

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3006-17037
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bald Hill Farm Restoration Phase 3
Applicant: Greenbelt Land Trust
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Benton
OWEB Request: $111,026
Total Cost: $210,251

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Greenbelt Land Trust purchased Bald Hill Farm in 2013 for the express purpose of permanently protecting and restoring native habitats for rare and declining species. The regional importance of this property was recognized by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Bonneville Power Administration who hold permanent conservation easements on this property, located in Benton County, just west of Corvallis. The impact of this restoration project is greatly heightened by the fact that there are three contiguous Natural Areas for a combined area of 1,405 acres. Bald Hill Farm provides a unique opportunity to create new prairie habitat from degraded pasture within a butterfly's wing beat of some of the best remaining prairie in the mid-Valley. This project will retire agricultural activities on 81 acres of degraded pasture and 39 acres of riparian forest for a total project area of 120 acres. The pastures will be converted into a diverse native prairie with vernal pools. Adjacent tracts support a suite of species of conservation concern such as Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot, Oregon vesper sparrow, Kincaid's lupine, Nelson's checkermallow, Willamette daisy, and golden paintbrush. This newly created habitat will provide the best potential for population expansion for these rare and declining species. In addition, Greenbelt proposes to restore 39 acres of riparian forest through thinning and control of invasive species. 50,000 annual visitors will witness the transformation of this iconic property.Greenbelt is partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a network of vernal pools and restored wet prairie. In addition, River Design Group will provide engineering expertise in order to repair two former agricultural ditches that are beginning to head cut. Greenbelt is also partnering with Ducks Unlimited to submit a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant which will match roughly half of the total project cost proposed herein.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is designed well and the application includes a clear description of the site, various project components, design, and rationale for likely success of the restoration approach.
- Proposed restoration builds on connected conservation work in the area and supports USFWS ESA-listed species recovery goals for species such as Fender’s blue butterfly.
- The project is in a highly visible location with a trail network that will provide public awareness about watershed restoration.

- The applicant has a proven track record in restoring prairie and oak valley bottom habitats.
- The budget includes costs for cultural resources survey.
- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project.

Concerns

- Riparian restoration is less clearly described in the application compared to other habitat restoration components.
- Vernal pools may not succeed due to unsuitable site conditions; however, this portion of the project will likely result in wet prairie hydrology that will provide habitat benefits.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration will add habitat complexity on a site that will have long term protection as a conservation property. The property's position on the landscape is ideal for building connectivity of restored habitat for the target species at a scale that will have meaningful impact. The resulting restoration outcomes will have high benefit to these habitats and ESA-listed species for the cost, and the project approach is likely to succeed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$111,026

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$111,026

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3007-17059

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Economic and Ecological Sustainability through Restoration of Lamprey Creek

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $424,025

Total Cost: $807,778

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will restore a rich tapestry of habitats on 175 acres of Oregon State University (OSU)-owned land along Lamprey Creek, a third order stream in the Oak Creek watershed, Benton County, Corvallis, Oregon. Portions of the creek are channelized and adjoining wetlands have been ditched and drained. Priceless specimen oaks are crowded by encroaching trees and increasingly threatened by wildfire. Blackberry, English hawthorn, and other invasive weeds infest meadows and woodlands. The site has not been actively managed for decades. Situated on the urban fringe, it is also a visible reminder of missed opportunities to demonstrate effective protection of open spaces, sustainable grazing, and wildfire readiness. We propose to reverse the degradation of this natural area using innovative combinations of fuels management, weed treatments, carefully prescribed grazing, and comprehensive floristic reintroduction based on historic diversity documented by OregonFlora. We will remove a dike and return Lamprey Creek to a portion of its historic channel. Beaver dam analog construction and beaver-supportive plantings will support dam-building to restore floodplain function and return complexity to the system. Through partnership with USDA, Oregon DSL, Marys River Watershed Council, private partners, OSU Extension, and several other University labs and programs, this project leverages the unique strengths of OSU by engaging social, biological and biophysical researchers to begin the process of rigorous scientific evaluation of restoration practices. While no research will be funded through this grant, we will create opportunities for faculty and student engagement to generate knowledge that will directly benefit OWEB and other natural resource funders. In particular, we intend to demonstrate that science-based restoration and maintenance of natural habitat can be achieved while meeting agricultural production objectives in an economically sustainable manner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site has significant habitat potential and the general restoration project concept is technically sound.
- The project utilizes OregonFlora documentation to inform restoration design.

Concerns

- Since there are no watershed restoration plans referenced in the application, it is unclear whether the project is an action prioritized in a strategic plan or whether it is more opportunistic.
- There is limited evidence that ESA-listed Fender's blue butterfly will benefit from the proposed restoration because the host plant is not present at the project site.
- The species list in the application for plantings is ambitious because the species may not all be available in the desired quantities.
- Broadcast burning appears to be proposed for some areas of the project site where it would not be appropriate due to the proximity to a neighborhood. Broadcast burning is a logical approach for portions of the site; however, it is not ideal within the timing of the proposed project because more time may be needed for tree thinning to reduce the fuel load.
- The overall project cost is high for the proposed restoration goals, objectives, and actions.
- Some unit costs in the budget, such as tree thinning and oak release costs, are high compared to similar projects.
- Staff costs are high for the proposed restoration work. It is difficult to determine from the application how the high number of staff hours is necessary to achieve the proposed restoration goals without more detail on the deliverables that will be provided by these staff positions.
- The application does not indicate that partners actively implementing similar habitat work in the area were engaged, such as Greenbelt Land Trust, Institute for Applied Ecology, and USFWS. Furthermore, one of the letters included in the application from a local restoration practitioner expresses concern regarding the restoration approach in addition to overall support for the project concept.

Concluding Analysis

Addressing ecological processes through targeted grazing and prescribed fire provides an interesting opportunity to experiment with different tools for restoring habitats. The applicant is encouraged to engage partners in the area that are working on restoring similar habitat types and aligning efforts with relevant watershed restoration plans.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3008-17067

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Forest Park - Balch Creek Watershed Restoration Project

Applicant: City of Portland Parks & Recreation

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $249,200

Total Cost: $451,200

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The City of Portland requests OWEB funding to complete the final phase of a 580-acre restoration project in the Balch Creek Watershed of the City of Portland's Forest Park. Forest Park is a 5,200-acre forested natural area in Multnomah County owned and managed by the Portland's Parks & Recreation (PP&R). Balch Creek is a tributary of the Willamette River and flows for a mile through Forest Park. The densely forested watershed's habitat scores are among the highest in the City. The creek supports a resident population of cutthroat trout, while providing a clean, cool water supply to the Willamette. Despite the high quality of the watershed surrounding Balch Creek, significant portions are severely degraded by the long-term encroachment of invasive species - primarily ivy, holly and laurel. This impacts native understory plant communities and the wildlife they support; reduces natural regeneration of conifers; and contributes to erosion. A comprehensive watershed restoration plan began in 2015 with funding from PP&R and a Metro Nature in Neighborhoods grant. Now, PP&R requests $249,200 from OWEB to connect project areas within a contiguous 580-acre area. Work will include manual, mechanical and chemical treatments of invasive species, followed by replanting to restore native plant communities. Match for the grant is provided by PP&R funding and volunteer work by PP&R's No Ivy League program, which works to manually control ivy in the watershed. Match is also provided by a pending Forest Park Conservancy application for Metro's Nature in Neighborhoods grant. These proposals were designed in tandem – Metro funding will support new actions to achieve equity goals in the watershed that will benefit minority groups, including workforce development, community stewardship, and a portion of the watershed restoration activities; while OWEB funding will complete the comprehensive landscape-scale restoration through work with contractors and volunteer crews.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A large area of City of Portland's Forest Park will be treated, which will benefit forest health, amphibian habitat, and water quality.
- The proposed project is well thought out with a reasonable plan for targeting areas for treatment and strategies for controlling weeds.
- A planting component after invasive plants are removed is included in the restoration approach.

- The project is in a highly visible location with a trail network that will provide opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed restoration.
- Volunteer efforts will be integrated with professional contractors when necessary to implement the proposed work.
- The project manager has a proven track record with similar work.
- The proposed restoration has a reasonable cost benefit for the proposed work.

Concerns

- It is difficult to fully understand from the application the project complexities relating to the acres to be planted versus acres to be treated for noxious weeds, and where these acres do not overlap and why. However, the proposed restoration is clearer after the site visit that demonstrated there are some areas requiring only aggressive noxious weed control to restore forest health while other areas will need additional planting to restore diversity of plant species and age class.
- There are likely water quality impacts to Balch Creek from the trails contributing sediment that could be addressed with trail improvements to provide further water quality protection.
- Long-term sustainability of restoration work will be a challenge; however, the proposed actions will provide an initial investment in decreasing weed populations so that long-term control is more feasible.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed restoration actions will provide whole watershed health benefits by restoring and maintaining upland forest health. The project integrates engaging communities of color and minorities in new training and workforce development opportunities when implementing restoration actions in Forest Park. Resulting restoration will provide meaningful community benefits in addition to watershed health benefits at a reasonable cost for the proposed work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$249,200

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3009-17069

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Recovering System Process in the Upper Marys River Basin

Applicant: Marys River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $212,628

Total Cost: $310,533

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This is a targeted series of restoration prescriptions that focuses on the protection, enhancement and restoration of high priority aquatic anchor habitat reaches in the Upper Marys River 6th field. An OWEB funded Technical Assistance grant has provided the modeling and field verification that identified these anchors, as well as the landowner outreach necessary for the development of project prescriptions. The process utilized to identify and prioritize these project reaches was built on the concept that functional source populations (demes) are required for maintaining both the genetic diversity and abundance of salmonid populations within the larger Marys River Watershed.Treatment reaches are located in the West Fork Marys River (0.5 mile), Oleman Creek (0.9 mile) and Devitt Creek (1.0 mile). MRWC will treat all of these reaches within the scope of this proposed restoration work by utilizing a broad range of partner matches that include OWEB, Siuslaw National Forest Marys Peak Stewardship Group, Bureau of Land Management., OR Department of Forestry, industrial timber and numerous small private landowners. Within each of these anchor habitats, MRWC is securing upstream passage, providing long-term riparian support for the aquatic corridor (shade and wood delivery), and in all cases focusing on prolonged water storage in legacy beaver reaches to address the primary basin scale limitation of elevated water temperature that truncates the abundance of functional summer rearing habitat. Floodplain inundation and storage will primarily be accomplished with the installation of large wood structures (LWDs) and beaver dam analogues (BDAs) and supported by planting extensive areas of beaver forage species in the riparian corridor, where legacy beaver flats have become dominated by reed canary grass. Monitoring will be an important part of the broader project request as it relates to the colonization rates of the proposed BDA structures.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is thorough and well-written.
- Proposed restoration actions build on a previous OWEB Technical Assistance investment and target high priority habitat reaches identified from that work. Large wood placement and Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) designs are based on modeling and field verification from the technical assistance.
- A broad range of partners support the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match.

- The range of restoration actions will address fish passage at multiple sites, increase stream and floodplain interactions, and restore riparian vegetation, which will provide lamprey and cutthroat trout habitat and water quality benefits.
- Monitoring will be incorporated into the project that includes lamprey eDNA testing and monitoring BDAs to ensure there are no fish passage issues.
- The application includes a clear explanation of an alternatives analysis for the project design approach.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects.

Concerns

- There are a number of budget items listed that do not have a clear connection to the goals, objectives, and actions in the application narrative, making it difficult to determine how these costs are reasonable and necessary for achieving the proposed restoration actions.

Concluding Analysis

The combination of strategized restoration actions, partner participation, and potential for future restoration opportunities that will expand the impact of the proposed project provides a high benefit for the cost and likelihood of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$212,628

Review Team Conditions

OWEB staff should clarify budget costs for outreach and GIS to determine whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the project, and whether they should be removed from the budget.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff requested clarifying information on budget items relating to outreach and GIS costs and determined these items are directly related to the project. GIS costs are needed to support permit application processes and to monitor the project for reporting. Outreach costs will support public awareness project components that will lead to future restoration opportunities. Staff will request an application revision to add outreach and GIS to the Project Scope of Work described in the narrative sections. The applicant also provided a revised budget that reflects a reduced OWEB request to adjust for new match funds that

were recently secured.

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$205,153

Staff Conditions

Fund reduced to adjust OWEB request in response to the applicant securing new match funds.

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3010-17070

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Truax Island Floodplain Restoration Phase 1 : Planting and Plant Establishment

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $129,981

Total Cost: $332,535

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Truax Island Access is a 128 acre undeveloped Willamette Greenway site within the Upper Willamette River Floodplain conservation Opportunity Area (COA 61, Oregon Conservation Strategy, 2016). Truax Island is bordered on the north by the Willamette River and the south is bordered by Dead River Slough. The primary watershed issue being addressed during the restoration and enhancement of 27 acres of floodplain and upland forest will be the ecological degradation to the floodplain after it was deforested, cleared for agricultural use and eventually left fallow. Once agricultural operations ended, the site was quickly colonized by invasive weeds, including Armenian blackberry, English hawthorn, common tansy, and teasel. These non-native, invasive plants degrade the quality of the floodplain for juvenile salmonids who seeks these areas as refuge during floods and capitalize on the opportunity to forage on terrestrial insects. To restore this valuable floodplain habitat along the Willamette River, site preparation began in 2018 thanks to a grant from Meyer Memorial Trust ($147k Match). Work has consisted of hand cutting invasive vegetation with follow-up herbicide applications in the spring and fall. This process will be repeated for two years, with the site being ready to install native trees and shrubs in winter 2020. To maximize the ecological uplift for the project, we will also be thinning 8.7 acres of pine/fir trees to create a more open upland community and re-purpose the logs as basking in the nearby gravel pit. We are seeking OWEB funds to achieve the next step of the project, the reforestation and enhancement of 27 acres of historic floodplain/upland forest through the installation of 27,550 native trees and shrubs, seeding native grasses and forbs, and five years of plant maintenance.Project partners: OPRD, Knife River, River Design Group, DOGAMI, The Nature Conservancy , Meyer Memorial Trust and the Calapooia Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site is located in a priority watershed area and implements actions identified in multiple plans, including the Upper Willamette Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead, Oregon Conservation Strategy, and the Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Action Plan.
- A diversity of watershed habitat benefits will result from the proposed restoration activities, including oak, floodplain, and western pond turtle habitats.

- The project builds connectivity with upstream and downstream restoration efforts, and incorporates lessons learned from these projects.
- Many of the previous project evaluation concerns are addressed in the application. For example, revised plant community treatments specific to benefiting turtle habitat are more likely to succeed.
- Multiple partners are involved in the project, which is demonstrated by letters of support. The applicant has engaged a diversity of partners necessary for this project to be successful, including neighboring agricultural landowners, state agencies, and an on-site gravel industry stakeholder.
- Inclusion of the two-year flood maps in the application provides helpful context.

Concerns

- Restoration approaches are not clearly described in the application; more detail on project objectives and how they will be accomplished would improve application clarity.
- Previous evaluation concerns regarding the oak habitat restoration design are not fully addressed. Proposed plantings of new oaks indicate that the restoration approach is not prioritizing legacy oak retention. The site already has enough young oaks and restoration focus should be on the herbaceous understory.
- Costs for mowing and herbicide spray are high compared to other similar projects.
- It is unclear why costs for herbicide treatment over the five-year plant establishment timeframe is the same each year instead of ramping down as the need for herbicides should decrease by the time a project reaches year five. Also, fall herbicide treatments should require spot spraying and not circle spray, which is appropriate for spring treatments.

Concluding Analysis

The project is time sensitive to ensure that gains from recent site preparation and weed control are not lost. This work has resulted in successful reduction of weed populations, which allows the site to be ready for implementation of the project. The proposed restoration within the Willamette floodplain will provide multiple habitat benefits at a reasonable overall project cost for the expected outcomes.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

$129,981

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3011-17075

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bear Creek Fish Passage Enhancement Phase 2

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $94,033

Total Cost: $122,623

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed fish passage enhancement project is located on Bear Creek, in one of three drainages prioritized by the Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC) for accelerated restoration as part of the Willamette Model Watershed Program. Bear Creek, along with Ferguson Creek to the north, are priority areas for fish passage improvements for LTWC due to their proximity to the mainstem Willamette River and their potential to provide habitat for juvenile upper Willamette River spring Chinook and Pacific lamprey once fish passage is improved by the US Army Corps of Engineers on the lower Long Tom River. The proposed project is the final of two phases of fish passage improvements on Bear Creek proper and would address two of the final four priority passage barriers in the Bear Creek Sub-watershed (there are two remaining on Jones Creek). Once this project is complete, LTWC will add Bear Creek to the list of entire drainages that we have opened up for fish passage, which includes Owens Creek, a major tributary to Bear Creek, where we have removed 12 barriers since 2006. This project would open up three miles of spawning and cold-water habitat for native aquatic species by installing engineered riffles downstream of two barrier culverts on Bear Creek. The riffles will backwater the culverts to make them passable year-round for native aquatic species. One culvert is privately-owned and the other is located on Highway 36 and managed by the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). The riffle will be installed downstream of Highway 36 on private property. OWEB funds will be used for supplies, materials, contracted services, project management, travel, and grant administration costs of the riffle installations. OWEB funds will leverage significant in-kind contributions from the landowners, ODOT, and Wildish Sand and Gravel.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The last two fish passage barriers in the Bear Creek drainage will be addressed. This will add three miles of stream habitat that will benefit cutthroat trout.
- The project design incorporates lessons learned from previous projects by adding an engineered riffle to mitigate water velocity barriers to fish passage caused by culverts, which is a reasonable approach for the project sites.
- Project implementation will balance utilizing assistance when feasible from the landowner with contractor expertise when needed.

- The applicant has a proven track record using a similar design approach at other road crossing locations.
- Project costs are reasonable.

Concerns

- When the designs are reviewed by ODOT, there could be changes required that increase project costs.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on and leverages considerable strategic watershed restoration investments, including the Meyer Memorial Trust Model Watershed. Addressing the proposed fish passage barriers will open an entire drainage of connected stream habitat. The applicant's extensive and effective work in landowner engagement to recruit participation in voluntary watershed restoration has resulted in this whole watershed approach. The resulting watershed health cost-benefit is reasonable and the likelihood of project success is high.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority
8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$100,289

Review Team Conditions

Add 10% contingency on contracted services and supplies and materials in case project costs increase in relation to meeting ODOT requirements.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3012-17080

Project Type: Restoration

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

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $163,749

Total Cost: $265,147

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

McKenzie River Trust's 191-acre Coyote-Spencer Wetlands property sits at the confluence of Coyote and Spencer creeks in the Long Tom Watershed, providing refugia for numerous native wet and upland prairie- and bottomland oak habitat-dependent species. The property is within an Oregon Conservation Strategy Conservation Opportunity Area, Willamette Valley Synthesis Area, and US Fish and Wildlife Service Priority Conservation Area. Prairie and Oak habitats are among the most fragmented and endangered in Oregon. In 1853, surveyors walking the section lines that cross the property described open prairie on the valley bottom intersected by fringes of riparian woodland bordering Coyote and Spencer Creeks. Since then, the lack of frequent fire and human tending has allowed woody plants to encroach, and agricultural activities onsite and nearby have displaced prairie plant species with weedy pasture grasses. Still, the site supports 145 native, herbaceous plant species, including rare Bradshaw’s lomatium, Oregon larkspur, thin-leaved peavine, suncups, and Hitchcock's blue-eyed grass. Phase I of II, this project proposes to remove encroaching woody species from 104 acres of prairie and oak habitat and reintroduce prescribed fire to the site. LTWC will partner with McKenzie River Trust, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Institute for Applied Ecology, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and Department of State Lands to carry out the proposed project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is on a 191-acre McKenzie River Trust property that is protected by a Conservation Easement and has an existing presence of diverse, listed native species.
- Previous project evaluation concerns were addressed by phasing restoration and focusing on the highest priority need on the site, which is to address woody plant encroachment first. Then lessons learned from this initial work can be applied to future phases.
- The project site supports 145 native plant species despite previous impacts from human activity. The property is at a tipping point with a native seedbank waiting to be released once competitive woody species are removed.
- Restored wet prairie, upland prairie, and oak bottomland will provide refugia for native species dependent on these habitats.

- There is a unique opportunity to integrate the use of prescribed fire to demonstrate its potential effectiveness in restoring habitats on this landscape and encourage private landowners in the area to consider using this management tool.
- The project site has public access and signage so there is opportunity for raising public awareness about watershed habitat restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar restoration work and effectively managing sites long-term with landowners.
- Letters of support in the application demonstrate that appropriate partners are engaged in the project.
- The project costs are reasonable for the acreage and expected restoration outcomes.
- Details on monitoring methods and needs are included in the application.

Concerns

- Proposed restoration is a conservative approach for the habitat opportunity provided by the project site. However, the approach proposed is reasonable and could be a tool to build a more aggressive approach on the prairie habitat in future project phases.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is likely to succeed by prioritizing the highest habitat need first on the project site. The watershed benefit is high for the cost by restoring a mosaic of habitats on a protected property located in an area prioritized in multiple planning efforts for the target species and habitats, and leveraging other nearby restoration efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$163,749

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$163,749

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3013-17087
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Upper Calapooia Steelhead Habitat Enhancement
Applicant: Calapooia WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Linn
OWEB Request: $156,669
Total Cost: $257,469

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed Upper Calapooia Steelhead Habitat Enhancement project will occur on the mainstem Calapooia River from its confluence with United States Creek upstream to just below Keeney Creek, entirely within US Forest Service property. The Calapooia basin has been identified as a genetic stronghold for the Threatened Upper Willamette River (UWR) winter steelhead and due to the removal of three migration barriers, possesses unimpeded access to the historical spawning and rearing habitats of the upper watershed. A legacy of habitat degradation and simplification, including nearly a century of instream wood removal, has left the upper Calapooia River with a large wood deficit. The lack of instream structure has greatly reduced the level of habitat complexity and resulting steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. The proposed habitat enhancements will be accomplished by tipping 19 mature (~70" dbh) stream adjacent Douglas Fir trees into the river channel at strategic location using a cable system from existing roads adjacent to the project area. The introduction of these large diameter trees will act as the backbone for further wood accumulation following natural processes that will lead to increased habitat complexity, rearing potential, and the accumulation of organic material important to the aquatic food web. In addition, the project will remove an abandoned road bed that is currently blocking the rivers connection to the floodplain. The removal of this barrier will allow the river to once again move freely within the floodplain, offering additional refuge and forage opportunities for juvenile steelhead. OWEB funds will be used to hire a contractor to pull over and place the trees, project management, post project snorkel surveys and administrative overhead. The projects partners include the Calapooia Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Sweet Home Ranger District (US Forest Service).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Calapooia watershed is a stronghold for Upper Willamette River winter steelhead.
- The project is well thought out and planned.
- Proposed actions will address limiting factors in the Upper Calapooia River, including the lack of instream large wood and streambed materials, which will benefit ESA-listed fish and other aquatic and terrestrial native species utilizing the stream and floodplain habitats.
- Restoration will attenuate high energy stream flows and provide water quality benefits by moderating stream temperatures.

- Design alternatives, such as helicopter placement, were considered to determine the most cost-effective and feasible design.
- Significant pre-project outreach was completed to ensure stakeholders understand the benefit of using large, old-growth trees for stream habitat restoration. In particular, the project team recognized the potential for considerable impacts to mineral rights owners and engaged this community in planning efforts to reduce these impacts.
- The project design incorporates significant forest stand data to identify trees that should not be tipped into the stream because they are currently used by raptors or birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
- The project team has relevant experience and a proven track record with similar projects.
- Project costs are reasonable.
- Archaeology costs are included in the application budget.
- The project includes snorkel and spawning surveys to monitor fish response to the large wood placement.

Concerns

- A letter of support from the downstream private timber landowner would strengthen the application to demonstrate adjacent landowners are not concerned about potential impacts.
- Large sized trees, like the trees to be used in this project, can be tenacious when pulling them over into the stream and could present a feasibility constraint due to contractor and equipment limitations. The applicant team provided clarification at the review site visit on how this will be addressed when selecting contractors with the appropriate skills and equipment.

Concluding Analysis

Adding large wood into the Upper Calapooia River will provide instream structure needed to restore watershed process and function that builds streambed complexity until future large wood recruitment supply is available in the riparian areas to fall into the stream and provide this function. The current simplified stream channel will benefit from added complexity, and the river will be able to access and reconnect with its floodplain. The watershed health benefit-cost and likelihood for the project to succeed are both high in a watershed that will benefit ESA-listed fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

$156,669

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$156,669

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3014-16963

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Restoration Planning Using NetMap Analysis in the Tualatin River Watershed

Applicant: Tualatin River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: $49,980

Total Cost: $100,980

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This Technical Assistance Grant will provide the Tualatin River Watershed Council, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and other partners with an assessment and prioritization tool to address impacts from historical and current land use practices that impact habitat and water quality. The tool, NetMap, coupled with expert review and field verification will support prioritization of specific restoration projects and communications with stakeholders and landowners. Our goal is to queue up restoration projects that will address limiting factors in support of restoring watershed processes. Partners include the Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District, Clean Water Services and the Joint Water Commission.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- NetMap has been successfully used in similar watersheds to support restoration planning efforts.
- Proposed planning will leverage active work by partners to address water quality concerns in the Tualatin River watershed.
- A technical team will review and interpret results.
- The applicant has a proven track record with previous OWEB grants.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- Project costs are reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- Some of the project details are difficult to understand from the application. For example, LEMMA is mentioned in the application without further definition or description to better understand this data source that will be used in the project.
- Further explanation of the field work component is needed to understand methods and parameters that will be used for ground truthing NetMap results.
- The pathway from the proposed NetMap work to identifying, prioritizing, and implementing eligible watershed restoration projects is unclear from the application.

- The budget lacks funds for analyzing results from the NetMap model, which may be necessary for the applicant to effectively utilize the product.

Concluding Analysis

NetMap has been a successful tool for effective restoration planning; however, the proposed technical assistance focuses heavily on the mapping elements and it is unclear what actions are planned for using this mapping work that will lead to eligible restoration projects within a specific 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

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3015-16970

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Increasing tools in the Ludwigia control toolbox: exploring mechanical removal for primrose-willow

Applicant: Benton SWCD

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $20,511

Total Cost: $28,791

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Ludwigia is an aquatic invasive species that chokes off-channel habitat along the Willamette River, decreasing available habitat for fish and wildlife, while simultaneously lowering water quality and increasing sedimentation of habitats. Ludwigia sites along the river, such as Collins Bay in Benton County between Corvallis and Albany, tend to be treated with high quantities of herbicide over long periods of time. At some sites, this has been a successful way of treating Ludwigia; at other sites Ludwigia populations have stagnated after many years of herbicide treatment. This TA aims to determine the feasibility of utilizing mechanical removal as an option for Ludwigia control at Collins Bay, and information gleaned from this TA will be applicable to other off-channel habitats along the Willamette River. The project is needed to overcome the current barriers for land manager's lack of familiarity with mechanical removal options for aquatic invasive species, lack of understanding of efficacy and costs of mechanical removal, lack of understanding of available equipment, and lack of understanding of permitting and other logistical details of implementing mechanical removal tools. Through this TA we will: 1) Develop a 90% project implementation plan for mechanical removal of Ludwigia with partners from Integrated Resource Management, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department and Oregon Department of Agriculture. 2) Disseminate strategies of mechanical removal of Ludwigia to partners.3) Develop a restoration plan for Collins Bay.4) Pre-mechanical removal monitoring of fish, water quality, and vegetation at Collins Bay with partners from Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Geological Survey, and Portland State University. Ludwigia is a problem that will continue to impact off-channel habitats throughout the Willamette River and Oregon. By expanding the tools restoration practitioners can use to combat it, we will increase the odds of protecting priority habitat.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A clear need for the proposed technical assistance is presented in the application to identify alternative tools beyond herbicides for effectively controlling Ludwigia.
- The proposed project builds on previous work to control Ludwigia, and aligns with Willamette regional strategic plans for addressing invasive weeds.

- Future Ludwigia control resulting from the proposed technical assistance could provide water quality benefits.
- The project team is qualified with relevant experience.
- The landowner is willing to allow experimental treatments for Ludwigia.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support.
- The overall project cost for the proposed work is reasonable.

Concerns

- The application does not have enough detail in the scope of work to understand the deliverables expected from this project.
- It is unclear how an implementation plan for controlling Ludwigia will be developed while concurrently testing the feasibility of a method that would be included in this plan. The sequencing for experimenting with a new treatment and using the resulting lessons learned to effectively inform a planning process is unclear. Finally, the focus of the treatment experiments is unclear; it is unclear whether technical assistance will result in learning one or more new mechanical techniques, adding a mechanical method to existing chemical treatment strategies on the project site, or a combination of these approaches.
- The application budget lacks detail needed to determine whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work because costs are grouped into lump sums. It is unclear how out-of-state travel is necessary for the proposed technical assistance outcomes and what deliverables will result from the staff time costs.
- Instead of traveling out-of-state to observe Ludwigia control efforts at a California location, it may be more beneficial to bring out-of-state contractors with unique skills to Oregon to observe the extent of the problem in the Willamette and provide technical advice based on lessons learned from their previous work. This could also provide an opportunity to engage local Oregon contractors to learn with the applicant from this expertise and cultivate new skills locally to address Ludwigia.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project offers an experimental opportunity to identify treatments that may improve the effectiveness of Ludwigia control efforts, which is one of the worse aquatic invasives reducing habitat quality in the Willamette. Without more detail on the outcomes expected from the proposed technical assistance, it is difficult to determine whether the project is likely to succeed in leading to future eligible restoration that can address limitations in current Ludwigia control efforts and provide a scalable approach.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3016-17013

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Creswell Butte: Restoration Design & Engineering

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $44,586

Total Cost: $65,461

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is in Lane County along the southern border of the City of Creswell's urban growth boundary at Creswell Butte. The property is currently owned by private landowners who donated the Conservation Easement (CE) to McKenzie River Trust. The easement did not come with operations and maintenance (O&M) funds. Years of little to no management have left the legacy oaks and open meadow habitats overgrown with shrubs, cherry, and conifers. The risk of losing the legacy oaks that remain is imminent and with no action key habitat values will be lost forever. The project seeks to gather a technical team of experts and hire a design engineering firm that will help create design alternatives that will take into consideration the properties potential future ownership, current infrastructure (roads, trails) issues, methods of restoration (manual, fire, etc.) and long-term management strategies. The proposed project will result in a selected alternative and will be followed with funding solicitations to restore the degraded upland prairie and oak habitats along with their associated wildlife species.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is a clear need for the proposed technical assistance to provide the City of Creswell with planning resources necessary for the City to be able to own and manage a conservation property.
- The applicant is well-suited to implement this technical assistance project because they have built trust and credibility with the City of Creswell.
- The project is located in priority oak habitat, and provides an opportunity to permanently protect this site while providing access for the public to see legacy oak habitat. This engagement opportunity could yield long-term dividends for future oak habitat focused restoration in the surrounding region.

Concerns

- The application budget lacks detail needed to determine whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work because costs are grouped into lump sums.
- Nine partners are identified in the application; however, only three documented their project support with letters of support.

Concluding Analysis

The technical assistance project utilizes a unique landownership transition opportunity on a conservation property located in a priority oak habitat area. Proposed resource planning is timely to protect and restore legacy oaks and prairie habitats located on this project site. The resulting plan will help future property management to ensure continued protection of these habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$44,586

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$44,586

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3017-17076

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Long Tom Restoration Planning

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $31,778

Total Cost: $53,364

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The technical assistance planning project area is located in the upper Long Tom and Elk Creek Sub-watersheds, starting just west of Veneta and extending west and north from there. The project area is identified by a number of regional plans as a priority area for the restoration and conservation of oak woodland, oak savanna, wet prairie, riparian, and emergent and riverine wetland habitats. There are a number of private and public landowners in the project area that are interested in working with LTWC to improve conditions in a variety of these priority habitats. OWEB resources are needed for LTWC to capitalize on this landowner interest and turn it into on-the-ground habitat restoration. We will work with regional experts to prioritize the interested landowners, visit up to 20 of their properties, develop five restoration plans, and write and submit three implementation grant proposals. Key partners in the project include McKenzie River Trust, the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. The LTWC Technical Advisory Team, which consists of a larger group of regional experts from additional agencies including the University of Oregon, USFS Pacific Northwest Research Station, Lane County Parks, the City of Eugene, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, will help LTWC prioritize project opportunities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear and measurable deliverables are described in the application.
- The project is located in a priority area for the applicant and its partners.
- There is a high likelihood of success for this technical assistance work to result in the development of eligible restoration projects because recent landowner engagement has successfully recruited a long list of landowners interested in planning projects.
- A technical team with appropriate expertise will provide support for planning work.
- The applicant has relevant experience and a proven track record from similar restoration planning work with landowners.
- The application budget is detailed, and project costs are reasonable.
- The project leverages a collaboration with McKenzie River Trust.

Concerns

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance project exemplifies the spirit of voluntary conservation by integrating partnerships, leveraged funds, and collaborative restoration planning with landowners. Products from this project will lead to significant restoration opportunities in this watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$31,778

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$31,778

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3018-17083
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: SRBP Vision
Applicant: Sandy River Basin WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Multnomah
OWEB Request: $31,084
Total Cost: $105,804

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Sandy River Basin Partners includes the Sandy River Watershed Council, Metro, East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District, the Portland Water Bureau, the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Freshwater Trust, and the Sandy Chapter of the Northwest Steelheaders. Each partner, both individually and collaboratively have had extensive experience planning and completing restoration activities improving the Sandy populations of listed salmon and steelhead. Ecological outcomes identified by the partnership will address limiting factors of degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas presenting habitat for all life stages of salmonids in the Sandy River basin. The Sandy Basin Partners will enhance an existing strategic action plan by evaluating reach targets utilizing current habitat conditions. Restoration strategy objectives are derived from the EDT model that compares historic vs. current conditions for metrics limiting salmon and steelhead populations. ThePartners will update the model to refine targets, track progress towards meeting objectives, and have a better understanding of where the next 10 years of habitat restoration can take place.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Sandy Basin is a priority watershed for ESA-listed salmon and other aquatic species.
- The 2007 Sandy Basin Strategic Plan will be updated, which is a logical next step for the Sandy Basin Partners to plan future restoration.
- Projects completed in the Sandy Basin will be incorporated into the watershed planning model to determine whether previous restoration is working as expected; and potentially determine whether sub-watersheds no longer need further work because they have reached desired watershed conditions.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity to fully understand the proposed work and methods. For example, the EDT model is not explained in the application.

- It is unclear whether the applicant has organizational capacity for the proposed work. An explanation of how the applicant is uniquely positioned among the Sandy Basin partners and qualified to serve as a convening entity for this project would provide helpful context to determine the applicant's capacity for the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

The strategic plan update will integrate previous restoration work to inform the partners' understanding of the impact of their completed work that has been implemented over a large scale with significant investment. This will inform planning future restoration investments as the Partners move into the next generation of strategies for the Sandy Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$31,084

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3019-17033

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Engaging Diverse Stakeholders in Floodplain Restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $99,479

Total Cost: $136,016

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Through an OWEB Technical Assistance grant, the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council has been working with Wolf Water Resources, and a robust technical team (Oregon Parks & Recreation Dept., Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Forest Service) to develop process-based floodplain restoration designs for Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) – targeting 800 acres – and the sections of the Middle Fork Willamette River (MFWR) and Lost Creek that flow through the park. Dam building and historic aggregate mining on the MFWR and berm creation along both streams have resulted in the loss of dynamism and diverse habitat historically present in this floodplain environment. Restoration designs will be bold – including the consideration of “Stage 0” approaches. This type of restoration approach in the Willamette has been strictly implemented on Federal lands thus far. Applying this approach in a location with more logistical and social constraints is going to require significant social engagement in order to be successful. The logical and necessary next step in the effort to restore the EBSP floodplain is to engage stakeholders. EBSP is an extremely popular site with annual day-use attendance of 187,200 including frequent use by equestrian groups, trail runners, anglers, and boaters. We seek to explain the project and its rationale to neighbors, park visitors, and river users because stakeholder understanding and acceptance will be essential to restoration project success. We will utilize project tours, science pubs, open houses, social media, and other methods to do so. It will also be critical to engage with Tribes, river and land managers, permitting agencies, and other key organizations that have an interest in the site and can support the restoration activities. Engagement activities with these groups will primarily include meetings, information sharing, and project tours.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on a technical assistance investment that incorporated a technical team with appropriate expertise to review and recommend restoration alternatives.
- A diversity of affected stakeholders will be engaged in a variety of communication opportunities.
- A portion of the project is located in the Lost Creek Watershed, one of a few undammed watersheds in the Willamette, which elevates the priority of this location for restoration.

- The project costs are reasonable for the proposed stakeholder engagement work.
- The project team has relevant experience.

Concerns

- The stakeholder engagement described in the application focuses on convincing audiences to become comfortable with the Stage 0 restoration alternative rather than multidirectional communications between the applicant and stakeholders regarding the restoration strategy. A description of how stakeholder concerns and feedback will be handled and plans for follow up to positive and negative feedback would be helpful to understand the technical soundness of the approach.
- Success indicators provided for stakeholder engagement activities are general, which may not be strategic or useful in gauging results from activities.
- The table provided in the application that lists and scores restoration alternatives, including no restoration, traditional restoration, and Stage 0, lacks context for how scores were determined and what criteria was used to determine those scores.
- Additional information on the Elijah Bristow State Park site, how water runs through the state park, and how Stage 0 is expected to be applied as a restoration strategy would provide helpful context as to why the technical team chose this design option.
- While fewer tribes are identified as target audiences as recommended in the previous project evaluation, there are still more tribes targeted for engagement than is likely necessary for this project. The applicant is encouraged to contact the Legislative Commission on Indian Services to identify which tribes are most affected and should be contacted for this project.
- It is unclear from the application whether the applicant has identified the critical mass necessary for moving forward with the chosen Stage 0 restoration approach. Information on how the applicant will determine whether stakeholder support has reached a threshold necessary to support moving forward with implementation would be helpful to understand the timeline for proceeding to eligible restoration.

Concluding Analysis

Using the Stage 0 restoration approach at Elijah Bristow State Park is bold and will provide significant ecological benefits; it will also require significant stakeholder engagement to be successful. Since using Stage 0 outside of USFS lands is new and experimental, there is considerable uncertainty for resulting restoration to move forward to timely implementation. While there is potential for high ecological gains from future restoration implementation, there is also risk for this significant stakeholder engagement investment to not gain support among affected stakeholders. The applicant is encouraged to consider phasing the project and focusing on Lost Creek to scale both stakeholder engagement and a restoration phase to this sub-watershed, and capturing lessons learned that can be applied to future phases on other portions of the project area.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3020-17045

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Engaging Oregonians to restore the Tualatin River watershed from Mass Wasting Events

Applicant: Tualatin Riverkeepers

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Washington

OWEB Request: $60,000

Total Cost: $110,000

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The Tualatin River watershed.2. Mass wasting is increasing and public support is needed for restoration of clean water, bank stability and native fish and wildlife habitat.3. A targeted communications and public engagement campaign to encourage and enhance restoration and acquisition processes to remedy the problem.4. TRWC, CWS, TRSWCD, Centro Cultural, Municipalities off Tigard, Tualatin, and King City, TRNWR, METRO, Washington County, Grand Ronde tribeBy engaging broad public understanding and support for these restoration efforts, we will ensure the health and vibrancy of the watershed/

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will engage under-represented communities among a diversity of target audiences identified for stakeholder engagement activities.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application what the watershed problem is that will be addressed or how a mass wasting event is defined.
- There are not enough details in the application to understand the proposed scope of work and how it will lead to future eligible watershed restoration.
- The application budget lacks detail needed to determine whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work because costs are grouped into lump sums.

Concluding Analysis

The application does not provide enough detail to determine how the proposal meets the purpose of stakeholder engagement projects to communicate the need for, feasibility, and benefits of specific eligible restoration projects.

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

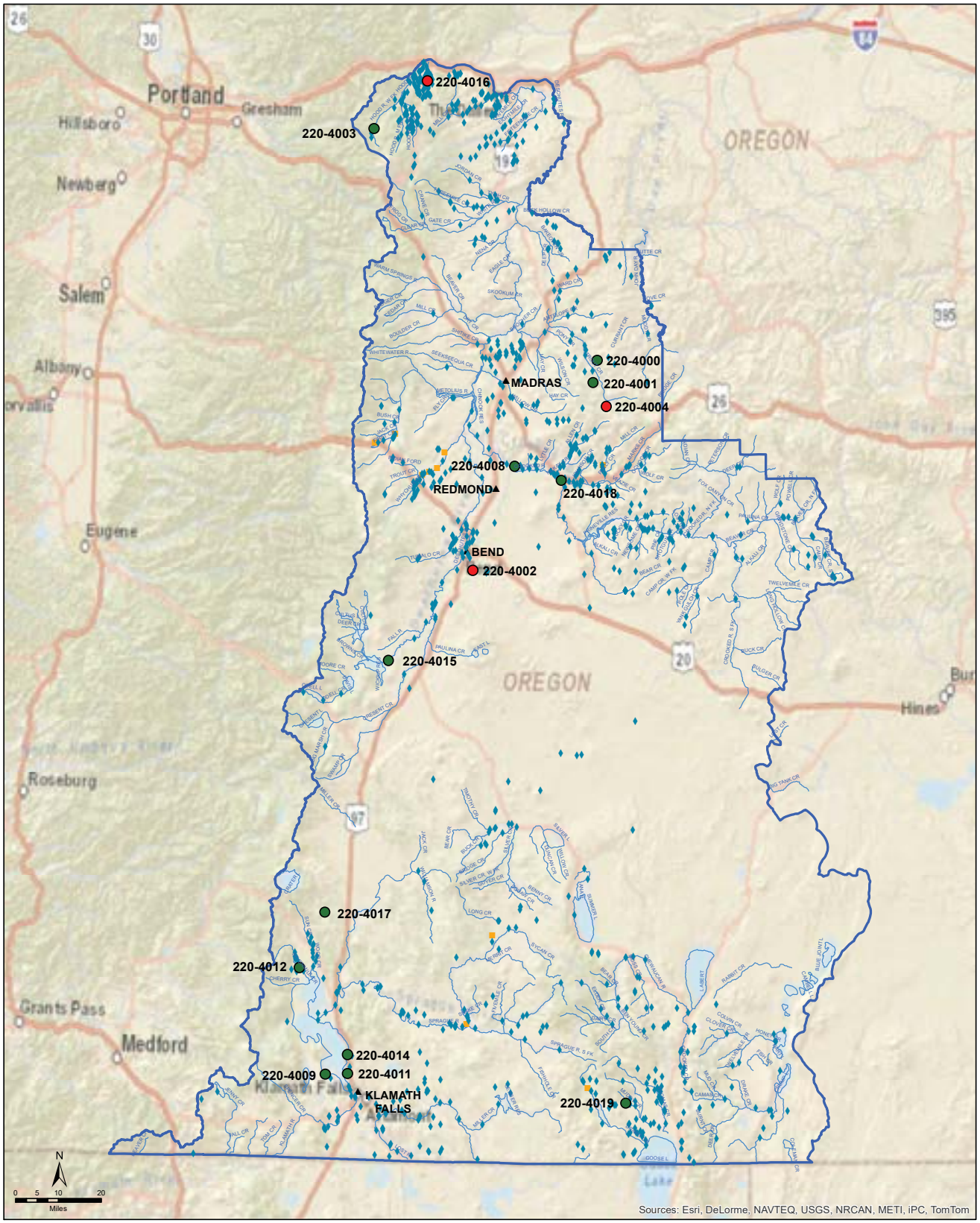
Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

N/A

Central Oregon - Region 4 Spring 2019 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Fall 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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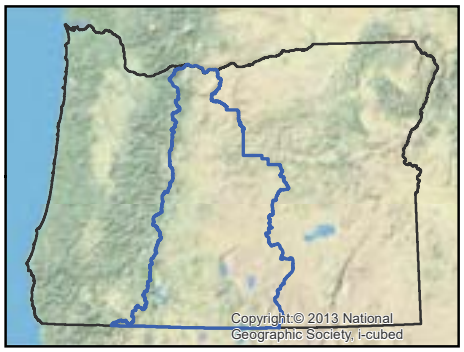


Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4003	Hood River SWCD	West Fork Hood River at Red Hill Instream Habitat Project	Instream fish habitat structures will be placed along a one mile segment of the West Fork Hood River to improve habitat for spring Chinook, coho, and summer steelhead.	87,401	Hood River
220-4001	Jefferson SWCD	Beaver Creek Watershed Restoration	This landscape scale project will employ multiple actions to enhance upland, streamside, and instream habitats for fish and wildlife throughout the entire watershed of Beaver Creek, a tributary to Trout Creek.	278,832	Jefferson
220-4008	Lone Pine Irrigation Disctrict	LPID Irrigation Modernization Project	This is the first of two phases to convert open ditch irrigation conveyance systems to buried pipe, resulting in permanently conserved water in the Middle Deschutes River.	600,000	Crook
220-4000	Jefferson SWCD	Stenersen Upland Habitat Improvement Project	Wildlife habitat will be enhanced in the Calf Gulch Creek subbasin, a tributary of Trout Creek, by removing Western juniper and reseeding native grasses.	253,609	Jefferson
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,219,842**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4004	Jefferson SWCD	Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation	The Ochoco National Forest will restore instream habitat for fish in headwater creeks in the Upper Trout Creek watershed.	84,601	Crook
220-4002	Arnold Irrigation District	Ladera Lateral Conservation Project	The entire open ditch irrigation conveyance system on the Ladera Lateral will be piped, resulting in permanently conserved water in the Upper Deschutes River.	230,678	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,450,520**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-4006	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Upper Deschutes Riparian Habitat Conservation Project	109,271	Deschutes
220-4007	The Klamath Tribes	Whiskey Cr	64,595	Klamath

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4012	Trout Unlimited Inc.	West Canal Water Quality Treatment Design	Engineering plans will be developed to reduce external phosphorus loading into Upper Klamath Lake from the West Canal.	70,338	Klamath
220-4009	Trout Unlimited Inc.	Walker Farms Water Quality Improvements	This project will produce designs for water management, wetland modifications, and sediment retention to improve water quality in Upper Klamath Lake.	58,456	Klamath
220-4014	Klamath SWCD	Upper Klamath Lake Lower Algoma Design Technical Assistance	This project will result in plans to restore aquatic habitat for sucker species and improve water quality in Upper Klamath Lake by reducing agricultral impacts.	75,000	Klamath
220-4015	Deschutes River Conservancy	Deschutes River Streamflow Restoration Implementation Framework Plan	The project will develop a plan to restore instream flow in the Deschutes River downstream of Wickiup Reservoir, which is critical for fish habitat.	73,944	Deschutes
220-4011	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Upper Klamath Lake - Lakeside Farms Converted Wetland Conceptual Design	This project will develop design alternatives to improve wildlife habitat and water quality in an agricultural watershed draining to Upper Klamath Lake.	37,296	Klamath
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**315,034**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4016	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Design	This project will develop permit- ready designs aimed at improving instream habitat for ESA-listed fish.	74,543	Hood River
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**389,577**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-4010	Deschutes SWCD	INDIAN FORD COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN	73,759	Deschutes
220-4013	Deschutes SWCD	Lundy Ditch Feasibility Study_CLONE	28,906	Deschutes

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-4019	Lake County Umbrella WC	Forest Health Engagment in Lake and Klamath Counties	This project will promote the understanding and awareness of forest health and management practices that will improve wildlife habitat and minimize high intensity forest fires through a short film, workshops, and community meetings.	31,733	Lake
220-4018	Crook SWCD	Irrigation Efficiency for Water Quality Improvement in the Lower Crooked River Watershed	Patrons in two irrigation disticts in the Lower Crooked River watershed will be engaged to promote opportunities to address water quality in the river.	14,756	Crook
220-4017	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Stakeholder Outreach	Partners will utilize the newly completed Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan as a basis to engage private landowners to develop restoration projects on their land.	29,906	Klamath
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**76,395**	

Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None					
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**76,395**	

Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
None				

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,611,271**	**17%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,284,183**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4000-16973

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Stenersen Upland Habitat Improvement Project

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Jefferson

OWEB Request: $253,609

Total Cost: $469,249

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project lies within the Trout Creek Watershed, an east side tributary to the Deschutes River. Located in Jefferson County, the project is located south of Ashwood along Calf Gulch, a tributary of Trout Creek. This tributary is critical to one of the very few perennial reaches of Trout Creek, providing much needed subterranean flow to one of the very few perennial reaches found in the watershed. With water flow being listed as one of the major limiting factors in the East side tributaries of the Deschutes River, this particular stretch of Creek is very important to the survival of ESA listed Mid-Columbia Summer Steelhead. The portion of the Stenersen property that this project will address, is located in the Calf Gulch drainage, and totals 1444 acres. This tract of land has an overabundance of western juniper, but the understory throughout the property is in relatively good shape with diverse perennial bunchgrasses, forbs and shrubs, lending itself to high upland restoration potential. Removing the junipers, enhancing the herbaceous and shrubby vegetation will significantly improve the wildlife habitat and provide an increase in much needed water to both creeks as well as Trout Creek itself, increasing summer flows and potentially extending the perennial reach downstream, increasing usable summer habitat for steelhead juveniles. The landowner plans to cut a portion of the junipers with chainsaws and remove others with an excavator. To invigorate the herbaceous component, and remove the unnaturally large fuel loads, the Ashwood-Antelope Rangeland Fire Protection Association will perform 3 prescribed burns to the area 1-2 years following the juniper cutting. The Jefferson SWCD will re-seed the areas cleared with the excavator, as well as the constructed fire lines. There are two small areas that have low amounts of annual invasive grasses, and will be sprayed with a pre-emergent herbicide following the burns to help the native species flourish.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is a resubmittal from the October 2018 offering. The applicant addressed previous application review comments by providing more clarity around juniper removal techniques, implementation of prescribed fire, landowner involvement, and long term management strategies.

- The technical approach for removing juniper and rehabilitating the understory vegetation is site appropriate with reasonable costs associated with site layout and implementation. The approach in this application is a result of lessons learned from projects in other parts of the watershed and aligns with the landowner's desired future condition to promote wildlife habitat.
- The understory vegetation in the project area is in good ecological condition; removing juniper will maximize the potential for improvement in upland habitats.
- The project area falls within the Ashwood-Antelope Rangeland Fire Protection Area (RFPA), who is a partner responsible for the prescribed fire component. The application included a burn plan. Implementing prescribed fire in an RFPA is easier to implement and carries less liability risk than prescribed fire on state-protected lands.
- The Trout Creek watershed is a mid-Columbia summer steelhead subbasin and a high priority for fisheries restoration. The projects location is a key tributary to Trout Creek and has been prioritized given the hydrologic setting in relation to the mainstem of Trout Creek. Implementation of this project could result in added stream flow to improve fish habitat.

Concerns

- One objective identified in the application is to restore natural hydrologic processes in Calf Gulch and Trout Creeks; however, it was unclear how this objective will be quantified.

Concluding Analysis

The property is in good ecological condition, with understory vegetation dominant in native bunch grasses, forbs, and shrubs. The aggressive juniper cutting and subsequent pile burning, prescribed fire, and seeding will allow for improved precipitation infiltration, invigorating and enhancing native plant communities, thus improving wildlife habitat and forage. The property owner does not have a livestock grazing program or future interest in livestock grazing at this time. The landowner commitment and ability to implement their portion of the project activities is articulated in a letter of support. The benefit to aquatic habitats and increased stream flow were challenging to evaluate. The applicant cited appropriate literature that suggests improved stream flow as a benefit to removing western juniper, but failed to articulate any metrics to indicate success associated with improved aquatic habitat or stream flow. Overall, this project has an appropriate plan in place, a committed landowner, an experienced applicant, and a high likeliness of success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$253,609

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$253,609

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4001-16974

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Beaver Creek Watershed Restoration

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Jefferson

OWEB Request: $278,832

Total Cost: $1,102,240

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project lies within the Trout Creek Watershed, the major spawning and rearing tributary to the Deschutes River for summer steelhead. Located in Jefferson County, the project area encompasses the entire Beaver Creek watershed, a tributary to Trout Creek. The Beaver Creek Watershed is comprised of 3 private landowners. Once providing spawning and rearing habitat for summer steelhead, an altered flow regime, due to the encroachment of western juniper and an increase in annual invasive grasses, along with a passage barrier in the form of a perched culvert, Beaver Creek no longer supports these fish. Jefferson SWCD and ODFW staff witnessed an adult steelhead attempt to migrate up Beaver Creek in March of 2007, only to watch the fish reach the culvert on the county road, and then return back to Trout Creek to continue its journey (See attached photos). This is a watershed scale project, taking the “Ridgetop to Ridgetop” approach. We plan to treat everything necessary to get the Beaver Creek Watershed functioning at a level that provides excellent habitat for fish, wildlife, and livestock. This includes culvert replacement, riparian and channel treatments and protection, as well as many upland practices to improve the hydrologic processes necessary for a healthy, functioning watershed. These upland treatments include juniper removal, prescribed fire, invasive annual grass control, rangeland seeding, improved fencing, spring developments, and forest stand improvement. The combination of these efforts will lead to a healthier, properly functioning watershed, resulting in a natural flow regime with stable stream flows throughout the winter months and increased base flows in the summer. This all-encompassing watershed restoration project has many partners to ensure its success. They include: The landowners, Jefferson SWCD, ODFW, Jefferson Co. Public Works, ODF, Middle Deschutes Watershed Council, PGE, and licensed contractors.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will benefit mid-Columbia summer steelhead by replacing a perched culvert with a bottomless arch culvert that will provide access to an additional 2.8 miles of habitat upstream. Additionally, the ditched and straightened stream channel below the culvert will be reconstructed with added pools, riffles, and floodplain connection. This work will be followed up with enrollment in CREP.

- The upland habitat improvement elements of western juniper removal, forest health thinning, pile burning, prescribed fire, and reseeding will improve understory vegetation and wildlife habitat. A portion of this project area has had similar treatments already and lessons learned will be applied to help guide future prescriptions.
- A myriad of spring developments sprinkled across all three properties will help distribute livestock, while also providing areas and opportunities of rest while sites are actively being restored.
- The project team has a considerable amount of local experience to carry forward all the project elements, thus providing confidence the project will be successful at achieving its objectives.
- The project is well supported as documented in the letters of support, and includes a diverse stakeholder list to aid in the design, implementation, and monitoring of this landscape-scale project.

Concerns

- The application failed to provide details regarding current land use and livestock management. It would have been informative to understand each landowner's land use practices, in addition to providing documentation on post-project grazing management to ensure that restoration efforts will be protected over time.
- It is unclear how the objective to restore natural hydrologic processes in the Beaver Creek watershed through upland restoration improvements will be measured and quantified.
- Each of the properties is currently in a different ecological condition, making the cost effectiveness of this project challenging to evaluate. It will be more cost effective to achieve ecological uplift on the two properties in good condition, and less cost effective on the site with poor conditions, requiring significant investment for a moderate ecological benefit.
- The application lacked clarity on how the two different seed mixes would be chosen and applied, and what parameters would dictate the use of one seed mix over another. While the use of introduced grass species has been shown to stabilize areas that are heavily degraded, there was no discussion or plan describing how the applicant will transition these seeded areas into a native grass community.

Concluding Analysis

This project represents a landscape scale approach to improve instream, riparian and upland habitat function across the entire sub-watershed of Beaver Creek. Beaver Creek is prioritized by the applicant and partners due to the opportunity to reconnect important spawning and rearing habitat for summer steelhead, as well as having all three landowners willing to address a suite of resource concerns to maximize restoration potential across the landscape. One of the three landowners has already been investing in upland habitat treatments, offering neighbors an opportunity to see the value restoration brings. The project has multiple elements and will require close coordination with all cooperators to ensure successful progress is made. The abundance of invasive non-native annual grasses will make it challenging to transition these sites into a healthier ecological condition.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$278,832

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$278,832

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4002-16998 **Project Type:** Restoration

Project Name: Ladera Lateral Conservation Project

Applicant: Arnold Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon **County:** Deschutes

OWEB Request: $230,678 **Total Cost:** $336,883

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Arnold Irrigation District (AID) has been in the process of implementing its Agriculture Water Management Plan for more than twenty years. In 2016, AID completed a System Improvement Plan (SIP) and Modernization Strategy (MS). The Ladera Lateral losses in the study reach were about 1 cfs or 40%. The purpose of the SIP was to develop a well-considered evaluation of the District's primary and secondary canal systems, and a mitigation plan for the seepage losses. The proposed project is comprised of an approximate 7,200-LF of the Ladera Lateral open canal commencing at the diversion from the Arnold Canal, at location, Latitude/Longitude : 43.995949/ -121.274518. The overall goal is to conserve water through system improvements in this high water loss region of Central Oregon . System piping is the primary method proposed for such mitigation. All of these plans push towards implementing capital improvement projects that increase irrigation delivery efficiencies to support productive agriculture, state economies, and the Deschutes Basin.Black Rock Consulting (BRC) worked with AID to coordinate a seepage loss study performed by Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) staff under BRC/Kevin Crew, P.E. and, David Prull, P.E. direction. During the summer of 2016, the seepage loss program, supported by Oregon State University and the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), was implemented in 7 of the 8 Central Oregon irrigation districts to inform the Districts of current system losses and to enhance System Improvement Plan (SIP) development for the Districts. The program included the use of newly purchased and calibrated Flowtracker II technology, office and field training were coordinated at the OWRD, Bend office.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Converting open ditch canals to HDPE pipe is a proven method for conserving water.
- The project will utilize local contractors that have the appropriate experience and equipment installing HDPE pipe.
- The project is estimated to conserve 1 cfs through the State's allocation of conserved water program, which is an appropriate mechanism to permanently protect stream flow.
- The engineering approach is thorough and provides confidence the project will be installed properly.
- The project is part of a larger effort to pipe the entire Arnold Irrigation District, tying in nicely with current watershed planning and federal funding (PL-566) investments in the Upper Deschutes Basin.

Concerns

- The ecological impact of 1cfs protected instream at the point of diversion on the Upper Deschutes River is challenging to measure, given that this amount of water represents a very small percentage increase to the existing large river channel and flows in the Deschutes River.
- Cost effectiveness was challenging to evaluate. It would have been helpful to see each Arnold Irrigation District staff member's contribution broken out by task to understand their role in the layout, implementation, and monitoring of this project.

Concluding Analysis

This project will install HDPE pipe in the entire length of Arnold Irrigation District's Ladera lateral, a 7,200 ft. open ditch conveyance for irrigation water. The canal weaves through small farms and forested areas and ends in a residential neighborhood, losing approximately 40% of the water to seepage. Piping of the entire canal will save 1.12 cfs, of which 1 cfs will be permanently protected instream at the point diversion just upstream of Bend's city limits through the allocation of conserved water program. The applicant will utilize Three Sisters Irrigation District staff and equipment as contractors to install and weld the pipe.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$230,678

Review Team Conditions

This project must result in at least 1 cfs protected instream utilizing the Oregon Water Resources Departments allocation of conserved water program.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4003-17003

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: West Fork Hood River at Red Hill Instream Habitat Project

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $87,401

Total Cost: $251,031

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed instream habitat enhancement project is along a 0.5-mile reach of the upper West Fork Hood River near the confluence of Red Hill Creek. The project is located on land owned by Ecotrust Forest Management, and is surrounded by Mt. Hood National Forestland. The Upper West Fork provides some of the best spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook, coho, and summer steelhead in the Hood River basin because of its cold water temperatures and higher stream flows. However, past timber management practices (e.g., splash damming, removal of large riparian conifers) have led to insufficient amounts of large instream wood and loss of stream/floodplain connectivity, which has resulted in reduced habitat quantity and complexity (e.g., poor spawning substrate composition, low pool frequency, no refuge from high velocities).The goal of the project is to improve and expand salmonid spawning and rearing habitat . This will be accomplished by placing approximately 330 pieces of large wood in 10- 15 structures. Three of the structures will be large jams (~40 pieces ea.) spanning the main channel. They will be placed downstream of side channel entrances and will raise surface water and streambed elevations, thereby increasing inundation of the floodplain and side channels. Minor excavation at side channel entrances may be necessary to facilitate stream-side channel reconnection. An additional 7 to 12 smaller structures will be placed in active and remnant side channels. Most of the wood will come from off-site. Up to 30 pieces will be tipped from adjacent riparian areas.The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS) developed the project design and will oversee large wood placement. CTWS will also contribute match funding, large wood & in-kind labor. The Hood River Watershed Group will manage all contracting, monitoring, and assist with large wood placement oversight. USFS will provide large wood and assist with permitting and implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This phase of large wood structure installation ties into previous phases, creating longer reaches of restored instream habitat for Chinook, coho, and steelhead.
- The design and approach of installing and building large wood structures is based on previous successful efforts completed by the project team.
- Large wood structure locations are strategically placed to maximize floodplain and side channel reconnection.

- The pebble count monitoring should yield data about the effectiveness of spawning gravel recruitment.
- The project reach is a high priority for fisheries restoration due to the area being considered a cold water refugia with good water quality.

Concerns

- This project is one of multiple phases that have been completed along the West Fork Hood River. While restoration actions are needed, it is unknown what effects annual disturbances caused by constructing large large wood structures have on aquatic species.

Concluding Analysis

This phase of large wood structure installation along the upper reaches of the West Fork Hood River will utilize large whole trees from a construction project at Mt. Hood Meadows ski resort on the Mt. Hood National Forest. The project team consisting of the USFS, Warm Springs Tribe, and Hood River Watershed Group has successfully completed previous phases of large wood structure installation. While the conditions of the project area were well articulated, it would have been helpful to understand instream habitat conditions downstream of the project area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$87,401

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$87,401

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4004-17020

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $84,601

Total Cost: $505,361

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Trout Creek Rehabilitation Package addresses restoration actions in six different tributaries to Trout Creek on the Ochoco National Forest, near the town of Prineville in Crook County. Trout Creek is the largest tributary on the east side of the Deschutes River below Pelton Dam and has significant anadromous fish production potential. The watershed presently supports redband and Mid-Columbia River steelhead trout populations and overlaps with listed critical habitat for steelhead. In Trout Creek, the decline in salmonid production has been due to the degradation of instream habitats and water quality from road construction, past timber harvest, grazing and stream alteration activities. The proposed rehabilitation package will increase large wood, pools and spawning gravels in six tributaries on the forest, as well as localized floodplain construction in key locations and extensive riparian planting. Tributaries include Big Log, Dutchman, Cartwright, Potlid, Dick & Auger Creek (see enclosed map). Approximately 15.5 miles of large wood placement, 3 miles of floodplain construction, and 8 miles of riparian native planting will occur. Additionally, this proposal will partner with ODFW to improve maintenance on a 3,600 acre exclosure on the forest, which is currently managed through a MOU by ODFW. The desire is to bring the exclosure back to full functionality to prevent trespass cattle from entering the forest and sensitive species habitat. The purpose and need for these restoration activities is to enhance and recover habitat for redband trout, Mid-Columbia River steelhead, Columbia spotted frog and other riparian-dependent aquatic, wildlife and plant species. A large Pelton application was submitted for this project in 2019; OWEB funding is being requested to supplement the large Pelton application, along with USFS funds. Project partners include the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council, Forest Service, and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site is in critical habitat for mid-Columbia summer steelhead, and addresses a lack of high quality rearing habitat.
- The US Forest Service staff have successfully implemented similar projects.
- The project design and approach is site-appropriate for meeting the objectives to benefit ESA-listed fish in the Upper Trout Creek watershed.

- The adjacent forest condition is healthy. The US Forest Service has made a significant effort to thin timber stands, decommission roads, and improve habitat for fish and wildlife.
- The project spans 15 miles of headwater creeks in the Upper Trout Creek watershed, providing a significant lift in restoration for the cost.

Concerns

- The work is occurring in the far upstream reaches of the Trout Creek watershed; ESA-listed fish access and use in these areas are minimal and may not provide much value given the upstream location and potential lack of water availability.
- The fence specifications called for four-strand barbed wire, which is not wildlife friendly. It is unclear whether the responsible parties have the capacity for long-term maintenance of the exclosure fence.

Concluding Analysis

This project uses a comprehensive approach to address the lack of high quality rearing habitat for juvenile fish in 15 miles of headwater streams in the Trout Creek watershed on the Ochoco National Forest. The Trout Creek watershed is the number one producer of wild steelhead throughout the entire lower Deschutes River watershed. Utilizing nearby trees for this project is a technically sound approach. The application could have provided more clarity about creek hydrology, particularly in dry summer months, and known fish use and distribution. While the exclosure fence serves a critical need, protecting instream habitat from trespass cattle in a remote part of the forest, long-term viability of the fence is uncertain.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$84,601

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4006-17065

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Riparian Habitat Conservation Project

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $109,271

Total Cost: $197,528

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Deschutes River upriver of Bend in Deschutes County is listed on the Oregon DEQ 303(d) list for 5 water quality parameters, including turbidity and sedimentation, and has been recently designated as Proposed Critical Habitat for the Oregon Spotted Frog and serves Redband Trout, listed as sensitive. Our riparian habitat conservation project is in this important section, which starts TS 19S, R11E, Sec. 8 and ends at TS 18S, R11E, sec. 14. The project area is within the Upper Deschutes Wild and Scenic Corridor, State Scenic Waterway, and adjacent to the Newberry National Monument. The project focuses on 8 river miles, 41 access points, and the important habitat along the Deschutes River Trail, connecting the Slough Day Use Area and Forest Service boundary river left. Heavy visitor use has created many user trails off the main pathway to access the river and unique views. These user trails harden the ground, reduce vegetation, cause riverbank erosion and sedimentation, and reduce the natural appearance of the area. Trout Unlimited and Deschutes National Forest plan to reduce and restore these user pathways to a more natural state and fix the drainage issues on and below the main trail to minimize the environmental impacts to the area and the habitat along the Deschutes River. In addition, interpretive signs will be installed to disseminate information about restoration practices and river use. A series of focus group site surveys will be conducted on the front end of restoration work to engage local recreational stakeholders on initial designs and solicit feedback that will guide crews in restoration work. Funds will be used to hire local youth crews to work alongside staff from Trout Unlimited and the Forest Service, and volunteers involved in the hands-on restoration. As they work on the implementation of this, local recreation users, stakeholder groups, and youth crews will learn about proactive habitat work, stewardship practices, and ecosystem processes.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is an aggressive approach to reducing recreation use impact on natural resources along the Upper Deschutes River.
- The project builds on successes and lessons learned through similar projects in the area, which were toured during the site visit.
- The project team and partners are a well-coordinated group and have a vigorous plan in place, providing confidence that the project will be implemented as designed.

- The applicant has taken considerable steps in engaging the public and user groups of the trail system to encourage stewardship and long-term care and maintenance.

Concerns

- It was unclear how the water quality objectives would be met; the application failed to identify methodologies to quantify water quality improvements (e.g. turbidity reduction).
- The ecological impact of the project is minimal; it is unclear how fish and wildlife benefits will be evaluated. The outcomes associated with the project appear more aligned with stakeholder engagement, trail corridor aesthetics, and recreational trail function.
- Long-term maintenance and upkeep will be critical for success; the application identifies user groups that could provide long-term care, but no plan was presented regarding the level of commitment required, especially since user numbers are likely to continue to increase over time.

Concluding Analysis

This project seeks to mitigate recreational damage along the Upper Deschutes River Trail by implementing a suite of actions to better direct, guide, and protect habitat along the river. The proposed design and approach has been successfully implemented along other high use recreational trails in Central Oregon. Rock, split rail fence, native plants, and logs were installed to protect areas and provide better direction to trail users. The fish and wildlife habitat and water quality benefits are unclear from the information provided in the application.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4007-17077
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Whiskey Cr
Applicant: The Klamath Tribes
Region: Central Oregon
County: Klamath
OWEB Request: $64,595
Total Cost: $242,595

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Klamath Tribes have a responsibility to restore and steward tribal treaty resources in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed including a variety of native fish species like redband trout, and endangered Lost River sucker, endangered shortnose sucker, and Klamath largescale sucker. The populations of these species have declined and their habitat has been degraded due to decades of poor water and land use practices. The Klamath Tribes perform habitat restoration projects on private lands within the former reservation in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed.The Whiskey Creek Restoration Project is located 2 miles west of Beatty, Oregon and 0.5 miles north of Hwy 140 (Figure 1). The project area is mainly used for ranching purposes (livestock grazing and haying). The stream channel is incised and lacks large woody material or connection to the floodplain. The riparian area lacks willows and other woody vegetation and the streambanks are eroding and adding nutrients and sediment to Whiskey Creek. A riparian fence was installed many years ago and has collapsed and degraded in many sections and is no longer functioning.The purpose of this project is to 1) remove the old riparian fence and install a new fence further from Whiskey Creek; 2) install woody debris in the creek to improve fish habitat; 3) install a cattle crossing across Whiskey Creek; 4) install an off-stream watering facility to allow cattle access to water while reducing Whiskey Creek exposure to cattle grazing and watering; and 5) plant native riparian vegetation (Figure 2).The Whiskey Creek Project is a collaborative effort between the landowner, The Klamath Tribes and the USFWS Service Partners Program.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The approach employed to modify and rebuild the riparian fence is appropriate and will increase the number of riparian acres protected.
- The placement of large wood structures will create additional instream habitat along a reach of Whiskey Creek that is deficient in instream habitat complexity.
- The project engages the appropriate partners.
- Whiskey Creek has the potential to be a stronghold for native fish, particularly due to its spring inputs with cold, consistent flow. The project is a good opportunity to begin restoration efforts that may spawn additional interest from other streamside landowners.

Concerns

- The application failed to provide a detailed revegetation plan. Specifically, it was unclear where on the landscape plants would be installed, and some of the species identified are not site appropriate due to soil type (e.g. black cottonwood). The application would have benefited from a detailed plan including maps showing the location and density of plantings. The applicant is encouraged to seek a reference site to understand what native plant species are appropriate for revegetation.
- The costs associated with fence repair and construction seemed high. It was unclear what costs savings would be realized from reusing t-posts. The cost effectiveness of the fence is unclear because the unit cost lumped materials and installation together. A detailed breakdown of fence costs would have been helpful.
- The application lacked a description of how the restoration investment would be protected on a heavily grazed site. Given the proposed cattle crossing and off-channel water development, it was unclear why riparian grazing still needed to occur. The application would have benefited from articulating grazing management strategies, including objectives for riparian pasture grazing.
- The large wood structure component of the project lacked designs, making it challenging to evaluate technical soundness.
- The proposed cattle crossing lacks justification for why this costly approach was chosen over other types of crossing. It would have been helpful to include an alternatives analysis. The application includes one off-channel water development, which may not be enough given the size and scale of the of the pasture.
- The budget is shown includes lump sums and lacks detail, which makes it challenging to determine cost effectiveness. It would have been helpful to see an itemized budget to provide better clarity on costs.

Concluding Analysis

This project provides an opportunity to enhance riparian and instream habitats along a section of Whiskey Creek, a tributary to the Sprague River. The applicant is working with a willing landowner and has assembled additional partners to help with project implementation. While the restoration actions proposed in this application can provide fish and wildlife benefit, the application fell short on specific details and justification for each project element. The property has been heavily grazed, contributing to streambank instability, vegetation loss, and lack of instream habitat. There are fish barriers downstream of this property that inhibits connectivity with the Sprague River, diminishing overall fisheries benefits. The applicant should articulate changes in grazing management that are needed to achieve 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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4008-17082

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: LPID Irrigation Modernization Project

Applicant: Lone Pine Irrigation District

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $600,000

Total Cost: $9,194,958

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1 The LPID in Terrebonne is located in Central Oregon, northeast of Redmond and east of the Deschutes River; with parts of its canals in Jefferson, Deschutes and Crook counties. Water flows from the Deschutes River, and overflow spills into the Crooked River.2 Action is needed in addressing watershed problems/concerns: water loss in conveyance systems, water delivery and operations inefficiencies, instream flow for fish and aquatic habitat, improve water quality, reduce risk to public and property safety from open irrigation canals, while improving the economic sustainability and resilience of local agriculture. The project would legally protect a portion of the conserved water instream.3 Improving water resource management has been a focus in the Deschutes Basin and a coordinated effort of the 8 irrigation districts. LPID is pursuing water conservation strategies to construct a more efficient system, reduce energy, and permanently restore flows in the Deschutes River. The entire LPID piping project would realign the canal system, eliminate up to 4.11 miles of open canal and laterals, pipe and pressurize up to 10.89 miles of canals and laterals, to save up to 3,219 acre-ft annually at a rate of up to 5.2 cfs. This application for Phase 1 will install 38,570 ft of 48", 42” canal/laterals (6”-16”) HDPE and save 3.7 cfs.4 LPID supports collaborative partnerships with Deschutes Basin Board of Control and Deschutes River Conservancy. Through DBBC, LPID works with 7 other irrigation districts to coordinate and share resources/management assets to conserve water, improve services to farm/ranch families, enhance river conditions for wildlife/recreational opportunities. Farmers Conservation Alliance has been a partner with LPID through the development of the SIPs and PIR, continuing with the creating of the LPID Watershed/EA. USDA/NRCS is a funding and technical assistance partner, and produced the river crossing geologic report and the pipeline engineering designs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will permanently protect 3.7 cfs at the point of diversion on the Middle Deschutes River, adding streamflow benefiting a suite of aquatic species.
- The District is partnering with NRCS and utilizing a portion of the PL-566 funding dedicated to the Deschutes Basin.
- The contractors that will install pipe have local experience and the necessary equipment.

- Ditch piping creates pressurized water delivery to the District's patrons, which will reduce energy consumption and provide reliable water to meet their agricultural needs.
- Once the District is fully piped, tailwater from irrigation fields will no longer enter the Crooked River, reducing nutrient loading providing a water quality benefit.

Concerns

- The budget lacks clarity around TSID salary, wages, and benefits. It would have been helpful to see an itemized breakdown of staff costs by task, outlining hours and unit costs for each employee.
- The application claims benefits to the Oregon spotted frog; however, there are no critical habitat designations at or below the point of diversion where water will be left instream.
- The match contribution from Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is pending. The applicant needs to resubmit their application to OWRD next year which could render the OWEB application premature. Further, project viability is unclear if the matching funds from OWRD are not secured, particularly given the high dollar amount sought from this source.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is phase one of a two-phase project to convert open ditch irrigation conveyance canals to buried HDPE pipe. Due to the volcanic soils in the area, half of the water in the canals is lost due to seepage. Piping canals is a proven mechanism to permanently conserve water instream while also providing more reliable water to District patrons. This project is a well-coordinated effort utilizing local expertise and federal funding, providing confidence the ecological goal of conserving water will be met. The applicant is encouraged to consider using pollinator species when planning the reseeding efforts over the buried HDPE pipe; NRCS has specification sheets for this activity. The applicant is also encouraged to determine the feasibility of permanently protecting the 3.7 cfs at Wickiup reservoir, which would provide a stronger ecological impact benefiting the Upper Deschutes River, which includes Oregon spotted frog critical habitat designations, as opposed to the Middle Deschutes River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount

$600,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$600,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4009-17027

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Walker Farms Water Quality Improvements

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $58,456

Total Cost: $75,896

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. This project is located in Klamath County near Klamath Falls, Oregon, on the southwest side of Upper Klamath Lake. Design will be focused on two properties that drain directly into Upper Klamath Lake. 2. The project addresses the problem of severely impaired water quality conditions in Upper Klamath Lake, which affect survival and population health of endangered Lost River Sucker (Delitistes luxatus) and Shortnose Sucker (Chasmistes brevirostris), as well as endemic Redband Rainbow Trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii) and other native aquatic species. Specifically, the project addresses external phosphorus loading into Upper Klamath Lake, which is the primary driver of poor water quality conditions. 3. This project will produce designs for water management infrastructure, wetland modifications, and sediment retention strucutres to manage sediment and treat/reuse tailwater with the ultimate goal of reducing phosphorus inputs to Upper Klamath Lake. Deliverables will include 85% design for all project components, which will be adequate for permitting and construction. 4. There are numerous partners involved in this project, including federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS,), state agencies (Oregon Dept. of Water Resources, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality), tribal entities (The Klamath Tribes), non-profit organizations (Trout Unlimited), and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project seeks to address known water quality pollutants to Upper Klamath Lake, which are of highest concern due to their impacts affecting biological productivity for listed fish species inhabiting the Lake.
- The landowner is willing and engaged to address the problem. The landowner has recently changed some irrigation practices and water quality samples are showing lower phosphorus levels. Additionally, they have retained a consultant to analyze how to best use adjacent wetlands as filtration.
- The projec’ts approach in developing design plans is based on recently collected data by ODA. This data collection effort is ongoing by ODA and will continue to feed into the design process.
- The applicant and partners represent a broad suite of local collaborators with the appropriate skill sets in place to address this complex water quality issue.

- The applicant is seeking innovative ways to determine the best approaches to reduce phosphorus loading from this property into Upper Klamath Lake, such as the use of bio-char and discovering what type of wetland characteristics are best for uptake of phosphorus.

Concerns

- No concerns were raised.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and partners will produce designs for water management infrastructure, wetland modifications, and sediment retention structures to reduce phosphorus loading into Upper Klamath Lake. Based on water quality data collected by ODA at this location, this site represents a good opportunity to reduce nutrient loading into the Lake. The project builds on efforts already employed by the landowner. The applicant and partners are encouraged to routinely coordinate with DSL regarding the use of the mitigation wetland adjacent to the project site. The applicant and partners are also encouraged to continue their partnership to share data, lessons learned, and any other useful information for others addressing similar problems along the fringes of Upper Klamath Lake.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$58,456

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$58,456

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4010-17028

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: INDIAN FORD COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMNT PLAN

Applicant: Deschutes SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $73,759

Total Cost: $138,223

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Watershed plans in the upper Deschutes river basin do not fully address all resource issues in the Indian Ford watershed, located near Sisters, OR. The Sister/Why-chus Watershed Analysis completed in 1998, covers the entire Whychus Creek watershed, of which Indian Ford Creek is one of seven sub watersheds in the analysis. Resource issues addressed in the watershed analysis are broadly outline and is obsolete to current watershed conditions. The Whychus Creek Restoration and Management Plan completed in 2009, identifies treatments for stream channel restoration on main tributaries in the Whychus Creek watershed but neglects to address upland conditions or activities that would significantly affect these tributaries. In 2015, Indian Ford watershed was Identified by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as a strategic implementation area (SIA), due to potential impacts to water quality. Under the SIA, the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) has implemented several projects on private lands with great success increasing stream flows in Indian Ford Creek. However theses projects were not coordinated among surrounding landowners or USFS that could have significantly amplified restoration efforts thus reducing cost.The Indian Ford watershed Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) will bring together key partners, stakeholders and landowners to examine the entire watershed and relevant social and economic considerations, with the goal of identifying, coordinating, and prioritizing restoration activities necessary to restore the function of the watershed and compliment restoration efforts in Whychus Creek. Indian Ford has been identified by the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) long range plan as a focus area. This project is a partnership between the Deschutes SWCD, USFS Sisters Ranger District, Deschutes Land Trust, Black Butte Ranch, Deschutes Watershed Council, and other private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will build on previous success through SIA implementation in Indian Ford Creek, which engaged streamside landowners and implemented riparian enhancement projects.
- The project will employ a ridgetop to ridgetop approach to engage landowners to address a suite of natural resource concerns.
- The project has a comprehensive list of partners.

Concerns

- The stakeholder engagement approach was not articulated, especially for engaging hundreds of private landowners, who are the most critical in successfully developing a comprehensive plan. If private landowners are not engaged early and often, their buy in to the project may be challenging. An explanation on how the District plans to engage and partner with private landowners would have been helpful.
- It was unclear how this effort would add value to existing efforts led by USFS, especially upcoming forest health treatments.
- The application failed to articulate a pathway from plan development to restoration action, particularly for private lands. It was hard to discern what parameters would be evaluated and what a restoration plan for a project would like look. This is especially concerning given the application states that no new data will be collected.
- The applicant seeks to engage 80% of the landowners, which seems optimistic, given the large the number of private landowners.
- The application does not identify the specific resource concern(s) driving the need for this plan. It would have been helpful to know specifically what fish and wildlife species and habitats are priorities. For example, complementary future USFS forest health treatments were discussed on the site visit, but were not mentioned in the application.
- The application did not address the process for how partners will evaluate, select, and prioritize potential projects in the plan. The role in which each partner will play in the development of the plan was not articulated.
- The costs associated with hiring a facilitator seemed low, based on local experience hiring this expertise. Additionally, it was unclear how the landowner match would be met and documented.
- There was no field work identified to substantiate remote sensing data gathered through the GIS exercise.

Concluding Analysis

This application proposes a watershed scale resource plan that will utilize local partners and existing data to develop an action plan to improve natural resource conditions in Indian Ford Creek. The applicant is building on successful efforts engaging streamside landowners addressing water quality concerns. The USFS has implemented a variety of upland and instream habitat projects, restoring functionality in the Indian Ford Creek watershed. However, the application failed to provide critical details regarding private landowner engagement, fish and wildlife habitat priorities, partner involvement, project selection prioritization, and plan implementation. It was unclear what value this plan would serve to the project partners, and how this plan would be used to implement restoration actions on the ground.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4011-17029

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Klamath Lake - Lakeside Farms Converted Wetland Conceptual Design

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $37,296

Total Cost: $55,876

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Lakeside Farms is a 438-acre agricultural property developed in the 1940's through the draining of shoreline wetlands along Upper Klamath Lake. Water pumped from the site to maintain farming operations is a source of phosphorus in excess of Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load target concentrations for inflows to the lake. Oregon Department of Agriculture is currently working to provide water quality data for the site and to help landowners identify and pursue best management practices that will reduce phosphorus loading. The site is a complex integration of farmed acres, a failed treatment wetland, subsidence, a disconnected spring, and inflows from other properties. Future project design must incorporate objectives for water quality, economic viability of the farming operation, and provision of wildlife habitat for recreation. Additional opportunities include potential habitat enhancement for suckers and connection with adjacent wetlands for water quality improvements.The lack of comprehensive water quality data and a current topographical survey must be addressed before project design alternatives can be developed and evaluated. This technical assistance project will provide the survey and facilitate coordination with project partners collecting water quality data. Engineers will be contracted to work with partners to characterize the site components, evaluate design alternatives, and optimize opportunities for added benefits. The result will be a conceptual plan with the preferred design alternative, identification of needs and costs for additional data and/or engineering, drafted project designs, and rough cost estimates for implementation.Project partners include OR Department of Agriculture, US Fish and Wildlife Service Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex and Ecological Services, OR Department of Fish and Wildlife, OR Department of Environmental Quality, and Lakeside Farms.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed approach will characterize a suite of natural resources on-site that will provide a good data set to inform future designs.
- The project is informed by water quality data collected by ODA, creating a good baseline to measure future impacts to water quality.
- The lake fringes along this property are habitats utilized by fish fry; improving water quality in these areas will benefit fish and their survivability.

- The landowner is engaged and supportive of improving water quality and wildlife habitat.
- The project partners are utilizing lessons learned from a previously installed project on the property that failed to meet water quality goals.
- The project is well supported and part of a collaborative effort addressing high priority pollutants in areas of highest concern.

Concerns

- The property is overrun with yellow flag iris, a state listed noxious weed. This plant thrives in slow moving and shallow water environments. It also spreads rapidly if root fragments are disturbed. It would be helpful to understand what practices will be put in place to ensure the plant does not spread during future restoration.

Concluding Analysis

This project will collect resource data to inform designs aimed at reducing phosphorus loading into Upper Klamath Lake. The approach and justification for the project is well documented. The spring on the property presents an opportunity to connect spring flow to the lake, although it's unknown what impact this would have, and whether it is feasible. To the north of this property is Hanks Marsh, a USFWS-owned wetland that may also be utilized to treat poor water quality given the farm's pumps are located adjacent to the marsh. The application presents a sound approach to better understand the site and lay the framework for restoration implementation. The applicant is encouraged to work with the property owner to come up with a plan to control yellow flag iris. The applicant and partners are also encouraged to continue their partnership to share data, lessons learned, and any other useful information for others addressing similar problems along the fringes of Upper Klamath Lake.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,296

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$37,296

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4012-17047

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: West Canal Water Quality Treatment Design

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $70,338

Total Cost: $156,627

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. This project is located in Klamath County near Ft. Klamath, Oregon. Design will be focused on Sevenmile Creek and West Canal (an irrigation drainage ditch), both of which drain to Upper Klamath Lake. 2. The project addresses the problem of severely impaired water quality conditions in Upper Klamath Lake, which affect survival and population health of endangered Lost River Sucker (Delitistes luxatus) and Shortnose Sucker (Chasmistes brevirostris), as well as endemic Redband Rainbow Trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss newberrii) and other native aquatic species. Specifically, the project addresses external phosphorus loading into Upper Klamath Lake, which is the primary driver of poor water quality conditions. In addition, this project addresses habitat quality in Sevenmile Creek, which is designated critical habitat for Bull Trout and will be important habitat for anadromous salmon and steelhead in the future. 3. This project will produce a design for separating nutrient rich irrigation tailwater in West Canal from Sevenmile Creek and then treating West Canal tailwater to remove phosphorus and sediment prior to entering Upper Klamath Lake. Deliverables will include (a) a technical memo summarizing existing data, research, and water rights concerns; (b) 50% design for all project components; (c) 100% design for all project components. 4. There are numerous partners involved in this project, including federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley), state agencies (Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Dept. of Water Resources, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality), tribal entities (The Klamath Tribes), county government (Klamath County), non-profit organizations (Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy), and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- West Canal delivers 11% of the total external phosphorus load to Upper Klamath Lake. Eliminating the ability of the West Canal to reach Upper Klamath Lake, via Agency Lake, would have significant water quality benefit.
- The project partners are well qualified for this work, coordinated, and poised for success. The project is well supported by a variety of stakeholders, including the Klamath Tribes and the USFWS, and has high visibility in the region.

- Addressing the water quality concerns of West Canal at its intersection with Sevenmile Creek presents a unique opportunity to restore Sevenmile Creek's channel functionality, instream fish habitat, and connectivity with Agency Lake. Due to the nature of where these two water bodies intersect; there is a viable path to restore Sevenmile Creek to its fullest potential while also eliminating West Canal water from entering Agency Lake.
- The project builds on previous scoping and planning in determining what the most cost effective solution to eliminate polluted West Canal water from entering Agency Lake while also seeking creative solutions to restore Sevenmile Creek.
- Currently, fish access from Agency Lake into the Sevenmile Creek watershed is limited due to the poor water quality that enters Agency Lake since Sevenmile is carrying West Canal flow as well. The Sevenmile Creek watershed is in good condition; fully restoring connectivity of Sevenmile Creek to Agency Lake would provide significant value for fish.

Concerns

- The project outline states 100% engineering designs will be completed by May 2020; this seems ambitious given the level of engineering and complexity this project entails.

Concluding Analysis

The phosphorus loading into Agency Lake via the West Canal located in the Wood River Valley is one of the biggest known sources of this pollutant. The canal's intersection with Sevenmile Creek offers a good opportunity to mitigate the impacts external phosphorus has due its position in the landscape and road access. The solution is complex, especially given the unique opportunity to restore functionality to Sevenmile Creek. The project has a strong team with the ingenuity and foresight to realize a big ecological lift in water quality that will benefit listed fish species. The applicant is encouraged to research water rights downstream of West Canal's intersection with Sevenmile Creek to ensure future plans have no harm on downstream water right holders, in addition to determining whether a new water right would be needed to divert and treat tail water. The applicant and partners are also encouraged to continue their partnership to share data, lessons learned, and any other useful information for others addressing similar problems along the fringes of Upper Klamath Lake.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$70,338

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$70,338

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4013-17058

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lundy Ditch Feasibility Study _CLONE

Applicant: Deschutes SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $28,906

Total Cost: $47,080

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lundy Ditch feasibility study project is located within the Arnold Irrigation Districts (AID) service area, near Deschutes River Woods, south of Bend Oregon. The Lundy Ditch is primarily an open ditch approximately 3996 ft. in length, meandering though volcanic rock and porous volcanic sandy soils causing significant water loss. The proposed project is to partner with AID to examine the feasibility of converting the Lundy Ditch to pipe and to examine the potential of incorporating another private lateral into the Lundy Ditch delivery system. The project would assess the potential water and energy savings, technical feasibility, and estimated costs of each option with the goal of reducing significant irrigation water loss and determine water savings that potentially could be returned to the Deschutes River to improve Spotted frog habitat and other aquatic wildlife. The feasibility study will also complement efforts through the PL83-566 WFPO program to modernize antiquated irrigation infrastructure in central Oregon to help irrigators conserve water, reduce energy consumption, increase irrigation delivery efficiency, improve public safety, and benefit instream habitat for threatened and endangered aquatic species.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The results of this work will develop 100% final designs.
- The applicant has mobilized and gained support for this project from all of the users on this private ditch.

Concerns

- The methodology for determining water savings is unclear. While the application includes an estimate based on the NRCS seepage loss calculator, it is unclear how the proposed feasibility study will calculate actual water savings.
- The application budget includes funds to purchase LiDAR when there is already free LiDAR data available.
- The ecological value of this project is limited because conserved water will provide marginal fish or wildlife benefits. The ditch length is small and the diversion rate is up to 6.5 gallons per minute; resulting water savings will be minimal, estimated at 70.3 ac ft/season, or 0.186 cfs. The application does not address how water savings will be returned to the Deschutes River.

- The priority for addressing this private lateral within the irrigation district's service area is unclear.

Concluding Analysis

This application proposes survey and engineering to pipe 3,996 ft. of the Lundy ditch, which is a private lateral in the Arnold Irrigation District (AID). Since it is a private lateral, the irrigation district has no jurisdiction over the use of the ditch; they are only required to deliver water to its point of diversion with AID main canal. The applicant has received match funding from Oregon Water Resources Department to assist this effort. While the applicant is applauded for their ability to gain support from all the private users on this ditch, it is difficult to determine the ecological benefit of the project without more information in the application about the impact of the proposed work at this location in contributing to basin goals for conserving stream flow in the Upper Deschutes River.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4014-17074

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Klamath Lake Lower Algoma Design Technical Assistance

Applicant: Klamath SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $75,000

Total Cost: $96,683

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Klamath Lake – Lower Algoma Design TA project includes 4 private landowners located in Klamath County, in the unincorporated community of Algoma about 8 miles north of Klamath Falls, OR. Water quality and aquatic habitat in Upper Klamath Lake (Lake) has been negatively impacted by water intakes, delivery systems, and runoff pumped from agricultural fields. The Lower Algoma properties drain directly into Lake, contributing sediment and dissolved phosphorus from livestock waste and agricultural activities which contribute to nutrient loading and nuisance algae blooms. A legal summer surface water diversion drains Barkley Springs, a culturally and historically significant spring complex with critical rearing and spawning habitat for the federally endangered Lost River and Shortnose Suckers. These impacts are compounded by unscreened diversions that cause mortality by potentially entraining fish in irrigation canals. This project will improve water quality and aquatic habitat by limiting entrainment, improving nursery habitat at Barkley Springs, and reducing sediment and nutrient runoff from pastures, fields, and earthen canals. A conservation plan has been developed for the Algoma area to achieve these objectives. The elements included in this grant are needed to implement the plan. The Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District (District) proposes to retain a water resources expert to prepare water rights applications to change irrigation sources from Barkley Springs and unscreened diversions from the Lake to a groundwater well. The District will also hire an engineering firm to develop a geotechnical assessment on the stability of the Big Canal and construction plans for the new irrigation well and tide gate replacement. Engineering, final design plans, and water rights applications will allow the District to pursue implementation funding next spring. Partners include landowners, ODA, NRCS, Trout Unlimited, USFWS, The Klamath Tribes, OWRD, and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will seek strategies to reduce or remove the landowner's need to withdraw water for irrigation from Barkeley spring, a high priority habitat for sucker recovery due to it being the only known location where various age classes of fish have been documented.
- The project will seek ways to re-use water on-site, reducing or removing the need to pump tailwater into the Lake, which would minimize phosphorus loading.

- The project will aim to reduce agricultural impacts by fencing canals, removing nutrient loading caused by livestock access.
- The project is encompassing all the landowners in the Algoma area, which will maximize their ability to find solutions and employ conservation practices to improve water quality.
- The applicant and partners, including the Klamath Tribes, are well coordinated and are informed by water quality data collected by ODA. This data has indicated both the need to improve water quality from this area as well as serve as a baseline for documenting future improvements.
- The basis for the proposed work has been highlighted in many planning documents.

Concerns

- There is no guarantee that a transfer to a groundwater right will be successful. The application could have benefited from additional alternatives that could be employed to attain the ecological value this transfer would provide.
- Project completion in six months seems ambitious, given the complexity of engineering and planning involved with project deliverables.

Concluding Analysis

This project continues momentum in the basin working with lakeside agricultural producers in seeking innovative ways to reduce phosphorus loading to Upper Klamath Lake. Barkeley spring offers a cold water refuge for fish; removing the point of diversion to a ground water well would leave spring water instream during the irrigation season. A recently completed conservation plan is driving the work proposed in this application, which presents a variety of practices to reduce or remove nutrients from entering Upper Klamath Lake. The applicant is encouraged to explore alternatives should the ground water rights transfer not be successful. The applicant and partners are also encouraged to continue their partnership to share data, lessons learned, and any other useful information for others addressing similar problems along the fringes of Upper Klamath Lake.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$75,000

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$75,000

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4015-17078

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Deschutes River Streamflow Restoration Implementation Framework Plan

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $73,944

Total Cost: $115,480

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project will develop an Implementation Framework Plan for instream flow restoration in the Deschutes River downstream of Wickiup Reservoir. Implementation of this plan will resolve long-standing flow restoration issues that have resulted from the storage and management of water for irrigation, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality and watershed health in the Deschutes River. The plan will be designed to meet ODFW instream water rights to benefit native redband trout, as well as achieve higher flows goals as identified and agreed upon in the Upper Deschutes River to benefit Oregon spotted frog and watershed function. The project will build on the extensive body of information that was developed in the Upper Deschutes Basin Study, that quantified and evaluated water management strategies. The plan will build upon, but will not be limited, to the Habitat Conservation Plan being developed in the basin. This more comprehensive plan is needed to integrate available water supply tools (piping, on-farm efficiency, water marketing) to accelerate timely implementation of flow restoration, and to address funding and policy barriers to implementation. Project planning partners will include interested members of the Basin Study Work Group, a diverse group of 40 stakeholders that includes irrigation, tribal, environmental, municipal and agency representation. The Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council will provide neutral facilitation, coordination and process design. The Deschutes River Conservancy will provide technical support and analysis and will serve as the repository of technical information. The combination of extensive technical information on flow restoration solutions and a robust collaborative stakeholder process will lead to a durable water management plan to guide implementation of timely flow restoration in the Deschutes River.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal is a well-thought-out pathway to address a high priority need of restoring stream flow in the Upper Deschutes River.
- The applicant has the capacity and a proven track record of successfully implementing projects that result in permanent protection of stream flow.
- This project is building on the Basin Study Work Group (BSWG) effort for the Upper Deschutes Basin, which laid the framework to develop this implementation plan.
- The list of partners engaged in this effort is impressive.

- The applicant will leverage the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Smart program to assist in this effort.

Concerns

- The location described for this project includes all the irrigation districts in the Upper Deschutes Basin, encompassing a large geography. The application failed to identify areas of interest and priority that maximize ecological gain. This would have been helpful given the conservation efforts underway, especially to clarify how this project will work in conjunction with other efforts.

Concluding Analysis

This project aims at continuing the collaborative effort of the BSWG into the next phase developing an implementation framework plan. The resulting plan will provide a list of actions that will restore stream flow in the Upper Deschutes River. The process for engaging stakeholders and developing a plan was well documented. The need to identify other water conservation strategies beyond big infrastructure projects such as conveyance ditch piping is clear and well supported. It was challenging to determine how individual projects will be identified, evaluated, and prioritized across such a large geography. The applicant may also consider NRCS's Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) areas to maximize opportunity, particularly with on-farm projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$73,944

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$73,944

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4016-17079

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Neal Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Design

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $74,543

Total Cost: $104,443

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will take place on Neal Creek, located within the Hood River Watershed in Hood River County. The two project sites are located in a reach of Neal Creek that has the highest intrinsic potential for salmon and steelhead due to a relatively low gradient (= 2%) and wide valley bottom. The first project site is located upstream of the Dethman Ridge Road crossing near the town of Pine Grove. The second project site is located just upstream of the Thomsen Road crossing. Neal Creek is one of the few clear water (non-glacial) tributaries of the lower Hood River and contains a viable population of threatened winter steelhead, threatened Coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and resident rainbow trout. Neal Creek is estimated to provide 5-10% of steelhead production in the Hood River Basin. The primary limiting factors that this project will address are habitat diversity and key habitat quantity, particularly spawning and juvenile rearing habitat. On Neal Creek, the combination of channel alterations, fill from private and county roads, and large wood removal has led to entrenched channel segments with limited amounts of large wood. In 2018, HRWG contracted with Inter-Fluve to complete an analysis of restoration opportunities along Neal Creek and develop conceptual designs for four sites. The sites were prioritized based on intrinsic habitat potential, total habitat area, and risk of raising the 100-year floodplain elevation. This project will develop 90% designs for the two highest ranked projects. This will include topographic surveying, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and 90% design drawings. HRWG will pursue implementation funding with the completed designs. Project partners include Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), CTWS (cash match, materials), and project landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project locations are on Neal Creek, a non-glacial influenced stream, which is thought to be a benefit for fish, limiting the amount of sediment in the system.
- The two locations chosen for design development have high intrinsic potential for steelhead and coho and offer some of the best areas on Neal Creek to improve instream and floodplain habitats.
- The proposed approach will maximize the opportunities presented while also thoughtfully incorporating the surrounding built environment to minimize risk.

- The root cause of previous degradation to Neal Creek (used as irrigation conveyance) is no longer present.
- The landowners are supportive and engaged.

Concerns

- The fisheries benefit stated in the application may be inflated, particularly in relation to steelhead. The application could have benefited from any survey data that document known fish use and distribution within Neal Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal will develop 90% designs for two sites aimed at improving instream and floodplain habitats on Neal Creek. The two sites proposed for restoration rose to the top of the list through a conceptual planning exercise which evaluated a suite of criteria to maximize fish habitat suitability and restoration in Neal Creek. The Neal Creek watershed winds through a mostly rural residential landscape; the two proposed sites offer some of the best areas to implement restoration, given existing floodplain access and riparian vegetation condition. The project is well supported by the Warm Springs Tribes and participating landowners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,543

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4017-16994

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Stakeholder Outreach

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $29,906

Total Cost: $62,906

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The geographic focus is within the Upper Klamath Basin in Klamath County, Oregon. Specific regional landowners with agricultural land bordering north Upper Klamath Lake, Agency Lake, sections of the South Sprague, Williamson, and Wood river watersheds. The focus was selected based on collaboration with Oregon Department of Agriculture Sprague River SIA partners and WAP Team restoration goals. 2) Conflicts and controversy between irrigators, tribes, and conservation groups over water quantity and quality have been an ongoing problem in the Klamath Basin. The Wood, Sprague, and Williamson Rivers contribute the majority of the lake's external phosphorus load, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has determined that reducing external load is the best approach for improving water quality conditions in the Basin. Improvements to farming and ranching practices are needed to address water quality and reverse declines of ESA listed Lost River Suckers, as well as Coho and Steelhead Salmon further south in the Klamath River. 3) Mapping and county records search to identify target landowners, targeted outreach mailings, and direct outreach to landowners identified in the geographic focus area. 3 outreach events coordinated by the WAP Team and held in focus area communities to include topics of interest to those farmers and ranchers in the region. 4) We are a partnership of local entities, known as the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan (WAP) Team. The WAP Team includes The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Trout Unlimited (TU), Klamath Watershed Partnership (KWP), The Klamath Tribes (TKT), Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) in California. The WAP Team is committed to working with other Klamath Basin partners to collaborate on increasing project implementation and to achieve desired long-term restoration success.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The watershed action plan for the Upper Klamath Basin is nearly complete, and will serve as the basis for this targeted engagement with private landowners. Without landowner engagement, achieving goals outlined in the action plan are not possible due to the extensive private lands ownership in this geography.

- The list of partners is comprehensive, with each one having a unique niche and expertise in the basin. The partners have a track record of successful collaboration.
- The process outlined for landowner engagement is well thought out and conveys a clear understanding of how the specified outcomes will be achieved.
- The engagement with landowners is timely, particularly given the recent SIA focus on the Sprague River, which this effort will build upon.
- The list of tools for engaging landowners is extensive and built upon previous successful efforts from the applicant and their partners.

Concerns

- The deliverables associated with the transition from engagement to project development are not well articulated. It would have been helpful to learn more about how site visits transition into restoration projects, as indicated in the application's objectives, including timelines and partner lead for each project type.

Concluding Analysis

This project aims to engage hundreds of streamside property owners along the Williamson, Sprague, and Wood rivers to implement restoration projects enhancing water quality and habitat conditions for fish and wildlife. The applicant and partners have a long history of working collaboratively in this geography, including entities in California who recognize the value of improving conditions upstream for downstream uses. The applicant and partners have made great strides to bridge gaps in landowner trust in conservation efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin. This effort provides a collaborative approach to bring needed skill sets together to engage and assist landowners in meaningful conservation, although the application lacked details on how projects would be identified, evaluated, and prioritized.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$29,906

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$29,906

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4018-16972

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Irrigation Efficiency for Water Quality Improvement in the Lower Crooked River Watershed

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $14,756

Total Cost: $30,911

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project seeks to engage members of the agricultural communities in Prineville and Powell Butte with the purpose of spurring interest to improve agricultural practices and make a meaningful and lasting improvement to water quality in the Lower Crooked River Watershed. Local irrigation districts and conservation organizations have struggled to engage irrigators, making it extremely difficult to impact positive environmental change. A combination of factors results in a lack of connection between district patrons and local conservation resources; factors include rapid turnover of agricultural properties, urban encroachment, a lack of knowledge and awareness of rights of irrigators, and mixed messages from the conservation community on subjects including water quality, water quantity, and sensitive species. Our innovative approach will involve efforts on multiple levels intended to maximize our impact. Standard outreach tactics such as mailings, phone calls, workshops and technical assistance visits will be utilized to saturate the project area with information while other, non-traditional methods of outreach will be employed to reach specific groups and areas. Non-traditional methods will include providing training to irrigation district ditch riders on environmental concerns, irrigation improvement technology, and cost share opportunities so that they can disseminate information during the course of their regular duties. The project will culminate with the initiation of annual irrigation workshops to be held in Prineville and Powell Butte and the establishment of a database to organize and store pertinent irrigator information. Ochoco Irrigation District (OID) and Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID) will be the primary targets of outreach but other irrigators and districts will be welcomed to participate. Partners include OID, COID, NRCS, OSU, Energy Trust of Oregon, WyEast RC&D, and Deschutes River Conservancy.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The problem driving the need for engaging irrigation district patrons is well documented; the need to address degraded water quality in the lower Crooked River is clear.
- This stakeholder engagement effort includes all parties involved with irrigation tail water problems, including water users, ditch riders, and irrigation district staff.
- Due to the high turnover of properties with water rights in this geography, this level of effort is needed.

- The applicant is the appropriate entity to lead this effort, to ensure consistent messaging and communication regarding water quality problems and potential opportunities to address the problem.
- The inclusion of ditch riders in this effort is an innovative approach, given they tend to have a direct line of communication with water users and can be ambassadors on behalf of improving water quality.

Concerns

- The GIS database to track water patrons' information is a sound approach; however, it will only capture a snapshot in time. Given high landowner turnover and updating needs, it may be challenging to keep up with database maintenance and to maintain functionality over time.
- The engagement approach of hosting events and trainings is dependent on people showing up inperson, which may have limited effectiveness.
- It was challenging to evaluate how effective ditch riders will be as spokespersons on behalf of water quality improvements; their capacity in this role is unknown.
- The budget proposed to attain project objectives appears low.

Concluding Analysis

The lower Crooked River is plagued with poor water quality due to external loading of nutrients coming from tail water returns from irrigation use. The delivery and management of irrigation water and tail water returns in the two irrigation districts are archaic, inefficient, and contribute to poor water quality conditions. The Crook SWCD is well positioned to lead this effort and have demonstrated prior success in working with agricultural producers to improve water quality. The applicant should consider other communication tools such as videos, radio announcements, or other approaches that are not dependent on people attending in person.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$14,756

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$14,756

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4019-17049

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Forest Health Engagment in Lake and Klamath Counties

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $31,733

Total Cost: $39,833

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC) and our partners, the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP), are seeking a cooperative stakeholder engagement project focused on private landowners and other stakeholders in Lake and Klamath Counties. The project goal is to promote understanding and awareness of forest health conditions, the 8-step process to address priority acres (https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/pnw707) and the future use of prescribed fire on private and public landscapes. This will be accomplished through a short film that will be utilized for community presentations, workshops and individual landowner meetings. This project ties into current and future restoration treatments to improve the health of our forests and improve overall watershed function. The KLFHP is a cooperative network of diverse local and regional partners who have come together to develop and maintain sustainable and productive forests. Partners include the USFS, OSU Extension, ODF, NRCS, Klamath and Lake County Watershed Councils, The Nature Conservancy, BLM, Oregon Institute of Technology, Lake County Resource Initiatives, and Private Landowners. The KLFHP is currently working to restore forest health on three project areas in Lake and Klamath Counties: The North Warner Forest Health Project (NWFHP) located 8 miles north of Lakeview; the Thomas Creek Watershed Forest Health Project (TCWFHP) located 10 miles west of Lakeview and adjacent to the NWFHP, and the Chiloquin Community Forest and Fire Project (CCFFP) located in and around the town of Chiloquin. In total, the projects encompass 3,850 landowners and 198,015 private acres. Each project follows an 8-step process from landscape identification through project implementation and benefits analysis. Each project is at a different phase of the 8-step process where continued engagement between all parties involved is vital for continued movement in restoring our forests.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project costs associated with developing short films is accurate and based on recent experience working with the same contractor.
- The need for continued messaging around forest health and impacts to wildlife and local communities is strong.

- The communication tools identified (short film, workshops, newspaper articles, newsletters and fact sheets) are all encompassing and will reach a wide audience.
- This effort is timely given recent investments in forest health, and the multitude of proposed forest health treatments in both counties.
- The prescribed fire messaging is important, given that this is the preferred tool for maintaining these landscapes over time and reducing future catastrophic wildfires.

Concerns

- No concerns were raised.

Concluding Analysis

The project aims to produce materials and employ engagement across two counties to raise awareness and understanding, and promote restoration for forest health. This partnership has successfully implemented forest health projects, and proposed to do much more to address this high priority need in Klamath and Lake Counties. The applicant is encouraged to reiterate the importance forest health has on native wildlife and watershed health through its messaging.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$31,733

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

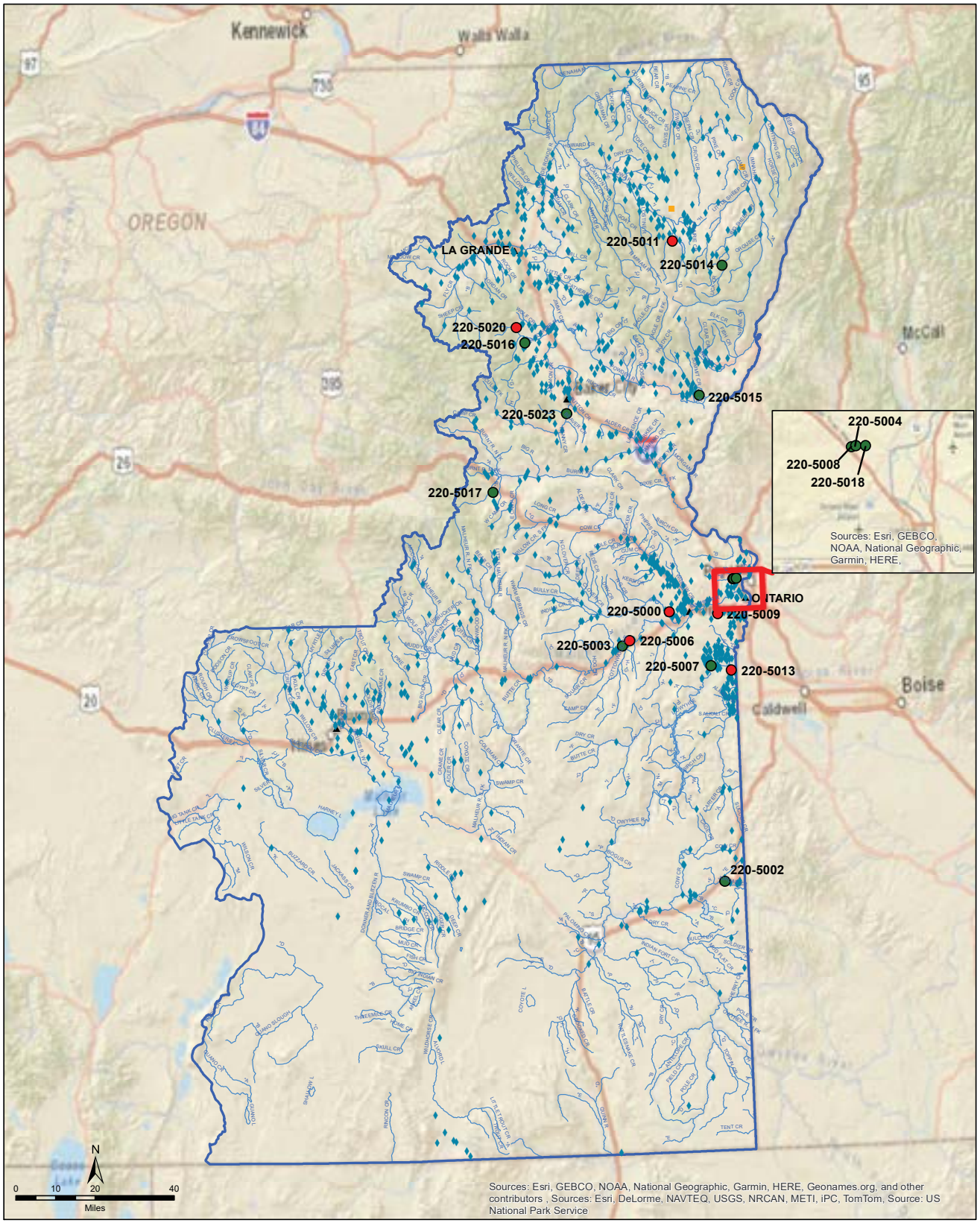
Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$31,733

Staff Conditions

N/A

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Spring 2019 Funding Recommendations



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills 201924

Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Fall 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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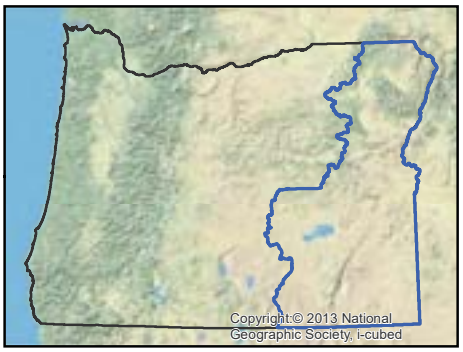

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-5017	Burnt River SWCD	More Irrigation and Riparian	Located near Unity, 37 acres will be converted to an irrigation system that eliminates contaminated wastewater discharge to the South Fork Burnt River. The streamside areas will be improved with fencing to facilitate better management and improve water quality.	78,209	Baker
220-5016	Baker Valley SWCD	Foothill Irrigation	Irrigation systems on 182 acres in North Powder will be converted to reduce field runoff and improve water quality in the nearby Powder River.	131,010	Baker
220-5015	Eagle Valley SWCD	Eagle Creek Irrigation	Irrigation systems on 191 acres near Richland will be converted to eliminate wastewater discharge and improve water quality in the Powder River Watershed.	24,760	Baker
220-5018	Malheur WC	Jacobsen Gulch: It needs piping	In Jacobsen Gulch near Ontario, an irrigation canal will be converted to pipeline to reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria pollution in the Snake River.	83,181	Malheur
220-5002	Owyhee WC	Owyhee Weed Wars	Covering 4 million acres in Jordan Valley this project will continue a long standing effort to control weeds in southern Malheur County, improving wildlife habitat.	143,454	Malheur
220-5007	Owyhee WC	In A Van Down By the River	Irrigation systems on 27 acres will be converted to eliminate sediment, nutrient and bacteria contributions to the adjacent Owyhee River near Adrian, Oregon.	51,485	Malheur
220-5004	Malheur WC	Keeping Dirt (and Poop!) in its Place in Jacobsen Gulch	In Jacobsen Gulch near Ontario, irrigation systems on 66 acres will be converted to reduce runoff, improving water quality in the Snake River.	55,199	Malheur
220-5008	Malheur WC	Aussie Dog Water Quality Improvement	In Jacobsen Gulch near Ontario, irrigation systems on 43.5 acres will be converted to eliminate field runoff, improving water quality in the Snake River.	70,130	Malheur
220-5014	Wallowa SWCD	Big Sheep Creek Fence III	On US Forest Service land near Joseph, 3.5 miles of fence will be constructed to reduce livestock impacts to Big Sheep Creek. The creek is habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout and the fence will reduce disturbance of Chinook redds by cattle.	49,928	Wallowa
220-5003	Malheur WC	Mockingbird 2	In Harper, adjacent to the Malheur River, irrigation systems on 89 acres will be converted to eliminate wastewater and improve water quality in the Malheur River.	67,216	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**754,572**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-5006	Malheur WC	Big Tree Riparian and Wildlife Restoration	To improve water quality and habitat on the Malheur River west of Vale, the project will improve streambanks, restore native vegetation, and install fencing along the river.	37,311	Malheur
220-5009	Malheur SWCD	Horses on the Corner	Four miles southwest of Ontario, irrigation systems on 40 acres will be converted to eliminate wastewater and improve water quality in the Malheur River.	65,674	Malheur
220-5013	Owyhee WC	Bergman WQ Improvement	Northeast of Adrian and close to the Snake River, irrigation systems on 24 acres will be converted to eliminate runoff and improve water quality in the Snake River.	53,459	Malheur
220-5000	Malheur WC	How Now Brown Cow	Wastewater will be reduced from 30 irrigated acres by installing more efficient irrigation systems along Bully Creek west of Vale. The improved system will reduce pollution to Bully Creek and the Malheur River.	69,765	Malheur
220-5011	Wallowa SWCD	Bowerman Ranch Irrigation Improvement	Two miles southwest of Joseph, irrigation systems on 244 acres will be converted to more efficient systems, estimated to use 39% less water. Conserved water would be left in Hurricane Creek, improving habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout in Wallowa County.	99,227	Wallowa
220-5020	Baker Valley SWCD	Elkhorn Wildlife Improvement	The project will install two temporary stream crossings in the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area near Baker City to protect stream habitat by eliminating the need for equipment to enter streams during forest thinning operations. The bridges will also be available for future projects.	47,375	Union
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,127,383**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-5001	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Wallowa River - McDaniel Fish Habitat Restoration Project	287,984	Wallowa
220-5005	Wallowa Resources	Meadow Creek riparian restoration following elk reduction	181,720	Union
220-5010	Malheur WC	It Can't Get Much Steeper: Jacobsen Gultch	43,850	Malheur
220-5012	Malheur SWCD	Across the Road	127,035	Malheur
220-5019	Burnt River SWCD	Beaverdam Creek Stockwater	77,637	Baker
220-5021	Malheur SWCD	Double Whammy	242,861	Malheur
220-5022	Malheur SWCD	Calf Creek	46,593	Malheur

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-5023	Malheur SWCD	Powder River Fish Habitat Survey (Phase 1)	A survey from Mason Dam to Baker City on the Powder River will determine where and what types of improvements would be effective at improving fishing for the public and restoring overall river health.	37,783	Baker
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**37,783**	
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				**37,783**	
Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
None					

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**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**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 Requested**	**County**
None					
Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**792,355**	**9%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,284,183**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5000-16949
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: How Now Brown Cow
Applicant: Malheur WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $69,765
Total Cost: $171,121

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The How Now Brown Cow project is located approximately 6 miles west of Vale, along Bully Creek. 2. Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts and private landowners have been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 18 years across the Malheur Basin. 3. The How Now Brown Cow project is the second phase in a three-phase project to convert 85 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This proposal (phase II) will convert 30 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems, handlines, irripods, and related irrigation infrastructure. This project will also convert 7 acres from flood to gated pipe irrigation in irregular shaped fields the pivots do not cover. 4. Project partners include Vale Irrigation District, landowner and Malheur Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is adjacent to Bully Creek in an area with highly erodible soils where the ground slope is low to moderate gradient. Converting the current flood irrigation methods to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in Bully Creek by reducing irrigation induced runoff and working towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated runoff from entering Bully Creek from 37 irrigated acres.

- The application is well-written and clearly describes the methodologies proposed and the objectives to be achieved. The applicant has a successful history of completing similar type projects in the area, and this phase two project follows a successful phase one on this property.

- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project, including the landowner, Malheur Watershed Council, and the Vale Irrigation District.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The applicant stated that a water rights transfer is not needed because it has already been completed. Oregon Water Resources Department does not have evidence of an approved water rights transfer and a water rights transfer will be required for the project to proceed.

- The irrigation conversion project is not located in a priority area for NRCS or ODA and the application lacks an alternative analysis that would further substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the Bully Creek drainage close to Vale, Oregon, this three phase project will convert a total of 85 acres from flood irrigation to a more efficient application system including pivots, irripods, hand lines, and gated pipe. This application is for phase two, which will convert 37 of the 85 acres. Oregon DEQ ranks the Malheur River as one of the top three most polluted rivers in Oregon, identifying sediment, nutrients, and bacteria as the major water quality concerns. Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation will promote soil conservation and reduce pollutants from entering Bully Creek and the Malheur River. The applicant is encouraged to seek additional cost estimates for the irrigation system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
14 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$69,765

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5001-16945

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wallowa River - McDaniel Fish Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $287,984

Total Cost: $595,254

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Wallowa River-McDaniel Project is located in Tier 1 habitat in Wallowa Atlas Subwatershed WMS-1, at RM 32 of the Wallowa River, tributary to the Grand Ronde River, near Lostine, Oregon. The project reach is used year round by ESA listed spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout and by other native fish species including lamprey, Oregon sensitive species redband trout, and Coho. Spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead spawning and rearing occurs each year in the project reach. Phases 1 and 2 of the Wallowa River-McDaniel Channel Reconstruction Project were implemented in 2004 and 2007, respectively. Although these projects created and improved available fish habitat, substantial opportunities exist in this important Tier 1 reach of the Wallowa River to address limiting factors for ESA listed salmon and steelhead and to enhance measures implemented in 2004-2007. The Wallowa Atlas technical advisory committee identified spring Chinook winter rearing as the highest priority restoration need in this reach of the Wallowa River, followed by Chinook, steelhead, bull trout and lamprey summer rearing, spawning and incubation habitats. Limiting factors identified by the Expert Panel and within NMFS' Recovery Plan include riparian vegetation, side channel and wetland conditions, floodplain condition, bed and channel form, instream structural complexity, sediment, and water quantity.This project focuses on the priority limiting factors and priority restoration needs by increasing and improving available spawning and rearing habitat. Project components include 1) floodplain creation and connection, 2) large wood habitat structures, 3) off-channel habitat including swales, side-channels, and alcoves, and 4) riparian planting and protection. Project partners include the landowners, ODFW, NPT, and GRMW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has demonstrated success in restoring channel function and fish habitat on the McDaniel property by implementing two previous channel reconstruction projects in 2004 and 2007. This project builds on the successes from those previous efforts.

- The landowner strongly supports fisheries conservation on their property, and has an effective working relationship with local agency's managing fish restoration efforts. They manage the property to meet restoration objectives, and are willing to re-enroll the project area in a conservation easement as part of this project.

- This section of the Wallowa River has had six channel modification projects implemented over the last 15-years. There is strong local support to develop a comprehensive monitoring program assessing results from this work, including habitat improvements, fisheries response, riparian conditions, and overall project impacts. This project will be a part of that overall monitoring effort.

Concerns

- The application and design lack an assessment of potential project impacts to the Cross Country Canal irrigation diversion structure located in the middle of the project area. It would have been helpful to learn what measures will be put in place to ensure the protection of irrigation infrastructure.

- Project designs submitted with the proposal are at 30% completion. This is a very complex river restoration project and many items can change as the design phase approaches 100%. Due to this complexity, it's challenging to evaluate the technical soundness with only 30% designs.

- The budget seems high, which may be a result of prematurely estimating costs based on a 30% design. A more complete design could better represent true costs of the project. Several budget items appear high in cost compared to similar projects including mobilization, excavation, and side-channel one restoration.

- There is a lack of restoration effectiveness monitoring and evaluation feedback on the Wallowa River for channel restoration work. At this time it is unknown how this type of restoration effects aquatic habitat, fisheries response, wildlife response, and overall project watershed impacts. This will be the seventh channel modifying project in this 15-mile reach of the Wallowa River, and both funding sources and habitat improvement programs need to know the impact of such large-scale actions. A monitoring project assessing results of the prior six installed projects would inform this and future channel modification projects.

Concluding Analysis

Located on the Wallowa River near the town of Lostine, Oregon, this project proposes to further enhance riverine and riparian conditions, building on previously completed channel restoration work. Work proposed includes installing side-channels, building large wood structures, further connecting the river to the adjacent floodplain, and extensive riparian planting. The landowner and ODFW have worked together for many years and the landowners are effective stewards of their properties by managing for both ecological benefits and ranch viability. For a project of this type, magnitude, and complexity, a 30% design is insufficient to assess the project's ability to be technically sound and meet the desired ecological outcomes. Monitoring data from previous similar type projects nearby is lacking and would provide evidence that the restoration approaches proposed are site appropriate and likely to succeed.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5002-17014
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Owyhee Weed Wars
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $143,454
Total Cost: $469,989

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Jordan Valley CWMA is a long standing weed control program working to control invasive plant species in southern Malheur County in a geographic area that includes four-million acres. The applicant has a proven record of success, is fully engaged with the stakeholder community, and has long-term knowledge of successful treatment techniques.

- The project is supported by partnerships with cooperating organizations, including Malheur County Weed Department, ODA, DSL, Vale BLM, and many landowners. Weed treatment in the area is based on watershed boundaries, as such the applicant cooperates with many partners in the Idaho portion of the watershed, including NRCS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, and Idaho State Lands.

- Weed control work in the area benefits many resources, including sage grouse habitat conservation, fish and wildlife, native plant communities, and soil conservation; and reduces degrading effects of large wildfires.

- The program serves as a hub for weed treatment in this large area by providing fiscal management and contracting services, outreach, landowner consultation, coordination, weed treatment equipment, work area prioritization, weed mapping, training, and monitoring treated areas.

Concerns

- The application does not include weed treatment results over the history of this long standing weed control program. While a map is provided showing weed species treatment locations from past funding cycles and the review site visit included locations that demonstrate successful treatments of both whitetop and medusahead, it is difficult to determine trends over time and whether treatment actions are successful at the watershed scale. Data regarding previous treatments, including chemical, project management, and reseeding results, would provide helpful evidence to evaluate likelihood of success for the project's technical approach.

Concluding Analysis

The Owyhee Weed Wars project is a continuation of a long standing weed program that has surveyed over 225,000-acres in southern Malheur County. This project will build on prior successful work including outreach, inventory, weed treatment, monitoring, and other services critical to the improvement and maintenance of natural resources in the project area. Jordan Valley CWMA serves as the weed treatment coordinating entity for the region, they have developed partnerships in both Oregon and Idaho allowing them to work at a watershed scale, and they provide services necessary for effective weed treatment in the region. This program serves a critical weed control need in the area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$143,454

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$143,454

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5003-16965
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Mockingbird 2
Applicant: Malheur WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $67,216
Total Cost: $187,189

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The Mockingbird 2 project is located in Harper, Oregon along the Malheur River. 2. Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts and private landowners have been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 18 years across the Malheur Basin. 3. The Mockingbird 2 project is the second phase in a three-phase project to convert 179 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation. This proposal (phase II) will convert 89 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of 2 pivot systems, and related irrigation infrastructure.4. Project partners include Vale Irrigation District, landowner and Malheur Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is adjacent to the Malheur River in an area with highly erodible soils where the ground slope is low gradient. Converting the current flood irrigation method to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in the Malheur River by reducing irrigation induced runoff. The project will implement ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, the water reuse methods transport sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways degrading water quality. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering the Malheur River from 89 acres.

- The application is well written and clearly describes the methodologies proposed and the objectives to be achieved, and includes descriptive maps and photos.

- The applicant has a successful history of completing similar projects, and this phase two follows a successful phase one that was implemented on the same property.

- The project is located in an area with few irrigation and water quality improvement projects and will serve as an example to other landowners in the area.

- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project, including the landowner, Vale Irrigation District, and the Malheur Watershed Council.

Concerns

- The irrigation conversion project is not located in a priority area for NRCS or ODA, and the application lacks an alternative analysis and engineering support that would further substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design. For example, an alternative analysis would identify the most effective sprinkler and nozzle package for the pivots and describe why the selected approach was chosen.

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

Located on the Malheur River near Harper, Oregon, this three phase project will convert a total of 179 acres from flood irrigation to a more efficient pivot application system. This proposed phase two will convert 89 of the 179 acres. Oregon DEQ ranks the Malheur River as one of the top three most polluted rivers in Oregon, identifying sediment, nutrients, and bacteria as the major water quality concerns. Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation will promote soil conservation and reduce pollutants entering the Malheur River. The applicant is encouraged to seek additional cost estimates for the irrigation system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$67,216

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$67,216

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5004-16978

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Keeping Dirt (and Poop!) in its Place in Jacobsen Gulch

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $55,199

Total Cost: $143,358

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is located in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch priority area, approximately 4 air miles from Ontario, and less than 2 air miles from the Snake River.2) Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts and private landowners has been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 20 years across the Malheur Basin.3)This proposal will convert 66 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of a pivot system, and related irrigation infrastructure. This project is in a NRCS priority area, and has steep slopes. Both of which make this a priority project for the Council.4) Project partners include Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS, landowner and Malheur Watershed Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located two miles from the Snake River in an area with steep slopes. Converting the current flood irrigation methods to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River by reducing irrigation induced runoff and work towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives. Post implementation of this project, the landowner intends to convert to direct seeding methods. This change in management to no-till will improve soil conservation and the full benefit of irrigation conversion will be realized.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River from 66 irrigated acres.

- The application clearly describes the proposed methodology and anticipated objectives to be achieved. The application contains descriptive maps and photos that demonstrate the steep slope of the area. The bacteria and phosphorus graphs generated from water quality data collected at the bottom of Jacobsen Gulch near the Snake River demonstrate the need for water quality improvement.

- The applicant has a successful history of completing similar projects. This project is located in an NRCS priority area, will tie into a proposed piped lateral (project number 220-5018), and will improve water quality conditions in Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River.

- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project, including NRCS, Owyhee Irrigation District, landowner, and Malheur Watershed Council.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- This application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

- The water right transfer fee for this project has a higher cost compared to similar projects.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch priority area, this project will convert 66 furrow irrigated acres to pivot irrigation. The acreage to be converted has been furrow irrigated for decades and crop rotation includes hay with a row crop rotation every five years. Cattle are pastured in the project area during the late fall, winter, and early spring. Due to the site's steep slopes, occasional row crops, and cattle grazing, summer flood irrigation contributes sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to the Snake River. The conversion to pivot application and direct seed techniques will ameliorate water quality problems originating on this 66-acres project. The applicant is encouraged to seek additional cost estimates for the irrigation system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$55,199

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$55,199

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5006-16979

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Tree Riparian and Wildlife Restoration

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $37,311

Total Cost: $48,169

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is located on the Malheur River where Cottonwood Creek enters the main-stem. It is about 17 air miles to Vale, OR.2) Banks along 600 feet of the Malheur River are vertical, 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.In addition to the bank stability issues, 32 acres of riparian area along the Malheur River and its tributary Cottonwood Creek are dominated by invasive species such as white top and Russian Olive. This weedy vegetation is not providing habitat for wildlife and is not providing optimal filtering for water quality and aquatic habitat.3) We are proposing to stabilize the bank by protecting the toe with 23 pieces of large wood (24in by 20 feet), 77 boulders 3' x 3' x3 ' , planting 300 willow whips, and minor bank sloping (250 cyds).We plan to spray the weeds in the 32 acre riparian area in the Fall of 2019 and in the Spring of 2020 with a combination of Escort (1 oz per acre) and Weedmaster (1 qt per acre). After herbicide treatments, in the Fall of 2020, we will seed with tall Wheatgrass, thickspike Wheatgrass, Basin Wildrye, Alfalfa, birdsfoot trefoil at 11.5 pounds per acre. To further enhance wildlife habitat, we will deep plant 75 wildlife friendly shrubs (dogwoods and wildrose) adjacent to the bank stability work.Approximately 50 Russian Olive trees will be cut, their stumps treated with undiluted Roundup at 1 mL/inch of stump diameter, and the slash will be piled and burned.The bank stability area will be protected by 850 feet of four-strand wildlife friendly fence.4) Partners are the landowner, RSI engineering, Malheur NRCS, Malheur County Weed Department and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Malheur River in the project area has poor water quality, specifically from sediment, nutrients, and bacteria inputs. Stabilizing 600-feet of eroding bank will ameliorate sediment input to the river in the project reach. Improving riparian vegetation conditions along the project area will improve water quality conditions by stabilizing soils, providing shade, and reducing invasive plant species.

- Project costs to stabilize the eroding bank, control weeds, remove Russian olive, install riparian fence, seed, and plant wildlife friendly vegetation are reasonable for the expected ecological benefit.

- Aquatic habitat conditions in this reach of the Malheur River are degraded. The proposed project actions will work towards providing ecological value to improve water quality, fish habitat, and riparian conditions.

- The project area is located in a reach of the Malheur River that has received minimal river restoration work. This conservation action will serve as an example project for other landowners in the area.

- The landowner is committed to fish and wildlife conservation, the applicant has a proven track record of implementing similar restoration work in Eastern Oregon, and certainty of project success is high.

Concerns

- The designs resulting from a previously funded OWEB Technical Assistance grant (#218-5022) lack detail. Bank stabilization activities, including boulder placement and large wood structure, are only generally described and would benefit from further construction, cross-section, and dimension descriptions.

- Broadcasted grass seeding for post weed treatment may not be the most effective mechanism to establish desirable grasses. Further alternatives analysis and discussion as to why this approach was chosen would be helpful to evaluate likelihood of success.

Concluding Analysis

Located on the Malheur River west of Vale, Oregon, the Big Tree Riparian and Wildlife Restoration project proposes to stabilize 600-feet of eroding streambank, control invasive plant species, improve livestock management, improve riparian conditions, and enhance aquatic habitat. The proposed actions have demonstration value in a reach where previous aquatic and riparian restoration efforts have not occurred, yet would benefit from these types of enhancements. With the support of many partners, this application presents a holistic approach to restoring 32 riparian and river acres on the Malheur River. The landowner's initial concern regarding an eroding streambank bank is now being addressed with a restoration project that will address multiple resource concerns.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,311

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5007-16975
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: In A Van Down By the River
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $51,485
Total Cost: $102,883

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The in Van Down by the River project is located approximately 4.5 miles NW of Adrian in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Area. 2. Water quality improvement in the Owyhee Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Owyhee Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts, NRCS, and private landowners have been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 16 years across the Owyhee Basin. 3. The In a Van Down by the River project will implement 1 pivot system and related conveyance infrastructure to convert 27 Acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve water quality in the Lower Owyhee River. 4. Project partners include Old Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS, private landowner, and Owyhee Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located adjacent to the Owyhee River in an area of low gradient slope. Converting the current flood irrigation methods to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in the Owyhee River by reducing irrigation induced runoff and work towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering the Owyhee River from 27 irrigated acres.

- The application clearly describes proposed methodologies and anticipated objectives to be realized, and contains descriptive maps and photos of the project area. The project rationale and need is clear and demonstrated by the reduced field elevation caused by many years of flood irrigation induced erosion.

- The applicant has a successful history of completing similar projects.

- The project is in the NRCS Twilight Water Quality Improvement priority area, and builds on prior projects that have been implemented locally. Water quality monitoring data demonstrates positive improvement to water quality from these previous efforts.

Concerns

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- Clarification information for the water right transfer is needed, including details about the place of use and acreage transferred.

- The application would have been strengthened by placing the project in a watershed context by mapping previous work completed in the Twilight Priority Area.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the NRCS Twilight Water Quality Improvement priority area, this project will convert 27 flood irrigated acres to center pivot application where the crop rotation is alfalfa, corn, onions, and sugar beets. The current flood irrigation method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria directly to the adjacent Owyhee River and the proposed conversion to sprinkler application will eliminate runoff from the 27-acre farm field. The partnership with the landowner, Owyhee Irrigation District, and the Owyhee WC, and working in an NRCS priority area indicates the project is likely to succeed in achieving the expected watershed benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount

$51,485

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$51,485

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5008-16966

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Aussie Dog Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $70,130

Total Cost: $152,005

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The Aussie Dog WQ Improvement project is located approximately 6 miles NW of Ontario in the Jacobsen Gulch Water Quality Improvement Area. 2. Water quality improvement in the Malheur Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Malheur Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts, NRCS, and private landowners have been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 18 years across the Malheur Basin. 3. The Aussie Dog Water Quality Improvement project will implement 2 pivot systems and related conveyance infrastructure to convert 43.5 Acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve water quality in the Jacobsen Gulch drainage and Snake River. 4. Project partners include Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS, private landowner and Malheur Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is two miles from the Snake River in an area with moderate slopes. Converting the current flood irrigation methods to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River by reducing irrigation induced runoff and work towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River from 43.5 irrigated acres.

- The applicant has a successful history of completing similar projects.

- The project is located in an NRCS priority area, will add to the cumulative benefit with other planned projects in the area, and will improve water quality conditions in Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River.

- The water right transfers associated with this project is secured.

- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project, including NRCS, Owyhee Irrigation District, landowner, and Malheur Watershed Council.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design. For example, a standard sprinkler head specification is identified in the irrigation company bid sheets, however, a more specific sprinkler head package may be more appropriate for the intended crop, soil, and field characteristics.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch Priority area, this project will convert 43.5 flood irrigated acres to pivot irrigation. The acreage to be converted has been flood irrigated for decades. The crop rotation includes alfalfa and grain where flood irrigation contributes sediment and nutrients to Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River. The conversion to pivot application will ameliorate water quality problems originating on this 43.5-acres project. Water quality problems in Jacobsen Gulch at the Snake River are demonstrated by the monitoring data included in the application showing elevated phosphorus and bacteria levels during sampling periods. The project is likely to succeed in providing certain water quality benefits to the Snake River. The applicant is encouraged to seek additional cost estimates for the irrigation system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$70,130

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$70,130

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5009-16983
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Horses on the Corner
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $65,674
Total Cost: $116,359

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The Horses at the Corner project is located about 8 miles southwest of Ontario, Oregon and consists of approximately 40 acres of irrigable cropland. It lies within the NRCS 'Valley View Priority Area'. The Horses at the Corner project eventually drains into the Nevada Ditch to be used by other farmers or spilled into the Blanton Drain and into the Malheur River and into the Snake River. Sediments and nutrients that wash off fields are passed onto the downstream users and contribute to overall water quality impairments.The NRCS 'Valley View Priority Area' is located from about 4 miles southwest of Ontario, Oregon, south of OR Highway 20-26 stretching from Cairo Junction 6.5 miles west and approximately 2 miles south. The NRCS 'Valley View Priority Area' consists of approximately 3275 acres with approximately 2000 acres of irrigable cropland. The entire area is in Malheur County.2. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in The Blanton Drain come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical and currently using 100% surface irrigation.3. By installing a partial swipe center pivot with the accompanying solid set sprinklers, pipeline, pump and flowmeter, the landowner will be able to achieve a zero water runoff practice that will enhance the downstream water quality. 1520 feet of open ditch irrigation canal will be covered.4. The partners for this project are the landowner, Malheur County SWCD and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is eight miles southwest of Ontario in the Valley View NRCS EQIP priority Area. Converting the current flood irrigation methods to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in the Malheur River. Reducing irrigation induced runoff will work towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives for the Malheur River.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering the Malheur River from 40 irrigated acres.

- The applicant has a history of completing similar type projects.
- The project is located in an NRCS priority area and will add to the cumulative watershed benefit with other planned projects in the area. When implemented it will help improve water quality conditions in the Malheur River.
- Piping the lateral through the 40-acre field will provide the opportunity for neighboring landowners to benefit from pressurized water delivery.
- The operator on the property has experience with pivot operation and implements cover-cropping techniques, resulting in additional soil conservation benefits.
- Appropriate partnerships support the project, including Malheur SWCD, Owyhee Irrigation District, and the landowner.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.
- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.
- The design approach to irrigate the field's corners where the pivot will not reach will require many sprinklers and ¾-mile of 4-inch pipe that may result in significant maintenance and upkeep.
- The project is in an NRCS priority area, however, NRCS is not identified as a project partner.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the Valley View NRCS EQIP priority Area, this project will convert 40-acres of flood irrigated farm ground to sprinkler application. The acreage to be converted has been flood irrigated for many years. The ground is steep, and converting to a sprinkler application system will reduce sediment, nutrients, and bacteria runoff from the project area into local waterways. The project will achieve water quality benefits to the Malheur River from the upgraded irrigation water delivery system. The applicant is encouraged to seek additional cost estimates for the irrigation system.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

12 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount

$65,674

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5010-16977

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: It Can't Get Much Steeper: Jacobsen Gulch

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $43,850

Total Cost: $58,410

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Jacobsen Gulch -- NRCS priority Area. About 6 air miles to Ontario.2) A 20 acre hay/pasture field is currently being flood irrigated. The water flows off the field and down a extremely steep slope where it enters Jacobsen Gulch and eventually the Snake River. This tail-water is causing several large gullies to form. A significant amount of sediment is being delivered to the Snake from these gullies. And because the pasture is grazed a substantial amount of bacteria and nutrients are in the irrigation tail-water. The Snake River is listed for bacteria, nutrients, sedimentation and other water quality problems. This is a priority project for the Council because of the extreme steepness of the fields, the high levels of sediment, bacteria and nutrients being delivered to the Snake River, and because it is in a n NRCS priority area.3) We plan to convert the 20 acre field from flood to wheel-line sprinklers. This will mean installing ;a 15 hp pump, a VFD,hooking up to the electrical grid, installing 1,800 feet of 6-inch mainline,installing 12 riser assemblies,Using an IRRIPOD irrigation system to irrigate a corner, andinstalling a 1,200 wheel-line.Installing a 1,000 feet of 8-inch 80# pipe to serve as an emergency overflow4) Partners are the landowner, NRCS, and the WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is three miles from the Snake River in an area with steep slopes. Converting the current flood irrigation system to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River by reducing irrigation induced runoff and work towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River from 20 irrigated acres.

- The applicant has a successful history of completing similar projects.

- This project is located in an NRCS priority area. The bacteria and phosphorus data attached to the application substantiate water quality problems in Jacobsen Gulch.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design. For example, details on why wheel lines and an irripod system were chosen over a pivot would provide information to evaluate technical soundness.

- It is unclear why an emergency overflow pipe is needed and the project design does not include a way to shut the water supply off during times of power outage. Additionally, clarity around how the overflow pipe will contribute to irrigation water management in the lower field and how the six inch mainline will irrigate the lower field would have been helpful to understand the project.

- The proposal is not clear on how each of the project components work in relation to each other.

- NRCS is identified as a project partner and is providing project management, yet it is unclear if NRCS is providing cost share. Details around the NRCS financial contributions would be beneficial to understand overall project costs.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch Priority area, this project proposes to convert 20-acres of hay and pasture ground from flood irrigation to wheel line and irripod application systems. Flood irrigation water runs over the hay field, over a steep hill, across a lower pasture, and into Jacobsen Gulch. The irrigation waste water transported to the Snake River contains sediment, nutrients, and bacteria. Monitoring data at the lower end of Jacobsen Gulch confirms poor water quality currently enters the Snake River, providing evidence that eliminating waste water will contribute to water quality improvements. If this project is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide cost estimates from more than one irrigation company; an alternative analysis describing why the selected alternative was chosen; and detail regarding how the irrigation and overflow system will work, why the system will not be designed to shut off during times of power outage, how overflow water will affect the lower pasture, and why the emergency overflow pipe is needed.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5011-17081

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bowerman Ranch Irrigation Improvement

Applicant: Wallowa SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $103,941

Total Cost: $351,816

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in Wallowa County, on the base of Mt. Joseph southwest of the town of Joseph, Oregon. Installation of pivots and a linear machine will address the need for more efficient irrigation systems located on the Bowerman Ranch. The project consists of two main systems. The Field which covers 218 acres and includes 3 pivots and one linear machine and the Pasture which includes one pivot covering 26 acres. The application proposes to install these four pivots and one linear system on currently wheel line irrigated ground resulting in an estimate water savings of 39%. The partners on this project are the landowners, NRCS offering cost share assistance with the EQIP program, and Wallowa SWCD applying for OWEB funding.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Moonshine Ditch is a priority area for the Wallowa SWCD and the NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS).
- The project will improve irrigation efficiency on 244 irrigated acres by converting the current wheel line application methods to a modern pivot application system.
- The project will build upon prior installed irrigation conversion projects located in the priority area. Over the past decade many open ditches have been converted to pipeline conveyance, and outdated application systems have been replaced in the nearby Hurricane Creek, Alder Slope, and Prairie Creek areas.
- Water conserved through this project will either stay in Hurricane Creek or return to the Wallowa River near Joseph. The water rights for this 244-acre project are senior (1901) to many other users that are junior to this right.
- Resulting conserved water from this project that is left in Hurricane Creek will stay instream for several miles and serve as instream water rights held by ODFW.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks detail and clarity, and the budget groups project costs largely into lump sums making it difficult to evaluate whether costs are reasonable and necessary.

- The ecological value of the conserved water is difficult to determine. It is unclear if the conserved water will be left in Hurricane Creek or return to the Wallowa River at the end of the ditch system. Conserving water at the point of diversion on Hurricane Creek carries higher ecological value than returning conserved water to the Wallowa River. The application would have benefited from adding clarity on how conserved water will be managed and allocated.

- Providing a map placing this project in the overall watershed priority area for context would have been helpful.

- The original proposal called for one linear system and three pivots. However, NRCS will not approve a linear installation due to the steepness of the area, and the linear manufacturer will not warranty the linear on steep ground (>5%). The applicant provided clarifying information that indicates the landowner will eliminate the linear in favor of installing four pivots. This modification results in a budget request reduction of $4,714. This project modification does not result in a change in proposed acres that will be converted to a more efficient irrigation system.

Concluding Analysis

Located in a priority area identified by the Wallowa SWCD and NRCS, this project will convert 244 irrigated acres from inefficient wheel lines to pivot sprinkler application systems. The Bowerman water rights are the senior on the ditch, their wheel lines are out-of-date, and they do not have an NRCS approved water management plan. Crop rotation includes small grains, grass hay, and alfalfa. At project completion, the landowner will have an efficient application system that is guided by an NRCS water management plan and informed by soil moisture probes helping the irrigator apply water according to crop needs. The new system will enhance management capability on the 244 acres and provide the opportunity to improve conveyance system operation. This improved system will provide the tools needed to leave water in Hurricane Creek and improve conditions for Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The proposal would benefit from a Moonshine Ditch management plan, specifically documenting how conserved water will be managed and allocated, a more detailed budget, and a map showing the project in context with other conservation actions. If the new irrigation system is managed according to NRCS guidance and the conveyance system is operated to leave conserved water instream, then watershed benefits include improved flow in Hurricane Creek benefiting ESA-listed fish in Wallowa County.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority
15 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$99,227

Review Team Conditions

Revise project application scope of work to reflect the change from 3 pivots and 1 linear machine to 4 pivots, and budget to provide line item details for the 4 pivots and reduced award amount.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5012-17062
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Across the Road
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $127,035
Total Cost: $409,749

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Outside Jordan Valley, near Rome Oregon along Crooked Creek next to highway 95, the landowner proposes to convert rangeland with (4) irrigation pivots. Previously dense sage which impeded cattle and wildlife movement along with crowding out desirable bunch grasses was removed the remaining understory is no mainly Bromus tectorum or commonly known as cheatgrass. The landowner is proposing to re-seed the area and install pivots on the site. 2 pivot sites will be planted with 20 pounds per acre of a grass seed mixture, containing Intermediate Wheatgrass, Meadow Brome and Tall Fescue with a rangeland drill and tractor, 2 other pivots will be planted at 30 pounds per acre to Alfalfa and Tall Fescue adjacent to remaining sagebrush. As the sage grouse flies, this project is located three miles from a known lek. Project partners include: Landowner, Malheur SWCD, OWEB

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Prior work completed by the landowner, including sage brush removal and seeding, is showing positive results. Rangeland seeding has been effective and several native grasses as well as forage kochia are established on the treated area.
- Project area is three miles from a known sage grouse lek.
- The landowner has drilled two wells that could provide upland water for both livestock and wildlife.
- The landowner has a desire to improve the property condition, improve the viability of his operation, and provide benefits for wildlife. The past work completed demonstrates the potential of the property to meet these desired ecological outcomes.

Concerns

- The ecological benefits of the proposed actions are unclear. Benefit to sage grouse is minimal because all of the sage brush is removed. This complete removal of sage brush eliminates habitat diversity, and cover for sage grouse and other wildlife. Installing pivots on the property will likely increase predator risk and reduce benefits to sage grouse because pivots can serve as a raptor perch.

- It is unclear why dryland grasses, including tall fescue, wheatgrass, and brome, will be planted under an irrigation pivot; and the economics of installing irrigation to return the area to native rangeland is difficult to understand. It is anticipated that over time the vegetation under the four pivots will transition to livestock forage crops rather than native upland grasses, which could result in the pivot system not remaining in service of the identified watershed benefit as intended. The technical soundness for needing the pivots to achieve the proposed ecological benefits is unclear from the application.

- There is no evidence that ODFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service are engaged in the project. Letters of support or a wildlife management plan for the project area advised by these wildlife management agencies would have demonstrated support as well as consideration for wildlife values.

Concluding Analysis

South of Rome on Highway 95, the landowner proposes to install four pivot irrigation systems on rangeland where considerable property improvements have been made, including drilling wells and treating native and non-native vegetation. It is evident that many desirable upland grasses have come back following sage brush removal. Plant species proposed for under two pivots include tall fescue, meadow brome, and intermediate wheat grass. The other two pivots will be planted with alfalfa and tall fescue. In areas not covered by pivot irrigation, reseeding grasses and sage brush regeneration is expected to occur. The project likelihood for success is uncertain because it is unclear what ecological benefits will be gained by the proposed actions, and how these action will benefit sage grouse specifically. If the proposal is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to consider focusing the project on reseeding native species, stock water development using the existing wells, methods to manage sage brush that will benefit sage grouse and other wildlife, and seeking partnerships with wildlife agency expertise to maximize opportunities to improve wildlife habitat.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5013-16981
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bergman WQ Improvement
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $53,459
Total Cost: $131,371

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Bergman WQ Improvement project is located approximately 1.5 miles NE of Adrian along the Snake River. 2. Water quality improvement in the Owyhee Basin is one of the top restoration priorities. Water quality improvement is achieved through on-farm irrigation infrastructure improvements and management. Owyhee Watershed Council in cooperation with irrigation districts, NRCS, and private landowners have been systematically improving water quality through irrigation system conversions over the past 16 years across the Owyhee Basin. 3. The Bergman Water Quality Improvement project will implement 2 pivot systems, solid set handlines and related conveyance infrastructure to convert 24 Acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve water quality in the Snake River. 4. Project partners include Owyhee Irrigation District, private landowner, and Owyhee Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located 1,000 feet away from the Snake River in an area of moderate gradient ground slope. Converting the current flood irrigation methods to a sprinkler application system will benefit water quality in the Snake River by reducing irrigation induced runoff and working towards meeting ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will eliminate contaminated irrigation runoff from entering the Snake River from 24 irrigated acres.

- The application is well-written, clearly describes methodologies proposed and objectives sought, and includes descriptive maps of the project area.

- The project provides an opportunity to showcase flood to sprinkler conversions in a location that is difficult to gain landowner participation in voluntary conservation, and could result in possibly recruiting other nearby landowners to implement conservation practices.

- Both proposed pivots will tie into an existing pipeline that was installed to service the adjacent 73-acre pivot. When this pivot was installed the pipe was sized to accommodate the two pivots proposed in the application, which will provide cost savings to this project.

Concerns

-
- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives. The pivot installation is a high cost compared to similar projects, additional information is needed to determine whether the project budget is reasonable.

- It is unclear whether a 5-acre pivot is economically feasible; a wheel line may be a more effective solution.

Concluding Analysis

Located 1,000 feet from the Snake River, this project will convert 24 irrigated acres from flood irrigation to a center pivot application where the crop rotation is alfalfa, corn, onions, and sugar beets. Water from the current flood irrigation method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to the Snake River; the proposed irrigation conversion will improve water quality by eliminating irrigation induced runoff. The project is not located in a priority location, which limits the watershed benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
13 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$53,459

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5014-17052
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Big Sheep Creek Fence III
Applicant: Wallowa SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Wallowa
OWEB Request: $49,928
Total Cost: $73,992

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The project is located in adjacent to Big Sheep Creek in the Upper Big Sheep Creek Watershed (HUC 1706010203) in Wallowa County on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest land. It is approximately 15 miles South East of the town of Joseph. 2. Salmon spawn in the Upper Big Sheep Creek area after August 10th and livestock are not permitted to be in the area during the spawning time. The ranchers have made every attempt to keep livestock out of this area by riding through it at least every other day. Reason the livestock fall into the Sheep Creek canyon after this date are because, but not limited to, gates on roads left open by recreationalist, livestock are chased by predators, or water sources on the hill side are dry. 3. This project is to construct a 4-stand barbed wire fence to keep livestock out of Big Sheep Creek after August 10th when salmon are to begin spawning. The 3.5 mile fence will be a let down fence. The USFS will supply the materials. The permitees will be the ones who contract this fence. There will be a 6-foot clearance on both sides of the fence. One side is to let the fence down and the other is so an ATV can be used for maintenance. Each stretch point will consist of what is called a stretch panel which is needed in a let-down fence. Existing trees will be used if they are in the fence line. T-posts and 2”x3” stays will be used to construct the fence. Gates will be placed in major trails and other areas the permittees feel there needs to be a gate. There is no road directly accessing this fence so materials may have to be packed in via horse or flown in. 4. Partners include:USFS – specifications, flagging fence-line, supplying material, final inspectionPermittees (Marr Flat Association) – help with specification, will contract the fence to be built, and will maintain the fenceSWCD - will manage the grant and inspect the fence

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed fence will keep domestic livestock out of Big Sheep Creek, which has spawning Chinook salmon after August 10th of each year. This improved management action provides significant ecological benefit by minimizing cattle access to Big Sheep Creek and potentially disturbing Chinook redds. Reducing cattle access to Big Sheep Creek during the late summer will further improve riparian conditions and water quality in a reach that is habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead.

- This phase two project builds upon 3.4 miles of fence installed during phase one, which will complete the prescribed seven mile let-down fence.

- Phase one was completed by a partnership that included US Forest Service, Nez Perce Tribe, Bonneville Power Administration, and Grande Ronde Model Watershed. This phase two is a partnership of Wallowa SWCD, US Forest Service, and the permittees. Phase two demonstrates the permittee's commitment to complete the fencing project and fisheries conservation.

- The let-down fence approach is preferred over a conventional fence because it requires less maintenance. Heavy snow loads, falling trees, and elk movement will not compromise the let-down fence to the extent that occurs with a permanently standing fence, and the let-down fence is the appropriate design for this terrain and management objective.

Concerns

- Currently there is no fence on the opposite side of Big Sheep Creek in the actively used adjacent allotment. Cattle can access the stream from this allotment, however, its potential impact to Big Sheep Creek is not articulated in the proposal and could diminish the stream benefits from the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the Imnaha Subbasin in Wallowa County, the proposed let-down fence will further assist in the recovery of Chinook salmon, bull trout, and steelhead populations in Big Sheep Creek. The fence will limit domestic livestock access to the creek after August 10th of each year when Chinook are spawning, and will further improve riparian condition and water quality at a time when cattle are most likely to occupy the riparian area. The addition of the let-down fence to existing cattle management infrastructure will contribute to the recovery of ESA-listed fish species, improve riparian conditions, and has a cost that is commensurate with expected ecological benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,928

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,928

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5015-16959
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Eagle Creek Irrigation
Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $24,760
Total Cost: $319,665

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Eagle Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) near Richland, Oregon, the Eagle Creek Irrigation project seeks to bring together two landowners addressing and converting 191 acres of previously flood irrigated ground to sprinkler (105 acres) and drip (86 acres) irrigation. The irrigation water used at the project site is diverted from Eagle Creek, a fish bearing stream and historical bull trout habitat, to the Kay Young ditch where it travels through a series of earthen ditches to reach both project locations (MAP 3). All flood irrigation runoff returns to the Power River Watershed in Brownlee Reservoir through only 0.5 miles of one continuous unnamed stream (MAP 3), submitting additional debris, sediment, organic and inorganic fertilizers into the watershed. In addition to poor water quality, these two landowners are supporting an inefficient form of irrigation. Through the installation of one center pivot and hand line serving 105 acres and one sub surface drip system serving 86 acres, the landowners will convert 191 acres total to a more efficient form of irrigation. Applying the use of an Irrigation Water Management plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) the landowners will only use what can be held by the soil and what is required to support the crop being irrigated. The landowners have realized the watershed issues that are present, and contacted NRCS and the Eagle Valley SWCD seeking assistance to improve their irrigation practices. Project partners include: NRCS, Eagle Valley SWCD and the two landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality will be improved in the Lower Powder River by eliminating flood irrigation water from 191 flood irrigated acres in the project area. Currently water transports debris, sediment, organic, and inorganic fertilizers to the Powder River and the Snake River.

- Water quantity will be improved in Eagle Creek. Currently the 191 irrigated acres requires 4.6 cfs to flood irrigate. At project completion, water required for the pivot, hand lines, and the drip system will require 3.5 cfs, resulting in a 1.1 cfs reduction. If the conveyance system is managed properly this 1.1 cfs will remain in Eagle Creek.

- This project will serve as a demonstration for innovative practices. Installing a pivot and drip system adjacent to each other provides an opportunity to compare application methods, including amount of water used, ability to irrigate to crop needs, maintenance requirements, and hardware longevity.

- Design and cost estimates are developed by an NRCS engineer. NRCS is interested in testing and demonstrating water conservation benefits of large-scale drip systems in Eastern Oregon and they are providing significant cost share to the project.

Concerns

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- Incorporating a monitoring and evaluation plan to understand the effectiveness of this innovative practice would strengthen the project so that this demonstration opportunity can be used to capture lessons learned and inform other projects.

Concluding Analysis

Located in Lower Eagle Creek, this project seeks to convert 191 flood irrigated acres to efficient pivot, hand line, and drip system practices. Two landowners are involved in the project and NRCS is a significant partner contributing engineering, design, cost estimates, and cost share. Water quantity and quality are expected to improve in the area by reducing the amount of water diverted from Eagle Creek, a bull trout bearing stream. Water quality improvements are expected in the lower Powder River where water currently returns from the 191 acres and degrades water quality in the Powder River. The project will provide water quantity and quality benefits to waterways in the area and work toward achieving DEQ and ODA water quality improvement objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,760

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$24,760

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5016-16964
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Foothill Irrigation
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $131,010
Total Cost: $231,010

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, near North Powder Oregon the Foothill Irrigation project will address 182 acres of flood irrigated hay and pasture ground. Diverted from the North Powder River, the Hutchinson ditch transports water to the project location where it is then diverted into a series of earthen ditches that flood irrigate the property. As flood irrigation is “pushed” across the field it collects sediment, debris, organic and inorganic material adding it to the Powder River Watershed. In addition, flood irrigation requires more water than what is necessary to refill the soil profile in comparison to a pivot system that allows the landowner to apply water only when and where it is needed. The completion of this project will convert 182 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation under the installation of two pivots; one half circle (90 acres) and one full circle pivot (92 acres). Project partners include the landowner and Baker Valley SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality will be improved in the Powder River by converting from flood to pivot irrigation practices on 182 acres in the project area. Currently water transports debris, sediment, organic, and inorganic materials to the Powder River watershed.

- Water quantity will be improved in the North Powder River. Currently the 182 irrigated acres requires 4.5 cfs to flood irrigate. At project completion, water required for the pivots will be 3 cfs, resulting in a 1.5 cfs reduction. If the conveyance system is managed properly, this 1.5 cfs will remain in the North Powder River.

- The SWCD and landowner are filling an irrigation water management need in an area of Baker County that lacks conservation work, in part due to limited NRCS investments.

- The landowner is conservation minded as demonstrated by prior conservation investments and the desire to continue in future phases. Four pivot systems were previously installed, two additional pivots are proposed in this application, and three additional pivots are anticipated in a future phase. The power drop and cable installation will serve both the proposed two pivots and the anticipated third phase.

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- The application is well written and includes maps that effectively describe the project, work area, region, and locations of nearby projects. The proposal budget is detailed, has appropriate unit types, and reasonable unit costs.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

Concluding Analysis

Located in the North Powder River Area, this project seeks to convert 182 flood irrigated acres to an efficient center pivot application system. The area to be converted is steep and the irrigation ditches coursing through the property show signs of significant erosion. The project will eliminate one of the ditches by converting it to a buried pipeline serving both of the proposed pivots. The landowner is motivated to participate in voluntary conservation efforts to reduce erosion and improve irrigation efficiency. The project will have water quality and quantity benefits in the Powder Basin and work towards achieving DEQ and ODA water quality improvement objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$131,010

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$131,010

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5017-16968
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: More Irrigation and Riparian
Applicant: Burnt River SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $78,209
Total Cost: $153,209

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District near Unity Oregon, the More Irrigation and Riparian project will convert 37 acres of previously flood irrigated ground to sprinkler irrigation with the use of one center pivot, install 6,700 feet of mainline to eliminate the use of one ditch, as well as install 4,500 feet of riparian fence to restrict livestock use to the South Fork of the Burnt River. Inefficient irrigation practices have contributed increased sediment loads containing organic and inorganic fertilizers to the Burnt River Watershed causing increased temperature, pH, and algae growth within native fish species habitat. In addition, livestock currently have unrestricted access to one mile of the South Fork of the Burnt River above Unity Dam resulting in unstable stream conditions and riparian areas. To address the use of inefficient irrigation practices, one pivot will be installed converting 37 acres from wheel line and flood irrigation to sprinkler, effectively eliminating irrigation tail water re-entering the Burnt River Watershed. To eliminate the free use of one mile of river bank, 4,500 feet of wildlife friendly fence will be installed to prevent the overuse of riparian areas. Project partners include the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District, Idaho Power Company and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Water quality will be improved in the South Fork Burnt River by eliminating flood irrigation practices from 37 flood irrigated acres. Current irrigation practices contribute sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to the Burnt River. The river has good water quality upstream and proposed actions will maintain water quality conditions further downstream.

- One mile of the South Fork Burnt River will be fenced with wildlife friendly fence to provide improved grazing management in three riparian pastures. The landowner will graze the riparian pastures using high intensity short duration techniques to control decadent vegetation.

- The proposed actions are comprehensive, including irrigation efficiency and livestock management. The landowner is conservation minded, has a history of implementing conservation measures, maintains effective land management practices, and has expressed a desire to enroll the property in a conservation easement. These characteristics demonstrate the likelihood that the irrigation and livestock management improvements will provide significant ecological value and be sustained long term.

- The application is well written, the budget is detailed, and the maps and photos included in the application are descriptive.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this irrigation conversion project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

- Installation cost for the 10-inch mainline seems low compared to similar projects. However, there may be cost savings by placing the pipe in an existing ditch that will reduce excavation cost. Additional information on how costs were estimated would help to evaluate whether costs are reasonable for the proposed work.

Concluding Analysis

Located near Unity, Oregon, along the South Fork Burnt River, the proposed actions will improve water quality and riparian area conditions. Thirty-seven irrigated acres will be converted to a high efficiency center pivot, and one mile of river will be fenced resulting in three riparian pastures improving management capability. The project will result in water quality and quantity benefits as well as one mile of improved riparian conditions and work towards achieving DEQ and ODA water quality improvement objectives. The combination of irrigation water and grazing management provides a comprehensive cost-effective project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$78,209

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$78,209

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5018-16984
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Jacobsen Gulch: It needs piping
Applicant: Malheur WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $83,181
Total Cost: $247,005

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is in the NCRS designated priority area of Jacobsen Gulch. The pipeline is about 4.5 air miles to Ontario and the end of the ditch is about 1 mile from the Snake River.2) Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are being delivered to the Snake River caused by irrigation induced erosion. Research estimates that irrigation induced erosion averages about 20-30 tons per acre per year. This lateral canal serves about 400 acres of crop ground. Potentially these fields could deliver 8,000 to 12,000 tons of sediment each year to the Snake River. Or another way to measure the pollution is by estimating the amount of phosphorus potentially being delivered to the Snake each year. We estimate that number to be about 4,160 pounds of phosphorous each year, Then there are the billions of bacterial colonies from animal waste. The canal itself is a source of sediment to the river. Portions of it are steep and curvy. Because of this, irrigation water flowing through the earthen canal causes erosion. The Snake River TMDL target for Total phosphorus is 0.07 mg/L. To meet this target sources will have to reduce phosphorus inputs by 80% or more.3) We are proposing to: -- pipe 4,220 feet of lateral canal.-- Install 6 turnout assemblies to feed adjacent fields-- Install 6 flow meters.-- Install a screen to debris out of the pipeline.-- Install various kinds of air vents, pressure reducers, valves, and gates. 4) Partners are:-- NRCS-- Owhyee Irrigation District-- Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will convert 400 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve water quality conditions in Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River.

- The applicant has a successful history of completing similar projects.

- This project is located in an NRCS priority area, and the proposed pipeline will tie into OWEB project #220-5004.

- Converting from open ditch to pipeline will reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport into streams in the priority area. Currently livestock have access to the ditch and can contaminate irrigation water quality; converting to pipeline will deliver cleaner irrigation water and improve food safety.

- The application clearly describes the proposed methodologies and objectives to be achieved, and contains descriptive maps and photos that demonstrate the degraded condition of the lateral. The bacteria and phosphorus graphs generated from water quality data collected at the bottom of Jacobsen Gulch near the Snake River demonstrate the need for water quality improvement.

Concerns

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The application lacks an alternative analysis for this piping project that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

Concluding Analysis

Converting an open lateral in the Jacobsen Gulch NRCS Priority Area to pipeline will enable 400 irrigated acres to be converted from flood irrigation to sprinkler application. Installing 4,220-feet of pipeline and related irrigation infrastructure will reduce sediment, nutrients, and bacteria from entering the Snake River, located approximately one mile from the end of the proposed pipeline. Livestock have access to the lateral, which is also eroding; converting to pipeline will eliminate these sources of bacteria and sediment. The project will work towards ODA and DEQ water quality improvement objectives.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$83,181

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$83,181

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5019-16969
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Beaverdam Creek Stockwater
Applicant: Burnt River SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $77,637
Total Cost: $100,627

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located in the Burnt River Soil and Water Conservation District near Hereford Oregon, this project will address water quality and rangeland health. The project site consists of six pastures totaling 2,170 acres, with the only available source of water to livestock consisting of Beaverdam Creek and a series of irrigation ditches all draining directly into the Burnt River. Located on the border of the East side of the property, Beaverdam Creek tends to attract livestock and with no cross fence installed in this pasture, livestock concentrate their grazing in the riparian areas of Beaverdam Creek contributing sediment, debris, inorganic and organic material directly into the Burnt River. In addition to water quality concerns, by not distributing livestock evenly across the landscape grazing patterns have become patchy, where overutilization in some areas and underutilization in others can be seen presenting resource concerns to the rangeland.To address these water quality issues, the landowner approached the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance to establish eight off stream watering locations in six separate pastures and install 4,300 feet of four strand wildlife friendly livestock exclusion fence to establish best use management practices for livestock grazing near Beaverdam Creek. Project partners will include the Burnt River SWCD, Sam Martin (lessee of property) and Mark Skagg (owner of property).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Fencing installed along Beaverdam Creek will provide benefits to the currently overgrazed riparian pasture and necessary infrastructure to improve management. If managed properly, Beaverdam Creek water quality and riparian vegetation will improve.

- Installing the proposed watering system, including water source development, cistern installation, piping, and eight watering troughs, will provide the infrastructure to improve grazing management on the 2,170-acre area.

- Deferring one pasture each year until after seed set will benefit range conditions, domestic livestock, and wildlife by improving forage availability.

- The project is located in sage grouse habitat and there are known sage grouse leks in the area. Benefit to sage grouse is somewhat limited though because the project site is not located in core habitat and none of the leks are currently occupied.

Concerns

- While the map associated with the grazing plan includes details on grazing timing and duration for each pasture, adding Animal Unit Month (AUM) figures to the timing of use in each pasture would be helpful for understanding project effectiveness in providing wildlife benefits.

- While the riparian pasture fence in pasture #7 has the potential to benefit water quality by preventing livestock from accessing the stream, the overall project benefit to watershed health is limited by the flash grazing planned for August 1 to August 15 that could negatively impact vegetative health within the riparian area. Early spring or late fall would be more appropriate times to flash graze the riparian pasture to prevent this impact.

- The grazing plan should include more emphasis on improving riparian condition, monitoring, and adaptive management. There needs to be flexibility in implementing the grazing plan so that ecological benefits and project objectives can be realized.

- Establishing thresholds and triggers, including stubble height or woody vegetation browse, for pasture entry and exit can provide improved results compared to grazing use dates. Establishing a monitoring and adaptive management plan for the property is critical for managing pastures using thresholds and triggers.

- Installing the watering system will improve livestock distribution on the property and this provides the potential to further degrade challenged rangeland conditions. The application lacks a monitoring and evaluation plan to assess the effects of improved grazing distribution.

- The project would be strengthened by adding a planting component in the riparian area, identification of management actions for the riparian area to improve vegetative condition, and monitoring actions to assess results and inform future management.

- The proposal does not provide information on the water source capacity, therefore, it is unknown if the system will effectively serve the amount of livestock on the property.

Concluding Analysis

The Beaverdam Creek Stock water project proposes to improve water quality and rangeland health on 2,170-acres in the Burnt River area. Grazing distribution will be improved by a spring development and stock water distribution to eight troughs combined with a grazing management plan. Pasture #7 along Beaverdam Creek will be fenced and flash grazed to improve riparian conditions and water quality. Each of these actions will provide infrastructure necessary to improve livestock, upland, and riparian management. However, the project lacks key elements necessary to guide improved management. A monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management plan for the riparian and upland pastures is critical to guide management on the property. Without necessary infrastructure, grazing management, and monitoring detail, it is difficult to determine the likelihood for success for this 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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5020-16985
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Elkhorn Wildlife Improvement
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Union
OWEB Request: $47,375
Total Cost: $60,875

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the North Powder Tract of the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area (EWA) consists of 4,557 acres of dense, overstocked stands of coniferous forests including; montane true fir, ponderosa pine, western larch and Douglas-fir. The Elkhorn Wildlife Improvement project will begin the process of addressing these unhealthy characteristics found within the EWA through the thinning of 400 acres. Overstocked forests have created a multitude of problems in the Pacific Northwest; issues consistent with the project site include increased catastrophic fire risks, high levels of insects, disease and decreased wildlife habitat. Anthony Creek and Rodger Creek (Map 2) flow through the project site and would directly impact the Powder River Watershed if a catastrophic event including wild fire and insect/disease mortality were to occur. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has realized these issues and came to the Baker Valley SWCD seeking assistance in acquiring the necessary temporary bridges to complete the thinning project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The 400 acres identified for forest thinning are adjacent to other successful interagency fuels reduction projects, adding continuity of improved wildlife habitat and healthy forest structure that increases the value of this investment.

- Using temporary bridges over streams during forest management operations, such as thinning work, is desirable because they are a less expensive approach compared to permanent road crossings and do not impact water quality like ford crossings.

- The project will be implemented by ODF managing the 400-acre thinning project in the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area in partnership with Baker Valley SWCD. ODF will provide road crossing installation and removal services and the SWCD will act as fiscal agent to procure the temporary crossings. This breakdown of project task allocation provides capacity to successfully implement the project by each entity taking the lead on what they do best.

- Forest thinning will reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and subsequent degradation of water quality in nearby streams.

- The temporary bridges purchased through this project will be made available for use on upcoming planned forest health treatments in Baker County where temporary bridges are not available, further leveraging this investment by providing cost effectiveness on similar future projects.

Concerns

- ODFW is not identified as a partner in the application. ODFW support describing the benefits to wildlife from forest thinning and the benefit of temporary crossings to aquatic resources would strengthen the proposal.

- Since revenue may be generated through the forest thinning activities, a description of why additional funding is needed to procure temporary crossings would provide helpful context to understand the project need.

- The extent of the overall ecological gains expected from the project is unclear to evaluate the watershed cost-benefit. A description of how fish, wildlife, forest conditions, and aquatic resources will benefit from the proposed forest thinning and the acquisition of temporary stream crossings would provide helpful context to evaluate quantified watershed benefits and cost effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis

The Elkhorn Wildlife Improvement project proposes to thin 400 overstocked forested acres in the 4,557 acre North Powder Tract of the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area. The thinning operation will produce 400 log truck loads and this material will be transported out of the area across Anthony Creek and the Coughenour Ditch. Rather than install permanent crossings or ford these waterways, temporary crossings will be purchased. At project completion, ODF would store and maintain the bridges and they would be available for future projects. The availability of temporary crossing would benefit forest management operations in Baker County as demonstrated by their use in neighboring Union and Wallowa Counties.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
16 of 16

Review Team Recommended Amount
$47,375

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5021-17056
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Double Whammy
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $242,861
Total Cost: $402,843

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The Double Whammy project is located about 8 miles west of Ontario, Oregon and consists of approximately 76 acres of irrigable cropland. The Double Whammy project drains into the Butte Drain to be used by other farmers or spilled into the Malheur River and into the Snake River. Sediments and nutrients that wash off fields are passed onto the downstream users and contribute to overall water quality impairments.2. This project is irrigated with waters from two (2) different irrigation districts and will require a water right transfer between the districts as both have agreed. This ground has very steep sandy soils where soil erosion is significant, pivot irrigation seems to be the solution. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in The Butte Drain come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical and currently using 100% surface irrigation.3. By installing two (2) center pivots with the accompanying solid set sprinklers, trash screen, pipeline , pump and flowmeters, the landowner will be able to achieve a zero water runoff practice that will enhance the downstream water quality. 3620 feet of open ditch irrigation canal will be converted to a pipeline.4. The partners for this project are the landowner, Malheur County SWCD, Warmsprings Irrigation District and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The irrigation delivery and application systems in place for the past century in this region consists of storage facilities, earthen delivery canals, and flood application. It is efficient at reusing waste water; however, this water reuse method transports sediment, nutrients, and bacteria to local waterways and is not efficient for soil conservation. The project will convert 76 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality conditions.

- The buried lateral is sized such that it can be extended to irrigate additional properties to the east of the project site if desirable. Currently two adjacent landowners are interested, and this lateral could serve an additional 100 acres, providing similar water quality benefits and leveraging this project investment.

- Two irrigation districts formed a unique collaborative partnership together in support of this project.

- The project is located in a high gradient area where fine soils are present. Eliminating the open delivery ditch, converting the conveyance to a pipeline with an inline cleaner, and installing pivot irrigation will deliver improved quality water to downstream users and the Malheur River.

Concerns

- There is no budget line item for the necessary water rights transfer. The transfer is between two irrigation districts that could be time consuming and costly to complete.

- It is unclear where the solid set sprinklers will be installed. The application narrative references solid sets; however, they are not identified on the maps, in the budget, or in the irrigation company quotes.

- The project cost is high and is not commensurate with the expected ecological benefits. Specifically, the $40,000 inline cleaner and $25,000 automation line items add significant cost. Without an explanation describing why the cleaner will be necessary long term and automation is essential to irrigation function, it is difficult to evaluate whether these costs are reasonable for achieving the project ecological goals and objectives.

- Overall there is a lack of connectivity between the project rationale, proposed actions, and project budget in the application to evaluate the project's likelihood for success in achieving cost-effective quantified watershed benefits.

- The proposal would have been strengthened with inclusion of a vicinity map placing the project in the watershed context.

- The problem statement in the application identifies the project location in an NRCS priority area; however, it is unclear which priority area the project is located in and NRCS is not identified as a partner.

- The project budget is assembled from an irrigation system cost estimate by one irrigation company. It is challenging to evaluate the project's cost effectiveness given the budget is derived solely from one quote. It would have been helpful to see additional costs analysis to determine whether the budget is reasonable and appropriate to accomplish project objectives.

- The application lacks an alternative analysis that would help substantiate the feasibility and effectiveness of the chosen project design.

Concluding Analysis

The 76 flood irrigated acres identified in the proposal are on steep terrain with fine and highly erodible soils where the crop rotation is alfalfa and grain. Current irrigation practices contribute to poor water quality in the irrigation conveyance system and into the Malheur River. Converting from current irrigation practices to efficient pivot and sprinkler application systems will improve water quality in the area. The application lacks clarity and details needed to evaluate the project's likelihood for success. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to include details regarding the water right transfer, solid set sprinkler location and cost, rationale for in-line cleaner and automation, and how field corners will be irrigated; and include a vicinity map, identify what NRCS priority area the project is located in, acquire more than one irrigation company bid, and provide rationale for the chosen 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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5022-17017
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Calf Creek
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $46,593
Total Cost: $63,699

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The project is located within Northern Malheur approximately 85 miles South west of Ontario, Oregon along Calf Creek. 2. Lack of late season water for proper utilization and grazing distributions is the major limiting within the project area. Calf creek is the primary location for cattle to gain access to water. As this is the primary source of water within the area, and due to topography, livestock must travel some distance to gain access to trails before traveling downhill and entering Calf creek. The cattle have to climb back out of Calf Creek with slopes up to 40 % to utilize the uplands after drinking. To alleviate these concerns additional watering locations are required within the uplands and adjacent to the creek.3. The current proposal is to install a spring box and solar pump within private acres. This will be used to convey water to two proposed new watering troughs locations. Two of the new troughs will be located along ridgelines on private ground and a third trough that will be installed at a later date by landowner. 4. Partners include the landowner, and the SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Installing upland water sources away from Calf Creek will improve grazing distribution to the adjacent uplands. Calf Creek water quality and riparian conditions will improve if livestock are managed to meet restoration objectives.

Concerns

- The proposal contains excessive scanned attachments showing materials needed to construct the watering system and this level of description is not necessary for understanding the proposed work, which reduces proposal clarity.

- The project is not located in either core or general sage grouse habitat and the nearest occupied lek is more than 10 miles away, resulting in uncertain benefit to sage grouse.

- The watering system design does not include a cistern, which NRCS requires to meet their standards. NRCS would not fund this project without a cistern serving as an emergency water reserve.

- The proposal lacks a comprehensive analysis of the water rights that specifically details other water rights on Calf Creek, their priority dates, and how those water rights may impact the fish and wildlife benefits from the proposed project.

- The proposal lacks a grazing management plan for both the riparian area and the upland pasture. The riparian area shows significant signs of impact from cattle, including a degraded stream channel, evidence of hoof shear on the stream banks, and a lack of woody vegetation. The adjacent uplands have significant populations of invasive annual grasses, including medusahead and cheat grass. Including a grazing management plan in the application would provide information needed to understand how these degraded conditions will be managed and to evaluate project technical soundness.

- A monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management plan that identifies a monitoring protocol, emphasizes grazing methods that promote ecological objectives, establishes thresholds and triggers for pasture entry and exit, and is flexible to respond to changing pasture conditions would strengthen the project's technical soundness.

Concluding Analysis

The Calf Creek project proposes to install a solar watering system with two troughs to improve rangeland and riparian area conditions on 645 acres in the upper Calf Creek area, a tributary to the Malheur River. Troughs installed in the adjacent uplands will provide the opportunity to improve grazing distribution and reduce grazing impacts in the riparian area. Without proposal clarity on critical management detail and the expected ecological benefits, it is difficult to evaluate the project for technical soundness and likelihood to succeed in providing quantified watershed benefits. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to include a grazing management plan that articulates how livestock will be managed to meet the ecological objectives, a monitoring and evaluation plan, and description of the ecological benefits to both upland and riparian areas.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5023-17032

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Powder River Fish Habitat Survey (Phase 1)

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: $37,783

Total Cost: $52,133

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Fishing is an activity that connects people to the rivers that flow through their communities and by using it as a focal topic, one can increase the awareness of the issues that affect these waterways. Taking measures to improve fishing on the Powder River between Phillips Reservoir and Baker City (Baker County) will have many secondary beneficial effects for the local and regional community, including increased recreational opportunities, improved water quality, conservation of native redband trout and other wildlife, improved riparian livestock management practices and local economic development. Redband trout are widely distributed in the Powder River, but the local fishery is supplemented with hatchery-raised trout. Anecdotal evidence suggests that fishing has declined in Baker City over the last few decades, possibly due to a combination of channel simplification and impaired water quality. The Powder River is currently listed as water quality limited for temperature and bacteria in and around Baker City. As a first step to improve fishing in the Powder River, the Powder Basin Watershed Council is proposing to conduct Oregon Department of Wildlife's Aquatic Inventory (AQI) survey from Mason to Hughes Lane in Baker City to determine where and what types of improvements would be effective at improving fishing for the public and restoring overall river health. The AQI survey consists of reach-by-reach measurements of channel morphology, riparian vegetation and impairments to fish passage. PBWC has partnered with the US Forest Service and Trout Unlimited with support from ODFW, City of Baker, Baker Chamber of Commerce and numerous residents to begin the first phase of this effort.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Utilizing improved fishing conditions as an engagement tool with stakeholders is a creative way to recruit landowners and establish community support; and has already generated significant landowner interest in the project area.

- The strategy employed to focus messaging on improving fishing rather than water quality or aquatic habitat has gathered community support, which is demonstrated by 90 of the identified 200 landowners agreeing to participate in the survey.

- The partnership developed with the US Forest Service, Baker Chamber of Commerce, ODFW, Trout Unlimited, and Baker County residents is diverse and increases the likelihood of success for the project to achieve the proposed objectives.

- The proposed phase one survey will implement ODFW's established Aquatic Inventory Survey (AQI) protocols on 6.5 miles of the Powder River on private properties and on 3.5 miles of the river managed by the US Forest Service, totalling 10 river miles surveyed.

- The project costs to implement the AQI habitat survey protocol, including fish habitat, vegetation, fish passage, and screening data gathering, are appropriate.

- There is a clear need for the proposed technical assistance because the Powder River is a high priority area for water quality improvements for ODA and DEQ, and both agencies have had a difficult time reaching landowners in this area.

Concerns

- The $1,400 line item for fish habitat data analysis may not be sufficient to accomplish this task. However, since this data analysis will be provided as an in-kind contribution from Trout Unlimited and the process to synthesize data is streamlined and will follow ODFW protocol, the $1,400 may be sufficient for the analysis to be successful.

- Since obtaining match funds for identified restoration actions following the analysis may be difficult, there may not be timely implementation of future eligible restoration that result from the proposed technical assistance.

Concluding Analysis

This phase one technical assistance proposal will conduct ODFW's Aquatic Inventory Survey (AQI) survey on the Powder River from Mason Dam through Baker City. This 21-mile survey sets the stage for a multitude of benefits for both the river and the community. By focusing on the recreational benefits of healthy fisheries, the applicant expects to engage more of the local community than would be feasible if they only focused on environmental issues, specifically fish habitat and water quality. The resulting analysis will identify restoration actions within the survey reach and focus on improving aquatic habitat and complexity, riparian improvement, fish passage, fish screening, and water quality improvements. The diverse partnership of the Powder Basin Watershed Council, Trout Unlimited, US Forest Service and ODFW is well equipped to implement the proposed ODFW AQI survey in the project reach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount

$37,783

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

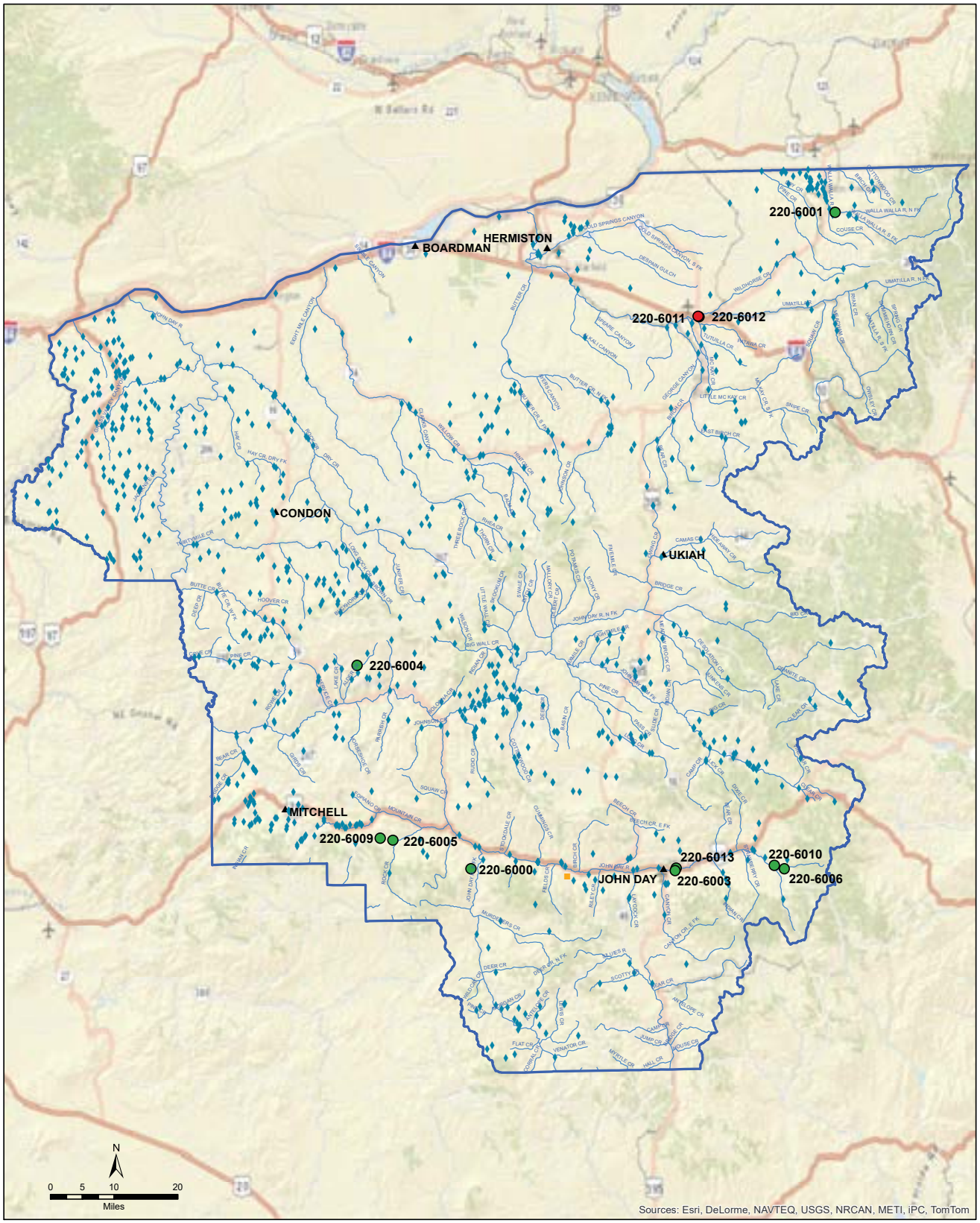
Staff Recommended Amount

$37,783

Staff Conditions

N/A

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Spring 2019 Funding Recommendations



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Funding Recommendations

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

Previous Grants - 1998-Fall 2018

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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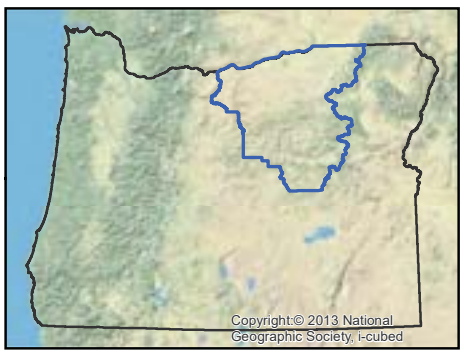

Region 6 - Mid-Columbia Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6003	Grant SWCD	2020 John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	Streamside fencing will protect over two miles of sensitive steelhead streams in the John Day watershed by excluding livestock, feral horses, and elk.	21,350	Grant
220-6005	Wheeler SWCD	Pine Hollow Middle and Upper Restoration	Located on Pine Hollow Creek, a steelhead stream in SE Wheeler County, this project will restore passage for native fish by correcting a culvert removing a barrier and will add instream habitat structures.	122,842	Wheeler
220-6001	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Lampson Habitat Side Channel Entrance Construction	This project will increase available habitat and provide habitat structures for steelhead, spring Chinook, and bull trout on the Walla Walla River upstream from Milton Freewater.	65,529	Umatilla
220-6000	South Fork John Day WC	Johnson-Tunnel Creek Juniper Removal	By removing over 500 acres of juniper, this project will enhance winter feed ground for mule deer on the Phillip Schneider Wildlife Area, west of John Day.	137,720	Grant
220-6006	Confed Tribes Warm Springs	Reynolds Creek Irrigation Efficiency Project	Irrigation improvements will be made on Reynolds Creek, a cold water tributary to the John Day River above Prairie City that supports native fish and improve water quality.	198,345	Grant
220-6004	Bridge Creek WC	Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1	Removing over 600 acres of juniper upslope of Alder Creek in Wheeler County will improve grassland habitat and a water source will be provided for both wildlife and livestock in this semi-arid ecosystem.	131,282	Wheeler
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**677,068**	

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				**677,068**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-6002	Morrow SWCD	Indian Creek Watershed Enhancement	28,635	Morrow

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6009	Wheeler SWCD	Pine Hollow - Shingle Creek Fish Passage	Designs will be developed to remove barriers blocking access to steelhead moving upstream to critical cold water habitat in southeastern Wheeler County.	23,282	Wheeler
220-6010	Confed Tribes Warm Springs	Upper John Day Habitat Project	Partners will assess watershed conditions on 1.5 miles of the John Day River and Reynolds Creek in order to develop designs that will improve native fish habitat, water quality, and wetlands.	74,552	Grant
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**97,834**	

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				**97,834**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-6007	Umatilla SWCD	Umatilla Farmed Smart Program	31,207	Umatilla
220-6008	Umatilla Basin WS Foundation	Umatilla River Floodplain Assessment & Action Plan	49,727	Umatilla

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-6013	North Fork John Day WC	John Day Basin Partnership Stakeholder Outreach Campaign	This project will focus on increasing public awareness of the restoration efforts and opportunities within the John Day Basin.	81,721	Grant
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**81,721**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-6011	Umatilla SWCD	Bank Stabilization Engagement Project	This Stakeholder Engagement project will fund four workshops in Umatilla County covering various conservation tactics to deal with bank erosion.	6,804	Umatilla
220-6012	Umatilla Basin WS Foundation	Umatilla Mainstem Engagement	This project will help inform and engage landowners about an assessment of Umatilla watershed conditions and potential restoration opportunities.	21,158	Umatilla
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**109,683**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Requested**	**County**
None					
Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**856,623**	**9%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,284,183**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6000-17015

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Johnson-Tunnel Creek Juniper Removal

Applicant: South Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $137,720

Total Cost: $201,570

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Johnson-Tunnel Creek Juniper Removal project is located just South of the town of Dayville, Oregon on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area. The Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area was acquired in 1972 to protect and enhance winter habitat for the upper John Day River, Aldrich Mountains, and eastern Ochoco Mountains mule deer population. The wildlife area presently consists of 24,727 acres of deeded land, with 27,200 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land within the area boundaries. The total base of public land within the exterior boundary of the PWSWA is 51,927 acres. The wildlife area protects, enhances, and restores wildlife habitats and ensures public access to thousands of acres of public lands.The Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area Management (PWSWA) Plan lists the #1 Goal, to protect, enhance, and restore range conditions that will provide key winter habitat for mule deer. The PWSWA Management Plan also states that in order to maintain and improve winter range conditions and provide adequate diverse winter habitat for mule deer, the PWSWA staff actively manages native grasses and shrubs. Management of these plant species also benefits a diversity of other wildlife species. Management activities include timber management, juniper removal, weed control, controlled burns, shrub plantings, livestock grazing and the planting of agricultural crops important to wildlife.PWSWA is currently working to improve winter range conditions for the Johnson Creek watershed by contracting 80 acres of Juniper removal, and ODFW themselves have removed 10 acres through their District Juniper Cutting program. Johnson Creek and Tunnel Creek are important mule deer habitat areas due to their Cottonwood and Aspen galleries, numerous groundwater dependent ecosystems or springs, and beneficial grasses and bitterbrush. We are requesting OWEB funding to continue cutting 500 acres of Juniper to compliment ODFW's 90 acres.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project continues active management and conservation traditions on the ODFW wildlife area.
- The application is well-written and the deliverables are clear.
- Juniper treatment sites were prioritized for the biggest ecological impact by identifying the best slopes with deep soils.
- The costs are reasonable for the proposed work and isolated terrain.

- Because of an upcoming timber thinning project, one juniper site was shifted to another suitable location that won't be covered by the timber thinning project.
- Meadusahead rye is an issue on some drier sites, and the applicant and ODFW are interested in incorporating the new herbicide Open Range granular as a treatment.
- The application includes a grazing management strategy.
- Removing juniper will benefit shrub and grasses on the site, especially bitterbrush, a critical winter feed for mule deer and elk.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with inclusion of a long-term juniper maintenance plan.

Concluding Analysis

The ODFW Philip Schneider Wildlife Area has a proven record of managing over 50,000 acres of habitat for not only mule deer but elk, big horn sheep, aquatic species in adjacent streams, and a host of other wildlife. The goal of removing juniper to get uplands back to open forest and grasslands will also reduce fuel loads and help when wildfire rages through these mountains. The applicant is encouraged to place juniper carcasses in the adjacent creeks and drainages on the property to help catch sediment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$137,720

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$137,720

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6001-17023

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lampson Habitat Side Channel Entrance Construction

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $65,529

Total Cost: $338,552

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This Walla Walla River fish habitat project is a second final phase of a prior project. In 2011, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) partnered on an aquatic habitat enhancement project, referred to as the Lampson Project. It occurred on the Walla Walla River (RM 49), approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Oregon. The project included the creation of a perennial side channel and associated inset floodplain. Since then, sediment deposition at the inlet to the side channel has caused the side channel to become disconnected at low flow and annual sediment removal became necessary to maintain a perennial connection. However, sediment removal ceased in 2016 due to permitting requirements. The inlet has now infilled to its current state where the side channel is largely disconnected except during high flow events.In 2018, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funded WWBWC to develop a design that provides perennial flow to the existing side channel for improved rearing habitat and high flow refugia for ESA listed steelhead, bull trout, reintroduced spring Chinook salmon, and other aquatic species, and reduce fish passage issues and stranding potential during low to moderate flows. WWBWC has applied for construction funding from BPA, but additional dollars are needed for project implementation in summer 2020. Construction to include: installation of two new side channel entrances upstream of existing entrance; creation of 389 ft of new side channel tying in to the existing side channel; deepening the upper end of existing side channel to promote new side channel alignment; side channel wood structures to increase habitat complexity, hydraulics, and cover; LWD structures placed along the Walla Walla River streambank as turning structures; engineered turning log structure at existing side channel entrance and grade lowering in existing side channel.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- ESA-listed steelhead, spring Chinook and bull trout will all benefit from this restoration project.
- The project builds on and enhances a prior successful floodplain reconnection project.
- The landowner is enthusiastic about the changes he observed on the ~30 acres of floodplain that was taken out of blueberry production to set aside for wildlife and aquatic habitat.

- The project completes an adaptive management feedback loop by utilizing lessons learned from the original design.
- There is confidence in project success because of the design strategy, applicant capacity and the engineering contractor's successful track record in restoration implementation.
- The side channel habitat is ideal for juvenile rearing for all species and this project will remove the possibility of potential fish stranding issues.

Concerns

- It may be challenging to keep the new side channel entrances open due to sedimentation from natural river processes.

Concluding Analysis

This successful restoration site, originally implemented in 2011, is used to show landowners the benefits of floodplain reconnection along the Walla Walla River, a river that has been substantially leveed and diked. When the side channel was first opened up, fish immediately began utilizing the new stream habitat. Walking around the ~30 acres of floodplain during the site visit, deer were spooked, beaver sign was prevalent, and songbirds were present in high numbers – showing the multi-use habitat of numerous species besides fish. The side channel, fed by a cool source spring creek, will provide rearing habitat for steelhead, juvenile Chinook, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$65,529

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$65,529

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6002-17046

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Indian Creek Watershed Enhancement

Applicant: Morrow SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Morrow

OWEB Request: $28,635

Total Cost: $89,755

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Indian Creek Watershed Enhancement project is in the Chapin Creek/Rock Creek HUC (170702041101) in Southwest Morrow County. The John Patterson property comprises just over 2,000 acres of the nearly 30,000-acre Chapin Creek/Rock Creek HUC. The expansion of western juniper outside their traditional, rim rock/scree slope/boulder field areas from fire cessation and poor land management through the years has juniper numbers exploding. This project proposes to remove 230 acres of Western juniper with assistance from OWEB (115 AC), NRCS Juniper Treatment (40 AC), and NRCS Forest Stand Improvement (75 AC). Juniper will be cut and shredded by the landowner using a compact excavator with mulcher head attachment (All project elements will be done to NRCS standards and specs.). The landowner employs a deferred-rest/rotation grazing plan on the property with good stands of native grasses and solid shrub/forb components still intact. With primarily phase I and early phase II juniper stands, this area should make a sound recovery when treated. The property also has healthy pine forest stands that will thrive once treatment is completed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- On the site visit, it was evident the landowner is interested in improving the ecological condition of his property.

Concerns

- The sites have minimal juniper encroachment. Furthermore, these sites would more likely benefit from a pre-commercial thin in four to five years, which would then also take care of the encroaching junipers.
- There does not appear to be a sense of urgency for implementing the proposed restoration actions.
- The project would be stronger with more partner involvement.

Concluding Analysis

This project is premature both in ecological need and readiness. The benefit/cost ratio for implementing the proposed actions is minimal. It is recommended for the landowner to wait and take out both the small juniper and the encroaching conifers as part of a pre-commercial thin.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6003-17054

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: 2020 John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $53,458

Total Cost: $376,137

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project proposes to support the ODFW Fish Habitat Improvement Program by installing riparian protection fences along sections of Grub, Dans, Orange and Starveout Creeks. Unrestricted livestock access to these sensitive areas has impaired riparian riparian vegetative growth. Projects supported by this proposal will protect almost 4 miles of summer steelhead habitat and over 165 acres of riparian areas. Partners include ODFW, Bonneville Power Administration, Desolation Creek LLC and the Malheur NF.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The ODFW Habitat program is a long-standing program with a proven track record of building many miles of riparian fencing along critical salmonid habitat.
- The identified reaches are tributaries to priority steelhead strongholds and will provide both water quality benefits and enhanced productivity once protected.
- Exclusion fencing will both protect the sensitive riparian and stream areas as well as aiding in the management of livestock in these allotments.
- This project leverages significant investment by BPA.
- Riparian fencing will protect sensitive areas from both ungulate and feral horse browsing, especially in Grub Creek where riparian degradation has been a concern.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application whether USFS's Bark Planning incorporates riparian thinning on these reaches and if the timing for fencing is appropriate.
- Match amounts for staffing appears to cover the entire program rather than just the time necessary for these restoration sites.
- Fence maintenance can be challenging on allotments.

Concluding Analysis

This program has a long history of restoration in the John Day Basin, starting in 1984 and protecting over 230 miles of anadromous fish-bearing streams with 415 miles of riparian fencing. The partnership on the Malheur National Forest is beneficial, with USFS providing fencing materials and taking responsibility for enforcing maintenance of the fence by permittees. The requested amount will be reduced due to the fact one of the proposed sites implements FIP actions in a newly-awarded FIP geography.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$53,458

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Revise budget, scope of work, and metrics to remove components related to the Starveout Creek fence that is not eligible for Open Solicitation because it is located in the FIP geography.

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$21,350

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6004-17064

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Alder Creek Watershed Improvement 1

Applicant: Bridge Creek WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $131,282

Total Cost: $174,468

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Alder Creek watershed is a smaller watershed within the LJD-Kahler Creek HUC in north central 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 605 acres of western juniper, treat 61 acres of weeds, primarily medusahead, reseed 61 acres and develop one spring. Partners include the three private landowners in the watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes grazing management strategies and long-term juniper management plans for all three participating landowners.
- Sites selected are high priority locations with deep soil and north-facing aspects, characteristics that lend a high likelihood of success in improving function, and a healthy understory of grasses and shrubs.
- The sites are all upslope of Alder Creek, an important steelhead stream in the middle John Day Basin. Proposed restoration actions will reduce erosion for cleaner stream flows and increased groundwater inputs.
- The application is well-written and includes maps and photos clearly representing the project sites.
- The ranch's use of best management practices is evident by improved pastures, minimal existence of weeds, and presence of diverse rangeland native plant communities.

Concerns

- The application lacked details about the need for the spring development.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on the momentum gained from landowner outreach and previous OWEB

grants partnering with NRCS in an adjacent basin. This project will expand those grassland improvements, increasing both upland function and habitat for a diverse set of wildlife, including mule deer, elk and bighorn sheep.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$131,282

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$131,282

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6005-17068

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Pine Hollow Middle and Upper Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $122,842

Total Cost: $231,962

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is located along Pine Hollow Creek, a steelhead bearing tributary of Rock Creek, which flows to the John Day River. Located within Wheeler County, the nearest town being Mitchell, Oregon. 2) This project is a holistic continuation of work within the Pine Hollow Creek Watershed to address the limiting factors to watershed health and fish passage. The project will provide much needed habitat complexity on the lower reach of Pine Hollow Creek, correct a significant fish passage barrier, and address juniper encroachment within the headwaters. 3)The project will install Vertical Post Structures (VPSs) and large wood on approximately ¾ miles of Pine Hollow Creek which has recently been enrolled in the ODFW Riparian Fencing Program. It will also correct a major fish passage barrier of a perch culvert. Correction of this culvert will include an additional 0.9 miles of fencing through the ODFW program. With plans to enroll both the recently enrolled and proposed use exclusion areas will be enrolled into CREP the total stream length in CREP will be 1.65 miles. 4)Project partners include USFW Partners Program, the Antone Ranch, the ODFW John Day, and the Wheeler County SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed all concerns noted on the prior grant review evaluation.
- Improvements were made to the designs for fish passage and habitat.
- The new designs remove the potential of the pond being a heat sink and negatively impacting water temperatures of the stream.
- The new landowners provided an improved grazing management plan that incorporates both riparian fencing on the mainstem of Pine Hollow Creek, as well as on the tributaries. This plan indicates a change to livestock use in one section of the riparian area so it is no longer used as a winter feeding area.
- This project builds on watershed restoration work both completed and planned for the future in this watershed.
- New landowners are enthused about restoration and provided a letter of support.

Concerns

- There are additional barriers upstream planned for future restoration once designs are completed.

Concluding Analysis

Pine Hollow Creek, a significant tributary to Rock Creek, has been the focus of restoration for the past several years. Work was successfully completed downstream, including correcting a major fish passage barrier, improving a diversion, exclusion fencing through ODFW habitat program and installing large wood for habitat and complexity. This upstream project will build on and expand those efforts.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$122,842

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$122,842

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6006-17085
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Reynolds Creek Irrigation Efficiency Project
Applicant: Confed Tribes Warm Springs
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $198,345
Total Cost: $785,158

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project is located on Reynolds Creek, approximately 7.9 miles SE of Prairie City in Grant County, OR. Reynolds Creek is the major tributary within the fifth-field Reynolds Creek watershed. The multiple-use point of diversion is located on private land and existing land use includes grazing and irrigated pastures. The point of diversion serves three landowners via the North Reynolds open ditch. The current diversion uses check boards on a lay-flat stanchion to divert water into the head gate and down the ditch. There is a high probability for deterioration at the diversion site and the potential for the fish passage to be blocked, making it hard for juvenile fish to make it up the ladder. The North Reynolds open ditch runs approximately 2.05 miles through three private landowners and serves 98.39 acres, has a total early season cfs of 2.94 and a total late season cfs of 2.07. There is a considerable amount of seepage within the ditch as well as multiple deteriorated turnouts. Due to the inefficiency of this ditch, piping the ditch will conserve instream water that will have considerable impacts to a cold-water tributary. The proposed structure would put the head gate on the outside bend of the creek to create natural scour and prevent sedimentation. This design would provide alluvial passage for salmonid species at all life stages and ensure landowners access to their water right. The existing ODFW fish screen will be utilized for this project. The open ditch would be replaced with two buried pipes sized to landowner's water right with a totalizing flow meter at each property boundary. Project partners are the landowners, ODFW-fish screen maintenance, NRCS-EQIP (RCPP) match for the pipeline implementation, BPA funding for design and diversion, and the Freshwater Trust for water leases and monitoring.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in an area identified as a high priority for restoration and protection by the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, ODFW, and Freshwater Trust, as well as many other conservation groups in the area.
- Freshwater Trust is continuing to work with landowners on water leases along Reynolds Creek to keep more critical cold water instream.
- The proposed design will improve the diversion for fish passage and limit the water users to their legal water right by installing flow meters, piping sized to the water right, and a more efficient method of delivery that converts a leaking upland ditch to pipe.

- Through the RCPP, NRCS will provide irrigation water management plans for all three landowners, provide soil moisture sensors to monitor the appropriate use of irrigation water, monitor seasonal water use, and require a cooperatively managed irrigation system.
- The resulting benefits will impact bull trout, steelhead, spring Chinook, and westslope cutthroat by providing fish passage to 15 miles of cold water habitat upstream on Reynolds Creek. The application notes a barrier at 0.5 miles upstream but during the application review site visit this site was determined to not be a barrier to fish passage.
- Match from BPA, NRCS RCPP, and the landowners indicate the project has a high likelihood of success because there is partner support.
- This project is one of many restoration actions planned for both Reynolds Creek and upper mainstem John Day River. This includes correcting other identified diversion structures that may become problematic.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with the inclusion of a ditch seepage assessment and letters of support from all three landowners.
- The diversion being replaced is functioning but beginning to degrade because the landowner is unable to maintain the structure. The tribes will continue to work with the landowner and monitor the structure for the next ten years.
- An OWRD point of diversion transfer will be required before diversion structure can be built.
- Fish passage during low flows is an issue at one site downstream of the project location.
- While the pipe sizing reduces the need for regulation of the water right, the in-stream benefits could be realized with regulation of the current system.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a win/win for both landowners and fish – both needing access to water. The benefits of keeping passage on this critical and cold water stream outweigh concerns regarding landowner maintenance. One of the downstream water users is exploring a ten-year water lease and a conservation easement; as well as significant floodplain reconnection and habitat work done on their land. On balance, this project provides more landowner than ecological benefits; however, it may provide incentives for neighboring landowners to consider future restoration on reaches of the John Day River and Reynolds Creek, an area where it has been challenging to gain landowner participation in restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$198,345

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$198,345

Staff Conditions

Grant agreement will require the OWRD POD transfer application be submitted with the first fund request.

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6007-16961
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Umatilla Farmed Smart Program
Applicant: Umatilla SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Umatilla
OWEB Request: $31,207
Total Cost: $49,287

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Farmed Smart Program Project will be located within the Umatilla County boundary. Umatilla County has a rich agrarian community, with an estimated 40% of land use dedicated to dryland cropping. The primary crop grown in dryland operations is wheat, with some canola and peas. While Umatilla County supports a wide variety of crops, the dryland community is one of the strongest economic, environmental, and cultural influences in the county. This great influence impacts the county and the state of Oregon as a whole. Environmental impacts are great, especially relating to water quality. While there are a handful of direct seed operations in the county, there is no unifying force to guarantee Best Management Practices (BMPs). In addition, there are many farmers who have dabbled in direct seed or are interested in the operation, but are on the fence due to unclear benefits.The project will reduce soil erosion from tillage practices, implement riparian buffers, and improve water quality through outreach and implementation of the Farmed Smart Sustainable Agriculture certification, created in partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, introducing an already markedly successful program from Washington State within Oregon's borders. The Farmed Smart program will also provide a measure of regulatory certainty for the landowner once ODA and DEQ adopt its tenets (currently in review), and enhance the track record of direct seed farming, as well as increasing marketability of Pacific Northwest dryland crops. Partners include The Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Farmed Smart could encourage implementation of cropland best management practices (BMPs.)
- In order to be certified, farmers would need to show compliance with conservation practices.

Concerns

- The proposal is premature because DOJ, ODA and DEQ have not completed review of the certification process, and there is no guarantee of their approval or if significant changes to the program may be made.
- The application would be stronger with more detail on the Farmed Smart program benchmarks, specific criteria, and references. For instance, from the list of BMP criteria, how many and which ones are required to be eligible for certification.

- The application does not describe a clear link between implementing BMP criteria and resulting water quality benefits expected.
- The application is unclear on whether this project will engage farmers new to conservation or to farmers already doing this type of management. If the 15 farmers selected for certification are already implementing conservation tillage, what additional ecological benefits will be realized by providing an incentive?
- It is unclear whether the 15 farmers selected already have conservation plans designed by NRCS for their farms; and if so, how the new Farmed Smart conservation plans will differ.
- Partners in the basin, such as CTUIR, NRCS, OSU extension, or the USDA ARS, are not included in this effort.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal is premature on several fronts. Waiting for results from state agency review and developing partnerships with agricultural partners in the basin is critical to the likelihood of Farmed Smart program success in Oregon. As designed, this concept is more appropriate as a stakeholder engagement application rather than technical assistance.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6008-17035

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Umatilla River Floodplain Assessment & Action Plan

Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $49,727

Total Cost: $211,727

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Umatilla Basin and partners seek funding for an assessment and stream prioritization along the mainstem of the Umatilla River from the North and South Forks to the town of Nolin, Oregon. This assessment will provide partners with a guide towards prioritizing future restoration efforts on the mainstem of the Umatilla River. Currently, no such document exist for the Umatilla River and partners in the basin feel that it is critical for strategic project implementation in order to provide effective uplift to the system. The project partners are the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla Soil & Water Conservation District, Bureau of Reclamation, and the Umatilla County Public Works.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- An updated assessment on the Umatilla River is encouraged and will be useful in restoration prioritization.

Concerns

- This resubmitted application does not address concerns noted in the prior application review evaluation.
- The project would be stronger with more engagement by ODFW.
- There are no references to how existing data and reports completed on the Umatilla River, such as the Ecosystem Diagnosis and Treatment model (EDT), will be used to support the proposed work.
- More detail on how the resulting data will be shared with natural resource partners or the general public would have been helpful.
- A stronger application would have included more development of coordinated partnerships with detail on the roles of each partner.

Concluding Analysis

Completing an assessment and action plan on the Umatilla River is a worthwhile goal; however, this application does not provide enough information to explain why this technical assistance request is necessary and likely to succeed in completing the assessment.

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-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6009-17071

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Pine Hollow - Shingle Creek Fish Passage

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $23,282

Total Cost: $32,972

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The project is located on Pine Hollow Creek and Shingle Creek in the headwaters of the Pine Hollow Creek watershed. Pine Hollow is a major tributary to Rock Creek on the Antone Ranch. 2. There are three remaining barriers on listed steelhead reaches within the Pine Hollow Creek system. One of those was previously designed for replacement through an OWEB TA grant and is currently being submitted to OWEB for a restoration grant to correct the barrier (Pine Hollow Middle and Upper Restoration). That leaves to remaining barriers which are both on Shingle Creek. There are also two undersized culverts on Pine Hollow Creek above the confluence with Shingle Creek, which are not barriers but could become plugged during spring flows. 3. The project will develop 90% designs for the two barriers and the two undersized culverts. 4. The project partners would include the Wheeler SWCD, OWEB, ODFW, Antone Ranch, and Resource Specialists Inc. (RSI).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This property's new landowner is enthused about restoration and restoring and protecting instream flows for fish, as indicated by his letter of support.
- The application indicates there is interest in exclusion fencing to protect tributaries to Pine Hollow Creek.
- ODFW identified Rock Creek, Pine Hollow and perennial tributaries as priority areas for restoring steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. While the application states fixing this barrier will open up ~½ mile of habitat, steelhead will be able to access and use additional stream habitat during higher flow years.
- The prior ranch owner leased flows instream on Rock Creek and the new owner has expressed interest in doing more instream leases.
- The resulting design will allow the stream freedom to meander.
- A comprehensive grazing management plan designed to improve process and function on both upland and riparian landscapes on the ranch was provided during the site visit.
- The designs will facilitate fixing the last two fish passage barriers on Shingle Creek, as well as two undersized culverts on Pine Hollow.
- The application budget is broken out by work component, and rates and costs are reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The application lacks detail on why the drone survey is critical to the design when existing LiDAR data is already available.
- The match is unusual as it is provided solely by the contractor. However, the budget includes an itemized breakout, providing adequate detail on the contractor's contribution.

Concluding Analysis

Starting with an OWEB-funded stream assessment many years ago, Rock Creek and associated steelhead tributaries have been the focus of restoration. The resulting design from this technical assistance grant will facilitate removing the last remaining fish barriers on the Pine Hollow system and will build on prior restoration activities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$23,282

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$23,282

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6010-17072
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Upper John Day Habitat Project
Applicant: Confed Tribes Warm Springs
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $74,552
Total Cost: $202,101

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper John Day Habitat project is located on private property approximately 7.9 miles southeast of Prairie City in Grant County, Oregon. This project is a large restoration effort split into two phases covering 1.5 miles of mainstem John Day River and 0.5 miles of Reynolds Creek. Phase I (match funded) will encompass the downstream most 0.55 miles of the mainstem John Day river with Phase II covering the remaining 0.95 miles of the mainstem John Day upstream and 0.5 miles of Reynolds Creek. Spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead spawn and rear within the project reach. The current instream, riparian and floodplain habitat within the project reach has been degraded by anthropogenic activities in the valley beginning in the mid-19th century. Specifically, the river channel has been straightened to create additional agriculture land and has resulted in a disconnected floodplain and decreased channel complexity. The project objectives are as follows: increase instream habitat and complexity, expand the riparian vegetation corridor, address incised channel and floodplain connectivity, enhance existing wetlands, improve an existing irrigation diversion (mainstem), replacement of a bridge (mainstem), and ensuring year-round fish passage and habitat for all life stages of Salmon and Steelhead. Due to the size and scope of the project both design and implementation will be split into phases, this proposal is requesting funding for Phase II design. Phase I designs are currently underway and expected to be complete by December 2019. Project partners include: landowners, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (screen), Bureau of Reclamation (bridge design), and Bonneville Power Administration (funding, permitting).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This technical assistance proposal complements a prior project phase that resulted in significant wetland and riparian enhancements, as well as other restoration and protection efforts done in the upper section of the John Day River mainstem.
- The design concept significantly expands existing riparian buffers and reconnects the floodplain, while minimizing flood impacts to landowner structures along the river.
- The application provides clear detail in the technical uploads, including flood inundation maps.
- The design concept includes three design alternatives with a justification on the selected option.

- Steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout will all benefit from the resulting restoration project, located in this high-priority area identified in the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery plan.
- The project will increase the capacity of rearing habitat for spring Chinook.
- The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs plan to conduct intensive monitoring to document changes resulting from restoration efforts.
- Strong partner involvement and support indicate a high likelihood of success.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with letters of support from all involved landowners; especially on the west side property.
- The application and maps provide information on both project phases, which is confusing for understanding the current proposal.
- Flooding may still occur under extreme flow conditions.
- Without landowner buy-in, the resulting restoration project may only occur on one side of the river. The prospective design will also be limited by existing infrastructure.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance request will provide construction-ready designs and alternative discussion on an extensive floodplain and habitat enhancement along the mainstem John Day River, a high value area of cold water refuge for several salmonid species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

$74,552

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,552

Staff Conditions

N/A

Open Solicitation-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6011-16962

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Bank Stabilization Engagement Project

Applicant: Umatilla SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $6,804

Total Cost: $23,296

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Streambank Stabilization Workshops will take place in Umatilla County. Unstable streambanks pose a problem for landowners in the county due to loss of property, while factors such as excess sediment and lack of riparian vegetation overstory are a threat to salmonid habitat. Salmonids require low turbidity and shaded, cool water for spawning. Restoring stream morphology is complex, and regulations and priorities regarding bank stabilization involve environmental, ecological, and hydrologic factors, including floodplain reconnection and disbursement of high flow energy. Currently, information regarding bank stabilization is available but many landowners are unsure of the methods to properly stabilize banks. Landowners therefore commonly stabilize banks improperly and then face fines and must still find a way to stabilize banks to meet regulations. The Umatilla County Soil and Water Conservation District proposes holding four workshops in the city of Pendleton, Oregon. All workshops will be similar in content, but will be held twice per year over two years, and will take place during flood seasons (spring and fall). Representatives from the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of State Lands, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the Oregon Department of Agriculture have been asked to speak at the workshops. Participating speakers will present on the topic of streambank stabilization during the same session in order to provide consistency in information and opportunity will be given to landowners to ask questions. Following the presentations, groups will visit field sites that demonstrate bank stabilization methods, both in compliance and not in compliance with current regulations. Engineers will be available to discuss potential projects with participating landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is well-written, provides a detailed description of goals, and includes letters of support from participating agencies.
- Proposed workshops will include a diverse set of speakers from relevant regulatory agencies, natural resource professionals, and restoration engineers.
- The described stakeholder engagement is timely with the recent high flows and serious bank erosion issues in the county, and offers an opportunity to initiate discussions on restoration and resulting benefits.

- The workshop concept has potential to increase restoration projects in Umatilla County, and possibly be replicated in other basins.

Concerns

- The budget will require some correction as it includes lodging costs for local speakers.
- The focus of the workshops is on “stabilization” rather than restoration. The results of the stakeholder engagement may be limited to projects treating the symptoms rather than the causes of instability. The application should include more details about the opportunities for restoration in the watershed, making it clear that not all stabilization actions are eligible for OWEB restoration funding

Concluding Analysis

With more frequently occurring high flows that result in increased bank erosion, this stakeholder engagement series of workshops are timely. Landowners don’t always know about specific regulations or alternatives addressing eroding streambanks. OWEB stakeholder engagement efforts should focus on restoring watershed process and function (or natural stream function) rather than bank armoring. The applicant secured a diverse set of presenters capable of covering all aspects of riparian and instream methods that help to stabilize river banks and maintain natural stream function.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$6,804

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6012-17034
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Umatilla Mainstem Engagement
Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Umatilla
OWEB Request: $21,158
Total Cost: $33,658

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project focuses on landowner engagement in order to support the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservations efforts to complete a mainstem assessment & action plan on the Umatilla River. This assessment will cover the Umatilla headwaters at the North & South Forks as well as the tributaries Widlhorse, lower Mckay, and the off reservation mainstem stretch of the Umatilla River to the town of Echo, Oregon. This assessment will provide partners with a guide towards prioritizing future restoration efforts on the mainstem of the Umatilla River. Currently, no such document exist for the Umatilla River and partners in the basin feel that it is critical for strategic project implementation in order to provide effective uplift to the system. The tributaries and upper stretch of the Umatilla River were chosen because of the need for project prioritization and additional data for strategic project implementation. Birch Creek was left out because of an existing up to date assessment and action plan that was completed by the project partners in 2016. The project partners are the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla Soil & Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Umatilla County Public Works, City of Echo, and the City of Pendleton.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has a proven track record of engaging partners and landowners, and experience in utilizing social media to get the word out and track interest.
- Umatilla County's secured match indicates they are interested in being involved.
- Previous engagement efforts provided important lessons learned that are incorporated in this proposal.
- The timing is appropriate; with the advent of the Umatilla Mainstem Assessment it is valuable to engage landowners prior to any on-the-ground data gathering.
- The watershed council has taken an active role as a landowner interface for restoration and other watershed related activities, such as this assessment.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on whether this engagement effort will continue if the assessment stalls.
- It is unclear from the application whether there is ODFW involvement or support for this project.
- Some of the application metrics are tied directly to the assessment instead of this Stakeholder Engagement project proposal; other indicators of project success were vague and may be difficult to quantify.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal will focus on landowner outreach along a section of the Umatilla River that has garnered interest from stakeholders for restoration and protection. The watershed council has a proven track record of public outreach and building collaboration amongst partners – even those not usually involved in restoration. Not only will these efforts help foster support and understanding of the assessment and action plan, it will provide an opportunity to discuss restoration alternatives with landowners not familiar with watershed restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$21,158

Review Team Conditions

N/A

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-2019 Spring Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6013-17051

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: John Day Basin Partnership Stakeholder Outreach Campaign

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $81,721

Total Cost: $104,376

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) is a collaborative of 28 organizations working to enhance the pace, scale, and impact of restoration that benefits aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, agriculture, and economic opportunities for communities in the John Day River Basin. The JDBP is finalizing a Strategic Action Plan that identifies and prioritizes "ridge-to-ridge" restoration activities throughout fifteen sub watersheds of the basin. The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) funding focuses outreach on three priority areas (Butte/30 mile creek, Headwaters of the North Fork John Day River and Camp Creek/Middle Fork John Day River) while efforts in this project are aimed at the other 12 non-FIP sub watersheds of the basin.2) The JDBP recognizes that public support and landowner involvement are vital to sustaining the forward progress of restoration in the basin. Targeted outreach that supports land owner collaboration and participation in restoration work is an absolute necessity when working to address limiting factors throughout an 8,100 sq. mile basin that is predominately privately owned and operated. Furthermore, engaging stakeholders in the restoration process is essential for project adaptation that provides maximum value to both working lands and healthy ecosystem function.3) This project provides broad communication support to the JDBP through outreach materials such as newsletters and informational handouts, questionnaires for gauging landowner concerns and interests, hosting informative presentations, and organizing a series of restoration service events for assisting landowners. We will track efforts to maximize effectiveness for receiving and responding to community input and how to best engage landowners for facilitating restoration agreements. Through these avenues, this project will increase public awareness of the JDBP and inform, educate and document landowner cooperation in restoration efforts.4) See attached list of 28 partners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A consistent message about restoration opportunities will benefit all stakeholders in the basin, including Watershed Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, tribes, state and federal agencies, and NGOs.
- The applicant addressed all concerns noted in the previous application evaluation.
- This proposal will expand outreach to cover all the areas outside the JDBP’s Focused Investment Partnership watersheds, taking advantage of the FIP momentum.

Concerns

- This is an ambitious proposal and will need a lot of partner involvement to manage the work load and be successful.

Concluding Analysis

The John Day Basin Partnership has worked over the last four to five years organizing to address natural resource concerns in the John Day Basin for the next 50 years. This stakeholder engagement proposal will reach out to landowners and stakeholders in those watersheds not currently within the OWEB FIP geographic areas – hence creating restoration opportunities for submission to OWEB's Open Solicitation or other funding sources.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$81,720

Review Team Conditions

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$81,720

Staff Conditions

N/A

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J - Proposed Revisions to Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Board-Identified Priorities
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Background

In July 2014, the board initiated a FIP priority-setting process. This process included stakeholder input, review by teams of experts, and ultimately board adoption of seven FIP Priorities of significance to the State at the April 2015 board meeting.

The current board-adopted FIP Priorities are:

- Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- Coastal Estuaries in Oregon
- Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
- Dry-Type Forest Habitat
- Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitat
- Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

FIP administrative rules were adopted by the board in January 2018. Regarding FIP board-identified Priorities, the FIP rules state: "At least every five years, the Board shall approve ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnership Initiatives. Ecological priorities shall be determined with public input and scientific rigor, and shall include maps and narrative describing the desired ecological outcomes for eligible Focused Investment Partnership Initiative activities" (OAR 695-047-0030). Pursuant to this rule, OWEB staff and the focused investments subcommittee of the board initiated an assessment of the FIP Priorities in fall 2018 with the intent of having revised Priorities in place for the next solicitation of Implementation FIP initiatives in January 2020.

II. Proposed FIP Priority Revisions

Based on conversations with the FIP subcommittee, staff recommend the seven priorities remain in place, to provide applicants consistency as the program continues to mature. Within the existing priorities, consistent with the FIP Reassessment Timeline found in Attachment A, staff reviewed the board-adopted FIP Priorities and consulted agency partners who provided information to support the proposed revisions to the Priorities. Revisions are proposed for the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, Coastal Estuaries in Oregon, Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast, and Dry-Type Forest Habitat Priorities at this time.

Attachment B provides a summary of the proposed revisions to the Priorities. Staff held a public comment period from July 18 – August 20 to solicit input on the proposed revisions. A summary of public comment and staff response is provided in Attachment C. Following the public comment period, staff updated each of the Priorities to include the proposed revisions and public comment input as applicable. The updated Priorities can be found in Attachment D.

III. Staff Recommendation

Staff and the focused investments subcommittee are proposing revisions to four of the seven FIP Priorities. Staff do not recommend either eliminating or adopting new Priorities at this time.

Attachments

A. 2019 FIP Priorities Reassessment Timeline
B. Table summarizing proposed revisions to board-identified FIP Priorities
C. Table of Public Comment and Staff Response
D. Updated FIP Priority Memos (including proposed revisions)

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
2019 FIP Priorities Reassessment Timeline

September-November 2018

- Staff discusses Priorities reassessment with subcommittee for input.
- Staff prepares process and timeline for conducting Priorities reassessment review.
- Staff initiates engagement with partnering agencies to assist with Priority review.

November 2018-April 2019

- ODFW conducts Native Fish map update process. ODFW produces a draft map for Staff review by April 30.
- ODFW reviews Coho Priority relative to final OCC recovery plan and potential updates to Priority narrative and map.
- Staff explores ODF Action Plan for Oregon Forests and coordinates with ODF to scope potential updates to Dry-type forest and/or Oak Woodlands Priorities.
- Staff coordinates with ODFW wildlife habitat mapping to update Dry-Forest priority map.
- Staff prepares updated Priorities materials: overview of Priority updates, explanation of ODFW's Native Fish mapping process, inventory of funding request/award for FIP Priorities, and Priority generic results chains to include with Priority memos as available.

May-June 2019

- Staff compiles full package of materials for public comment (including materials listed above).
- Staff shares package of materials for OWEB review.
- Staff shares package of materials for FIP Subcommittee review (June 14 mtg.).
- Staff revises package of materials and prepares for release for public comment.

July-August 2019

- **July 16-17 OWEB Board Meeting**: Staff discuss status of FIP Priorities reassessment. This includes an overview of expectations for presenting final proposed revisions at October board meeting for board approval.
- **July 18 – August 20 Public Comment**: Package of Priorities materials is shared publicly for a minimum 30-day public comment period, including with Oregon Tribes and current FIP grantees.

August-September 2019

- Public comment is considered for additional revisions to updated Priorities. Staff coordinates with ODFW and/or other partners as needed.
- Staff prepares final package of materials, including updated Priorities memos, for presentation to board at October meeting for consideration of approval.

October 2019

- **October 15-16 OWEB Board Meeting**: Staff presents final package of materials, including updated Priorities memos, to OWEB Board for consideration of approval.

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Table summarizing proposed revisions to FIP Board-Identified Priorities, September 2019

FIP Priority	**Proposed Revisions**
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	ODFW reviewed the map in the context of current conservation and recovery plans and consulted with ODFW staff statewide for professional input. Revisions have been made to the following: • Map was revised to focus on 5th field HUCs to increase spatial resolution and improve consistency across the state. • Southwest Oregon basins were assigned priority tiers (previously not designated with priority and identified in aqua color). • Several specific basins were reassessed for priority designation, including Warner, Walla Walla, Pudding, and NW coastal basins containing populations of chum salmon. The Priority memo narrative was updated based on the following: • Stream habitats not covered by state conservation and/or federal recovery plans were also considered in the narrative discussion based on professional judgement of ODFW staff across the state. • Information was reviewed and updated relative to any new and/or revised plans since 2015. • Oregon Tribal plans are referenced relative to conservation/recovery plans guiding native fish conservation efforts. • Lamprey are recognized in the narrative discussion and noted as a benefitting species from conservation work related to this Priority. No lamprey plans were incorporated into the Conservation and Recovery Plans table. The Conservation and Recovery Plans for Native Fish Species table (Table 1) was updated based on the following: • Updated based on new and/or revised plans since 2015. • Added ODFW Rogue Spring Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (2007) and ODFW Conservation Plan for Fall Chinook Salmon in the Rogue Species Management Unit (2013). • Added dates of all plans.
Coastal Estuaries in Oregon	The Priority memo narrative has been updated based on public comment to include both the current and historical extent of estuary habitat as eligible for inclusion in FIP initiative geographies under this Priority.

FIP Priority	Proposed Revisions
Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast	The Priority memo narrative has been updated based on NOAA Fisheries having finalized recovery plans for the Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) and Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery (SONCC) evolutionary significant units (ESUs) since 2015. The Priority memo narrative and map have been updated in anticipation of the planned removal of several major dams on the Klamath River and Coho recolonizing historical habitat in the upper Klamath basin.
Dry-Type Forest Habitat	OWEB Staff worked with ODFW to determine if a species distribution map would align with the existing map illustrating percent of watersheds needing disturbance restoration. After extensive discussion, it was determined not to overlay the species map and to leave the priority map as is. Instead, staff proposes that the Dry-type Forest Habitat priority should be revised to include language that directs FIP applicants under this priority to describe how their actions would benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy Species and/or provide source drinking water protection.
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitat	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.
Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat	OWEB Staff reviewed the priority memo and determined that updates are not necessary.

Summary of Public Comments: Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Priorities 2019 Proposed Revisions

This table outlines public comments received from July 18 – August 20, 2019 regarding proposed FIP Priority revisions.
The complete emails and/or letters containing the public comments are available upon request.

General

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
Marilyn Simpson, Eugene Oregon 7.21.2019	I support FIP priorities.	None.	None.
Ken Diebel, Malheur Watershed Council 8.19.2019	Instead of focusing on aquatic habitat, or Coho habitat, OWEB should consider prioritizing small watersheds to work on. Too often conservation efforts that only restore riparian areas or fish habitat neglect other serious problems in the uplands that affect restoration. Managing a watershed from ridge-top to ridge-top will lead to greater environmental improvement than selecting only a few aspects to work on.	An implementation FIP is designed to invest at a scale that will achieve measurable ecological outcomes. The size of the watershed is not determined by FIP program criteria. A ridgetop-to-ridgetop approach to addressing a habitat problem is encouraged. FIP applications may address more than one board identified ecological priority.	None.
Ken Diebel, Malheur Watershed Council 8.19.2019	The statement "Board Identified Priorities" used in the FIP program goes against years of OWEB tradition that encouraged locals to decide priorities. I think local entities, SWCDs, Councils, local biologists, and landowners should work together to develop proposals selecting the small priority watersheds.	The board identified priorities are based on public feedback, and cover broad geographic areas. It is up to the local entities, working in partnership, to determine priorities within those broad geographic areas.	None.
Ken Diebel, Malheur Watershed Council 8.19.2019	The policy that entities cannot apply for funding to OWEB for projects that occur in a FIP geography for the same restoration actions is not clear. This creates conflict, and the view that some groups are "better" than others. It encourages territoriality and lessens healthy competition.	The policy states that projects that address the same actions and outcomes within a FIP geography cannot apply for open solicitation funding. All partnerships are required to have a process to consider changes to partnership member organizations; rather than encouraging territoriality, the policy is designed to encourage better communication among organizations working within a FIP geography. The evaluation process considers whether the	None.

		partnership includes the right organizations and specifically asks them to address why organizations who may be working in that geography are not included in the partnership.	
Brad Chalfant, Deschutes Land Trust; Ron Nelson, Deschutes River Conservancy; Kris Knight, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council 8.20.2019	The Oregon spotted frog was recently listed under the ESA, and has the potential to create conflict among water users in the Deschutes basin. DLT, DRC, and UDWC will direct collaborative efforts in the future to Oregon spotted frog restoration in the Deschutes basin, in conjunction with shifting water management strategies and Habitat Conservation Planning. OWEB should consider how existing FIP priorities might be enhanced or expanded in the future to include the opportunity for funding for Oregon spotted frog restoration through the FIP program. This may be accomplished by expanding the scope of the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species priority or adding a new priority specific to the Oregon spotted frog and native amphibians.	The geographic area for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species FIP priority was developed utilizing state conservation and federal recovery plans for fish species, which articulate high priority stream reaches and limiting factors for native fish. At this time there is no recovery plan for the Oregon spotted frog. While OWEB recognizes the importance in addressing flow and habitat needs for the Oregon spotted frog in the Upper Deschutes Basin, OWEB staff recommend not incorporating this into the FIP priority Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, nor add a new priority at this time. Staff propose the board gives this topic serious consideration for a new priority during the next round of FIP priority review to occur within the next 5 years. The board reserves the right to reevaluate sooner if recovery guidelines are established for the Oregon spotted frog.	None.

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
Daniel Elefant, Cardno 7.19.2019	I would rank coastal rivers as a higher priority than the upper Willamette. Lots of degradation on coastal rivers that restoration monies could address with relative ease of engineering feasibility. I see that some of the coastal watersheds are high priority but not the mainstem rivers (i.e. Yaquina, Tillamook, Nehalem, Siuslaw, etc.). I do see that the Coho map focuses priority to watersheds, but again not to mainstem	The priority designation process for basins across the state follows a process designed by Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). This process considers state conservation and federal recovery plans and incorporates input from ODFW District Biologists, research staff, Implementation Coordinators, and Conservation & Recovery Program staff in order to further refine the priority	None.

	rivers like the Siletz (high summer water withdrawals) and Tillamook (water quality concerns and lack of riparian veg from dairies and cattle). Could mainstem river prioritizations include an assessment of major current and legacy impairments like water withdrawal pressure, dairy cattle, clear-cuts?	designations. The designation process considers limiting factors outlined in plans, including: water quality, water quantity, habitat connectivity, instream habitat quality, and non-native fish presence. River basins around the state were evaluated against the same criteria, not against other river basins. These criteria include impacts of irrigation withdrawals, agriculture, and timber harvest.	
Bill Bakke, The Conservation Angler 8.7.2019	The Conservation Angler (TCA) appreciates OWEB's investment in native fish habitat through the FIP program. However, TCA believes it is important for the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish priority to set goals for spawner abundance in streams.	The Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species Priority supports conservation actions in accordance with state conservation and federal recovery plans for anadromous fishes and other native fish species. According to FIP administrative rules, one of the evaluation criteria by which partnerships applying for OWEB FIP funding under this Priority will be evaluated is the degree to which the proposed initiative fulfills the Priority. Thus, if the conservation and/or recovery plans outline goals for spawner abundance in streams the partnership is expected to consider those goals in their initiative planning.	None.
Bill Bakke, The Conservation Angler 8.7.2019	The Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish priority should include a distinction between wild and native fish. A lack of definition and goals for wild fish allows for hatchery fish to spawn naturally in streams and adversely impact wild fish genetics, thus degrading the reproductive productivity of wild salmon and steelhead in Oregon.	The intent of this Priority is to support habitat restoration strategies addressing limiting factors, as outlined in state conservation and federal recovery plans. In doing so, the Priority supports restoration for wild, native fish as defined in those planning efforts. Further, while this distinction may be relevant for some native fish species considered in this Priority (e.g. salmon and steelhead in various river basins), it is not relevant to the full scope of native fish species encompassed by the Priority. Not all native fish species included in this Priority have populations supplemented by hatchery fish.	None.

Summary of Public Comments: Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Priorities 2019 Proposed Revisions

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
Daniel Elefant, Cardno 7.19.2019	Oregon estuaries map should also show both current and historical extent of estuaries. For example, the map could utilize this reference: http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/data/estuary-extents/. Showing this layer would be similar to showing the historical distribution of oak habitats and adds much value to the map.	This Priority is intended to include both the current and historic extent of estuaries as eligible to be included in FIP restoration initiatives. OWEB will update the priority memo narrative to reflect this, although the map detailing Oregon estuaries will remain the same. Further, any change in historic vs. current extent of estuaries may be pertinent to a partnership in their strategic action plan and restoration initiative planning and should be considered by partnerships in that context.	Yes.

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
No comment submitted.			

Summary of Public Comments: Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Priorities 2019 Proposed Revisions

Dry-Type Forest Habitat

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
Daniel Elefant, Cardno 7.19.2019	OWEB could become the leading entity for climate change solutions by funding reforestation. Could this be stated explicitly as a focus of the dry-type forest habitat FIP program? Reforestation of lands set aside for conservation is a key climate change solution. You'll love this article: https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/article/climate-changereforestation/	OWEB supports reforestation activities in many of the projects that the agency funds; however in the Dry-type Forest Habitat Priority the intent is to address the uncharacteristically intense wildfires in dry-type forests in a manner that supports wildlife habitat and/or water quality. In addition to climate change, a principle factor driving these types of wildfires is elevated fuel levels in the forests. It is expected that initiatives seeking funding under this Priority will seek to reduce these fuels through management actions including thinning of small-diameter vegetation and introducing prescribed fire to the landscape. These actions will reduce the fuels that contribute to catastrophic wildfire, while preserving older, larger trees species mixed with areas of younger trees.	None.

Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
No comment submitted.			

Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitat

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
No comment submitted.			

Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Priority Revision(s)
No comment submitted.			

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs for **inland aquatic habitat for native fish species** that are identified in **a federal recovery plan and/or a state conservation plan**. Habitat conservation and restoration must achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species guides voluntary actions that address limiting factors related to the protection and restoration of the watershed functions and processes in this habitat type. **Initiatives under this Priority will identify the primary limiting factors outlined in associated federal and state recovery and conservation plans that the initiative is aiming to address, and will be guided by the habitat and population objectives and conservation approaches set forth in these plans** (see Table 1 below for a list of plans).

Focal areas for this Priority (see map below) are defined as those native fish habitats in Oregon that are identified as priorities in associated federal recovery and/or state conservation plans, which are outlined in Table 1. In select cases, habitat needs for state or federal threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that do not yet have a conservation plan were also considered in assigning focal area priority designations. In some cases, priority designations could be drawn directly from state conservation and federal recovery plans, while in other cases professional judgement was needed to assign priorities based on guidance in the plans. Professional judgement included designation and review of priority watersheds by ODFW district biologists, research staff, Implementation Coordinators, and Conservation and Recovery Program staff. Priority designations reflect their knowledge of conservation and recovery plans, implementation needs, and watershed conditions in each of the planning areas, and refine where focused investment is most likely to achieve conservation goals.

For the purposes of this Priority, OWEB Focused Investment Partnership investments will be focused in areas shown in green and yellow on the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species map. Within these identified areas, voluntary restoration and conservation actions are especially encouraged in locations where investments will also address identified non-point source water-quality concerns.

Background

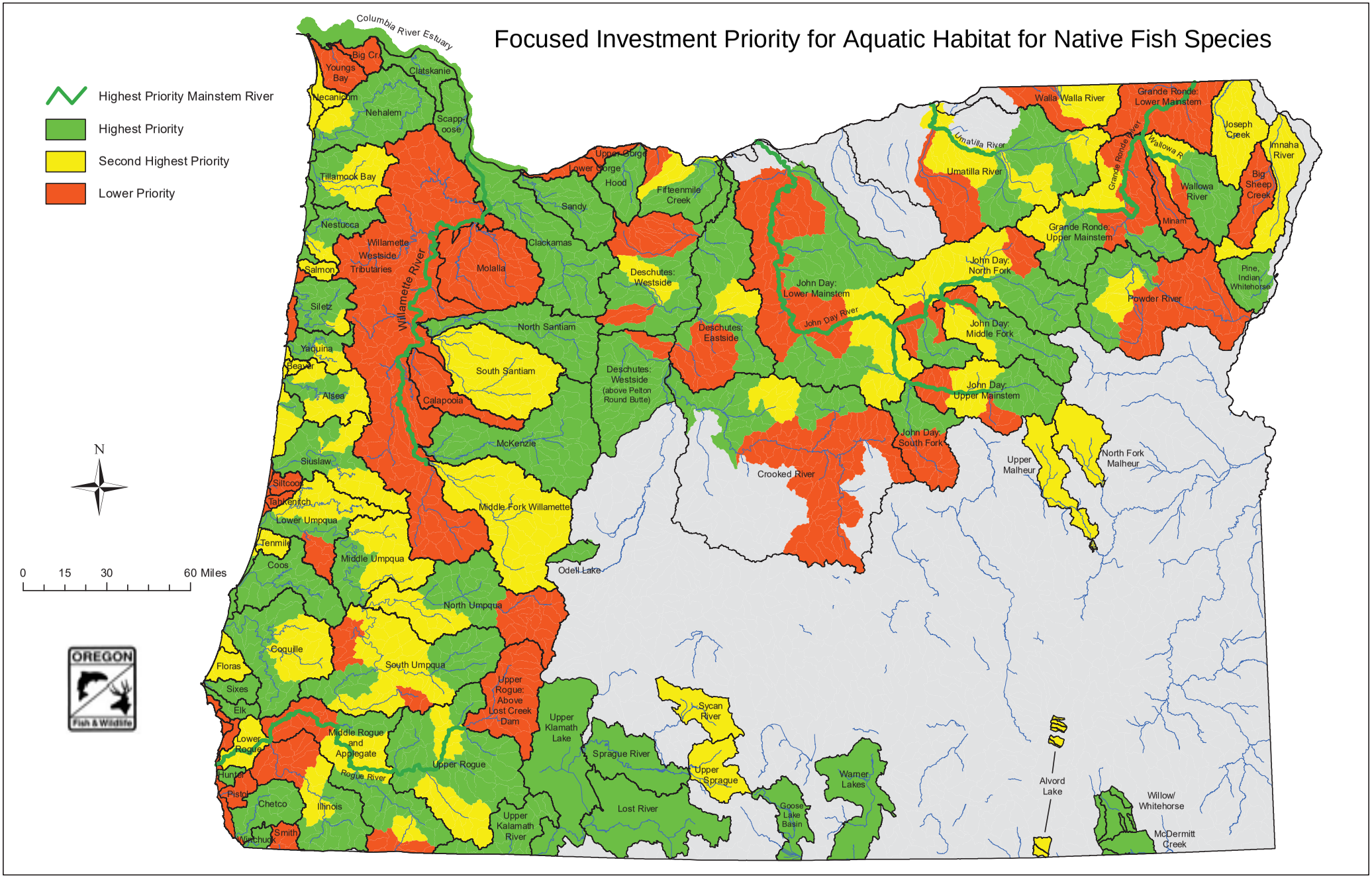
Where it occurs

As defined here, inland aquatic habitats include rivers, streams, floodplains, lakes and tidally influenced waters. These habitats typically contain water year-round. These areas occur around the state and provide essential habitat to many at-risk species, including important spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids.

Oregon's inland aquatic habitats are highly diverse. For example, as described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the headwaters of many of Oregon's rivers are located high in the state's various mountainous areas. In contrast, the eastern half of the state contains several playa lakes, formed when runoff from precipitation and mountain snowpack flows into low-lying areas, then evaporates and leaves mineral deposits.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

Focused Investment Priority for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species



Note: The GIS data used to create this map comes from both State and Federal conservation and recovery plans. Priorities are based on information provided in those plans or professional judgement regarding the potential contribution of populations, watersheds (10-digit HUCs), or mainstem habitats to plan goals.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by these habitats
Several native fish species have been listed or are candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and/or have been identified as threatened, endangered, or sensitive by the state. These species include, but are not limited to: Chinook salmon, chum salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and several species of sucker, lamprey, and chub. Some populations of these species that are not currently identified as threatened, endangered, or sensitive are also a focus of this Priority due to the substantial ecological, economic, and cultural benefits they provide. Specific species to be addressed under this Focused Investment Priority are identified, by geography, in Table 1 below.

In certain instances, the limiting factors and habitat needs of the aforementioned native fish species overlap with coastal coho during at least a portion of their life-cycle. However, because the overlap is not complete, this Priority focuses on the inland aquatic habitat needs for a broader collection of native fish species. This approach ensures that primary limiting factors can be addressed for a range of native fish species that are of significance to the state. Although Pacific lamprey and other native lamprey species are not specifically targeted in this Priority, actions that address limiting factors for the species outlined in Table 1 will also benefit native lamprey species throughout the state.

Why it is significant to the state
Inland aquatic habitat supports an incredible number of Oregon's native fish and wildlife species. The extent of biodiversity in an aquatic habitat is a reflection of the native fish, plants, and other aquatic species (e.g., freshwater mussels, Oregon spotted frogs) present there. All require water, and high-quality aquatic systems provide essential habitat to many at-risk species, including important spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids and other native fishes.

Sustaining aquatic biodiversity is essential to the health of our environment and to the quality of human life. Healthy aquatic ecosystems are imperative for continuing to contribute to Oregon's communities and economy, including fisheries and recreation. Because native fish communities are central to the structure, function, and process within aquatic habitats, they serve as ideal indicator species of the overall health of these habitats.

An excellent example of a successful focused investment effort is the de-listed Oregon chub. This native fish species, which is endemic to the Willamette Valley, is the first fish species to be removed from the federal ESA due to species recovery. Since 1993, significant conservation efforts, partnerships, and funding have addressed Oregon chub habitat, which contributed to the recovery of the fish and ESA de-listing in March, 2015.

Key limiting factors and/or threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process
Proposals must address primary limiting factors for aquatic habitats, as identified in associated federal and state recovery and conservation plans, including:

- Impaired water quality (e.g., temperature and sedimentation), including those factors associated with the loss of riparian and floodplain vegetation;
- Reduced water quantity (e.g., low streamflow and altered hydrology);
- Loss of habitat complexity (e.g., high-quality instream structure and spawning gravel, floodplain connectivity, connected off-channel habitat, presence of pools, and presence of large woody debris);
- Loss of habitat connectivity, including: floodplain connectivity; access to cold-water refugia; and fish-passage barriers that are identified as primary limiting factors for native fish species and as noted by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's statewide fish passage priority list; and
- Spread of invasive species.

Investments for this Priority will focus on addressing primary limiting factors, as described in the plans referenced below in Table 1, with actions such as: 1) in mainstem rivers, reconnecting and restoring floodplain, riparian, side-channel, and tidal habitat; and 2) in tributaries, restoring whole watersheds to address such limiting factors as loss of instream habitat complexity and degradation of riparian areas.

Reference plans

See Table 1 below for species-specific conservation and recovery plans to be addressed under this Priority.

In addition to these plans, Oregon's Native Fish Conservation Policy (NFCP), the state policy for managing native fish, provides guidance to support the implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and Oregon Conservation Strategy. Conservation and recovery plans developed under the NFCP by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and/or in conjunction with federal agencies detail how Oregon proposes to recover ESA-listed native fish species. ODFW has also developed, or is in the process of developing, conservation plans for native fish species that aren't listed under the ESA. Oregon Tribes may also have native fish species recovery plans guiding conservation efforts that can be referenced in developing restoration initiatives under this Priority. All of the plans noted here focus on maintaining sustainable native fish populations that contribute to their ecosystems and provide a variety of recreational, commercial, cultural, and aesthetic benefits.

These plans identify key limiting factors for specific fish species, geographies in which habitat for these species occur, and priority actions that will address limiting factors. While these plans have a species focus, addressing the limiting factors and meeting the goals of each plan supports native fish communities and the ecosystem function of aquatic habitats more generally. Thus, achieving the desired habitat and population objectives within these plans will provide significant ecological, economic and cultural benefits for all Oregonians.

Table 1. Conservation and Recovery Plans for Native Fish Species

USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NMFS = NOAA Fisheries
ODFW = Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Conservation and Recovery Plans	Native Fish Species	Associated Basin(s)
USFWS Recovery Plan for the Threatened and Rare Native Fishes of the Warner Basin and Alkali Sub-basin (1998)	Warner Sucker, Hutton Tui Chub, Foskett Speckled Dace *Co-benefit species: Warner Valley Redband Trout*	Closed Lakes
USFWS Recovery Plan for the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (1995)	Lahontan Cutthroat Trout	Closed Lakes
USFWS Recovery Plan for the Coterminous United States Population of Bull Trout (2015)	Bull Trout *Co-benefit species: Redband Trout*	Deschutes, John Day, Upper Klamath, Lower Columbia, Willamette, Grande Ronde
USFWS Revised Recovery Plan for the Lost River Sucker and Shortnose Sucker (2013)	Lost River Sucker, Shortnose Sucker	Upper Klamath
USFWS Action Plan for Recovery of the Modoc Sucker (1983)	Modoc Sucker *Co-benefit species: Goose Lake Sucker*	Goose Lake
NMFS/ODFW Conservation & Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead DPS (2010)	Steelhead *Co-benefit species: Chinook Salmon, Redband Trout*	Deschutes, John Day, Umatilla
NMFS ESA Recovery Plan for Northeast Oregon Snake River Spring and Summer Chinook Salmon and Snake River Steelhead Populations	Spring Chinook Salmon, Steelhead *Co-benefit species: Redband Trout*	Grande Ronde
ODFW Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010)	Spring and Fall Chinook Salmon, Chum Salmon, Coho Salmon, Summer and Winter Steelhead *Co-benefit species: Redband Trout*	Lower Columbia River
NMFS/ODFW Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead (2011)	Spring Chinook Salmon, Steelhead	Willamette
ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan (2014) *Note: this plan does not assess or address coastal coho, thus differentiating this priority from the Focused Investment Priority for Oregon Coastal Coho Habitat and Populations*	Chinook salmon, Chum Salmon Steelhead, Cutthroat Trout	Coastal watersheds from Cape Blanco to the Columbia River (including Umpqua, Tillamook, many others)
ODFW Rogue Spring Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan (2007)	Spring Chinook Salmon	Rogue
ODFW Conservation Plan for Fall Chinook Salmon in the Rogue Species Management Unit (2013)	Fall Chinook Salmon	Rogue, coastal watersheds south of Cape Blanco

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
COASTAL ESTUARIES IN OREGON

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in Oregon's **coastal estuaries**. The focal area for this Priority is coastal estuaries, including both the current and historical habitat range and associated riparian and upland habitats, which support a multitude of fish and wildlife species. Proposals should outline initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Oregon's coastal estuaries guides voluntary actions that protect and/or restore estuarine habitat at a scale that ensures watershed functions and processes that support fish and wildlife dependent on this habitat type. **Actions will address the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches that yield the greatest productivity across species. The importance of estuaries is noted in several plans, which are listed at the end of this document.**

Background

Where it occurs

Oregon's estuaries exist at the confluence of freshwater rivers and the ocean. The extent of estuarine habitat at these confluences can be determined by the range upon which the ocean maintains a tidal influence on these freshwater rivers (see map).

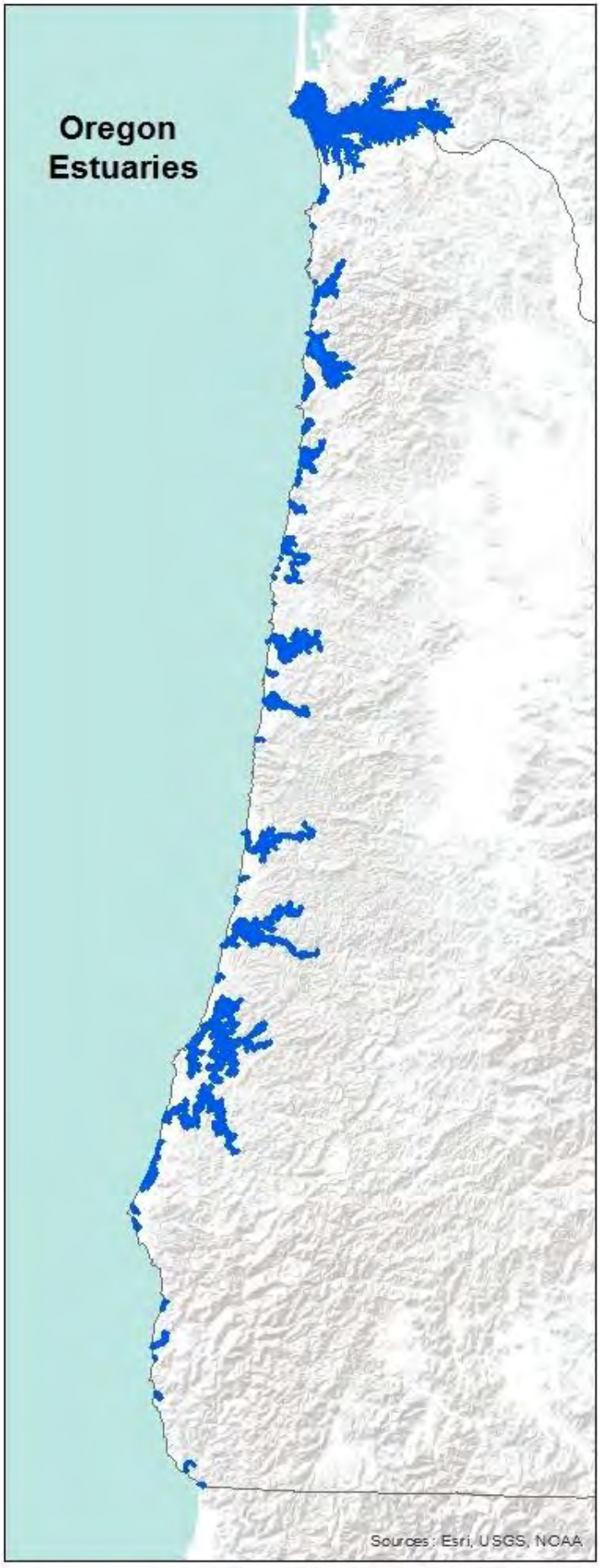
Currently, over 70% of Oregon's estuarine wetlands have been lost, while tidal swamp habitat losses stand at roughly 90% (for estuaries where applicable data is available). A history of anthropogenic alterations to habitat and natural hydrologic processes, including diking, tide gates, dredging, and channelization, among other impacts, has contributed to these habitat losses and impairments.

There are four main subsystems associated with estuaries, including: marine, bay, slough, and riverine. Estuary habitats experience regular fluctuations in salinity, water levels, sunlight, and oxygen. This priority includes restoration and protection of habitat and watershed function and process associated with each habitat type.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Estuaries provide habitat for a multitude of plant and animal species. The unique biophysical conditions found in estuaries as a result of tidal influence and variation in salinity fosters a complex diversity of vegetation and animal species. Such species include salmon and steelhead, crabs and other shellfish, marine mammals, seabirds and migratory birds. It is estimated that the Lower Columbia River estuary alone provides wintering habitat for peak counts of 150,000 waterfowl birds along the Pacific Flyway. In terms of fish species, estuaries provide critical breeding and nursery areas for rockfish, lingcod, and greenling, as well as rearing grounds for juvenile coho, Chinook, and chum salmon. Estuaries also foster large populations of staghorn sculpin, which are a critical food source for foraging migratory and shorebirds. Roughly 75% of Oregon's harvested fish species utilize estuary habitat during some portion or all of their life cycle.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Oregon
Estuaries
Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA

Why it is significant to the state

Estuaries are significant to the state of Oregon for a wide range of reasons. First, in terms of planning efforts, Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 16, titled "Estuarine Resources", strives: "To recognize and protect the unique environmental, economic, and social values of each estuary and associated wetlands; and to protect, maintain, where appropriate develop, and where appropriate restore the long-term environmental, economic, and social values, diversity, and benefits of Oregon's estuaries." Further, the Lower Columbia River estuary and Tillamook Bay estuaries are each designated as an "estuary of national significance" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (two of 28 National Estuary Programs managed under the Clean Water Act). Many Oregon estuaries have Total Maximum Daily Loads developed for water quality in these habitats, as estuaries play an important role in filtering sediment, nutrients, pathogens, and other contaminants from aquatic environments.

Second, estuaries are a necessary habitat that is integral to the existence and success of various ESA listed fish and wildlife species. There are numerous species that are adapted to the unique habitat conditions that estuaries provide and are thus dependent on this habitat type. For example, nearly one-third of the west coast's nesting seabird colonies are located off Oregon's south coast. Additionally, the Klamath Bird Observatory maintains a list of 39 "Important Aquatic Bird Sites," with 24 of these sites located along the Oregon coast in and around estuary habitat.

Lastly, estuaries provide critical services for the people of Oregon. For example, estuaries serve to buffer storm wave damage and help stabilize shorelines from erosion.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Increasing development and land-use conversions;
- Alteration of natural hydrological processes and streamflow, including limited salt- and fresh-water exchange due to such issues as tidegates;
- Water-quality degradation (including increased bacterial loads; decreased dissolved oxygen; and toxic contaminants from industry, agriculture, and urban development);
- Loss of habitat complexity and connectivity degraded tidal areas;
- Invasive aquatic plant and animal species;
- Impacts of climate change (e.g., sea-level rise, increased acidification); and
- Nutrient cycling and sediment transport.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) NOAA Fisheries Columbia River Estuary ESA Recovery Plan Module for Salmon and Steelhead, 2011 (http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/publications/recovery_planning/estuary-mod.pdf)
3) ODFW Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead, 2010 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/lower_columbia_plan.asp)
4) Oregon Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, 2014 (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/CRP/coastal_multispecies.asp)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
COHO HABITAT AND POPULATIONS ALONG THE OREGON COAST

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **Coho habitats and populations along the Oregon coast**, including estuaries, freshwater water bodies, and associated riparian and upland habitats, for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Oregon's coastal coho habitats and populations guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the protection and restoration of the watershed functions and processes that support coho habitat and the health of coho populations. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan, NOAA Fisheries Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan, NOAA Fisheries Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery Plan, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's limiting factors document, which are listed on page three of this document.**

This priority encompasses habitat needs for coho salmon listed in the Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) evolutionarily significant unit (ESU) and the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho (SONCC) ESU. Focal areas for this Priority are coastal habitats identified as high conservation and restoration priorities for Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed coho salmon. For the purposes of this Priority, OWEB investments would be focused in areas shown in green and yellow on the map. Within these identified areas, voluntary restoration and conservation actions are especially encouraged in locations where investments will also address identified non-point source water-quality concerns.

Background

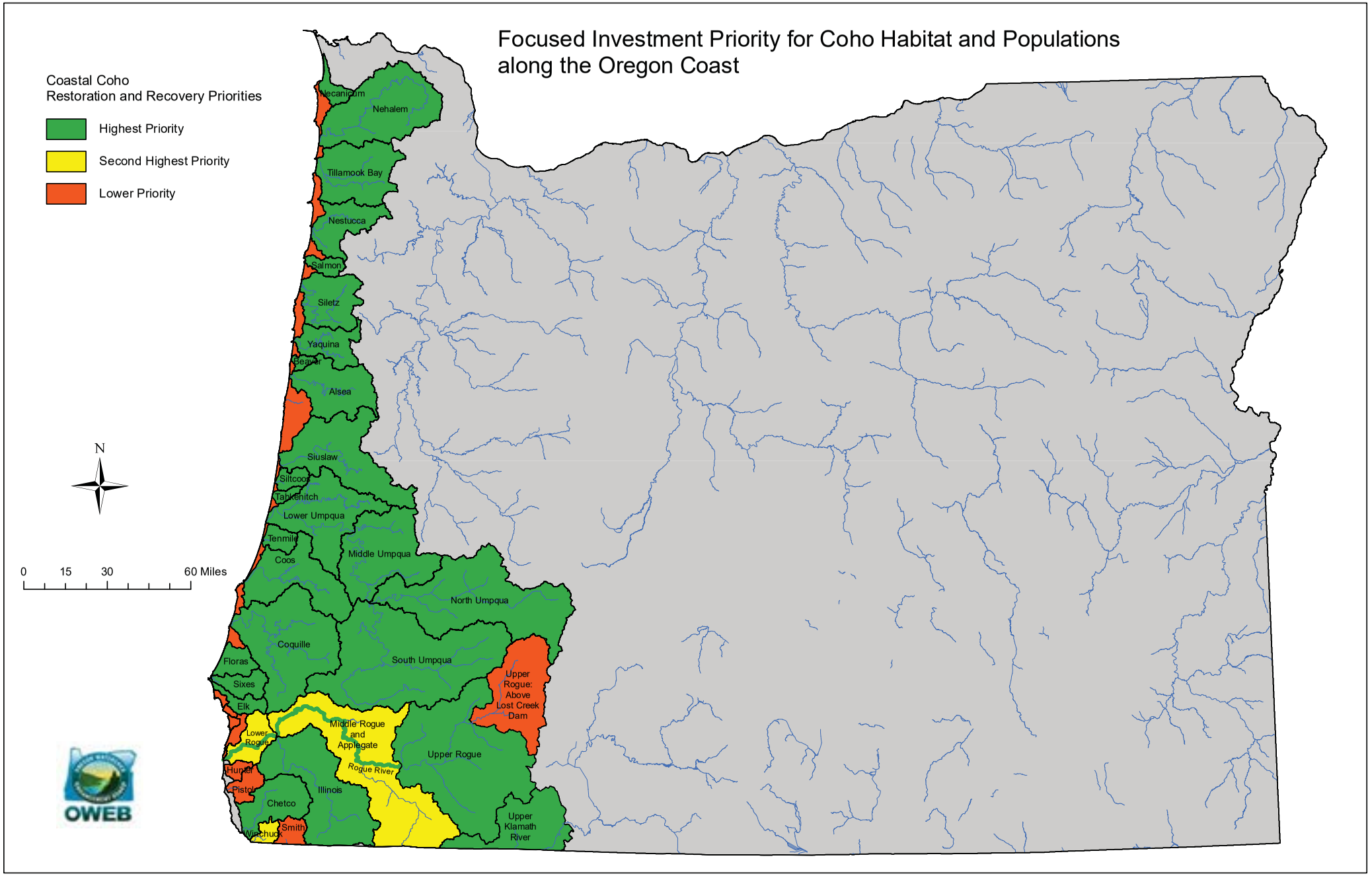
Where it occurs

This Priority includes estuaries, freshwater water bodies, and associated riparian and upland habitats that support coho salmon and are connected to the Oregon coast. This priority includes restoration and protection of watershed functions and processes that increase and maintain instream complexity, good water quality, adequate instream flows, and floodplain connectivity, as well as actions that create and/or maintain an appropriate sediment regime throughout the range of the coho salmon.

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Oregon has two coastal Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) that are listed under the ESA: 1) Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) ESU with 21 independent populations from the Necanicum River in the north and the Sixes River near Cape Blanco in the south, and 2) the Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho (SONCC) ESU from Cape Blanco to the California border with seven independent populations.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.


Focused Investment Priority for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
Coastal Coho
Restoration and Recovery Priorities
Highest Priority
Second Highest Priority
Lower Priority
N
0
15
30
60 Miles
Necanicum
Nehalem
Tillamook Bay
Nestucca
Salmon
Siletz
Yaquina
Beaver
Alsea
Siuslaw
Siltcoos
Tahkenitch
Lower Umpqua
Tenmile
Coos
Middle Umpqua
North Umpqua
Coquille
South Umpqua
Floras
Sixes
Elk
Upper Rogue: Above Lost Creek Dam
Lower Rogue
Middle Rogue and Applegate
Rogue River
Upper Rogue
Hunter
Pistol
Illinois
Chetco
Winchuck
Smith
Upper Klamath River
OWEB

The estuarine and freshwater coastal habitats that coho use also support many other native species, for at least some portion of their life cycle. These species include, but are not limited to: Chinook and chum salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, Western brook lamprey, sculpins, beavers, river otters, and giant salamanders, as well as hundreds of invertebrate species. Work is underway to further assess and refine the list of estuarine species associated with these habitat areas.

Why it is significant to the state

The presence of robust and sustainable populations of coho salmon are an indicator of properly functioning coastal ecosystems and can provide significant social, cultural, economic and ecological benefits to coastal communities. Because water quality has been significantly degraded and instream habitat impacted in areas along the coast, the populations of these fish have declined, thus requiring a federal ESA listing.

Several significant planning efforts have been underway to focus efforts on coho conservation. Oregon has developed a coho conservation plan (Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan) and NOAA Fisheries has developed federal recovery plans for the SONCC and OCC ESUs. In addition, Oregon has been preparing for the reintroduction of coho salmon to the upper Klamath basin through a reintroduction plan (see below) and an implementation plan to be finalized in 2019.

The improvement in conditions and complexity for coastal coho habitat will also lead to improved water quality. Many of Oregon's coastal streams are designated on the federal 303(d) list as "water quality limited," which affects landowners and communities and creates economic impacts. Additionally, recreational and commercial fisheries are also severely impacted by the ESA listing of these fish. Restoring ecosystem function for coastal stream habitats will benefit coho populations, which may help support fisheries over time.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Impaired ecosystem functions that have resulted in decreased quantity and quality of instream complexity and degraded rearing and spawning habitats;
- Lack of habitat connectivity with floodplains;
- Degraded riparian areas;
- Insufficient water quantity/flows during critical flow periods; and
- Degraded water quality (i.e., dissolved oxygen, temperature, bacteria load, sedimentation)

Investments for the priority will focus on addressing primary limiting factors, as described in the reference plans below, with actions such as: 1) in estuaries and mainstem rivers, reconnecting and restoring floodplain, riparian, side-channel, and tidal habitat; and 2) in tributaries, restoring whole watersheds to address such limiting factors as loss of instream habitat complexity and degradation of riparian areas.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan
2) NOAA Fisheries Oregon Coast Coho Recovery Plan
3) NOAA Fisheries Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Coho Recovery Plan
4) Limiting Factors and Threats to the Recovery of Oregon Coho Populations in the Southern Oregon-Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit: Results of Expert Panel Deliberations
5) A Plan for the Reintroduction of Anadromous Fish in the Upper Klamath Basin (ODFW 2008)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
DRY-TYPE FOREST HABITAT

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **dry-type forest habitat** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for dry-type forest habitat guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also support and/or improve watershed functions and processes. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other plans listed on page 3 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are identified in the associated plans as high-priority dry-type forests and the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that these habitats support.

Background

Where it occurs

Dry-type forests exist east of the Cascade Mountains and southwest in the Umpqua and Rogue watersheds of the Siskiyou and Klamath Mountains. This forest type spans 14 million public and private acres in Oregon, constitutes roughly half of all forests in the state, and accounts for approximately 25 percent of the state's land cover. These forests are associated with nine national forests in Oregon and also coincide with land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in southwest Oregon. "Dry-type" is a general term for forests that consist of dry pine forests, dry mixed conifer and moist-cold forests.

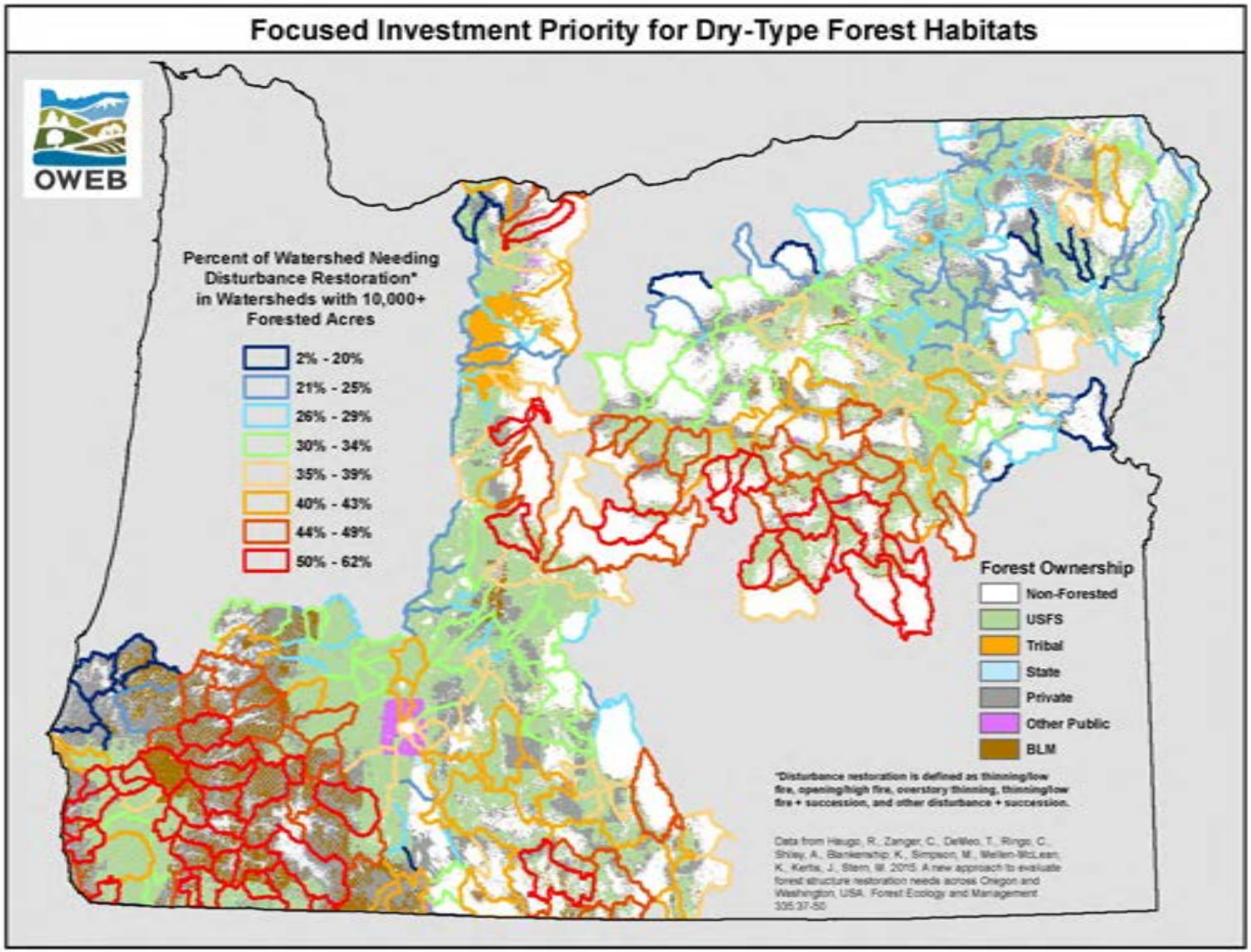
Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Dry-type forest habitat is composed of numerous tree species, including ponderosa pine, sugar pine, grand fir, and Douglas-fir. Historically, these forests experienced more frequent low-intensity fires that would burn off the understory and small trees on a 7-15 year cycle, resulting in a diverse and robust mosaic of older, larger aforementioned tree species mixed with areas of younger trees, stands, and forests. Fire suppression practices in the past century have elevated 'fuel levels' to a degree that has altered forest species composition and succession, and susceptibility to uncharacteristic large wildfires due to the fuel loads. In addition to the building of fuel levels, the change in forest management practices during the last century has reduced diversity of species and age structures, and increased densities of trees within this forest type.

Dry-type forests are critical to healthy watershed function and process. The aquatic habitat within these forested areas closely linked with health of the dry-type forest. Dry-type forest habitats support over 800 fish and wildlife species, including bird species such as the white-headed woodpecker and northern goshawk, and terrestrial species, such as Rocky Mountain elk and mule and white-tailed deer. Dry-type forests also support native fish such as salmon, coastal coho steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout (see related priorities). Conservation actions to protect dry-type forest habitat should be designed in way that limits unintended consequences to aquatic habitats in these areas.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

Focused Investment Priority for Dry-Type Forest Habitats



Why it is significant to the state

Dry-type forests cover vast acreages in Oregon, and are at critical risk for uncharacteristically intense wildfires. These forest systems support a diverse range of aquatic and terrestrial species, including federally listed fish and bird species. Properly functioning dry-type forests are also critical to maintaining healthy watershed function and process for the rivers and other water bodies existing within their habitat range. Dry-type forests are iconic in Oregon, of cultural significance to Native American tribes, and have economic importance related to natural resource based economies in rural communities. In addition, these areas support an increasingly important recreation-based economy in many areas throughout Oregon.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Uncharacteristically intense wildfires as a result of fuel buildup to fire suppression and forest management practices;
- Altered fire regimes resulting in forest densification and changed ecological role of fire;
- Loss of forest structure, age, composition, and habitat connectivity; and
- Vulnerability to threats such as uncharacteristic outbreaks of diseases and insects.

In addition to addressing these key limiting factors and ecological threats, proposals must describe how the initiative will benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy species and/or provide source drinking water protection. Additionally, the Oregon Department of Forestry is expected to adopt a new forest action plan in 2020. With this development, and other advancements in forest fire science that may occur, the board may choose to revise this priority within five years.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp
2) Restoration of Dry Forests in Eastern Oregon
https://www.conservationgateway.org/ConservationPractices/FireLandscapes/FireLearningNetwork/NetworkProducts/Pages/Dry-Forest-Guide-2013.aspx
3) General Technical Report – The Ecology and Management of Moist Mixed-Conifer Forests in Eastern Oregon and Washington: A Synthesis of the Relevant Biophysical Science and Implications for Future Land Management
http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_gtr897.pdf
4) Haugo, R., Zanger, C., DeMeo, T., Ringo, C., Shlisy, A., Blakenship, K., Simpson, M., Mellen-McLean, K., Kertis, J., Stern, M. 2015. A New Approach to Evaluate Forest Structure Restoration Needs Across Oregon and Washington, USA. Forest Ecology and Management 335: 37-50.
http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0378112714005519

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
OAK WOODLAND AND PRAIRIE HABITAT

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **oak woodland and prairie habitats** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for oak woodland and prairie/chaparral habitat guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also will support and/or improve watershed functions and processes. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other plans and strategies listed on page 3 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are identified in the associated plans as high priorities for oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats, and the aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that these habitats support. These areas include oak and associated prairies within the Willamette Valley, the southern Oregon oak and associated chaparral habitat corridor, and oak habitats in the East Cascades.

Background

Where it occurs

Despite a loss of approximately 90% of its historical habitat range since the 1800s, oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats still exist throughout the state. Three types of oak habitats in Oregon are "oak savannah" (5-30% oak coverage), "oak woodlands" (30-60% oak coverage), and "oak forests" (greater than 60% oak coverage). These oak habitats primarily occur in three areas of the state: 1) Oak and prairie habitats of the Willamette Valley ecoregion; 2) Oak woodlands of the East Cascades ecoregion and foothills along the Columbia Gorge, including both Hood and Wasco counties and south to White River; and 3) Southern Oregon oak and chaparral habitats of the Klamath, Umpqua and Rogue River ecoregions.

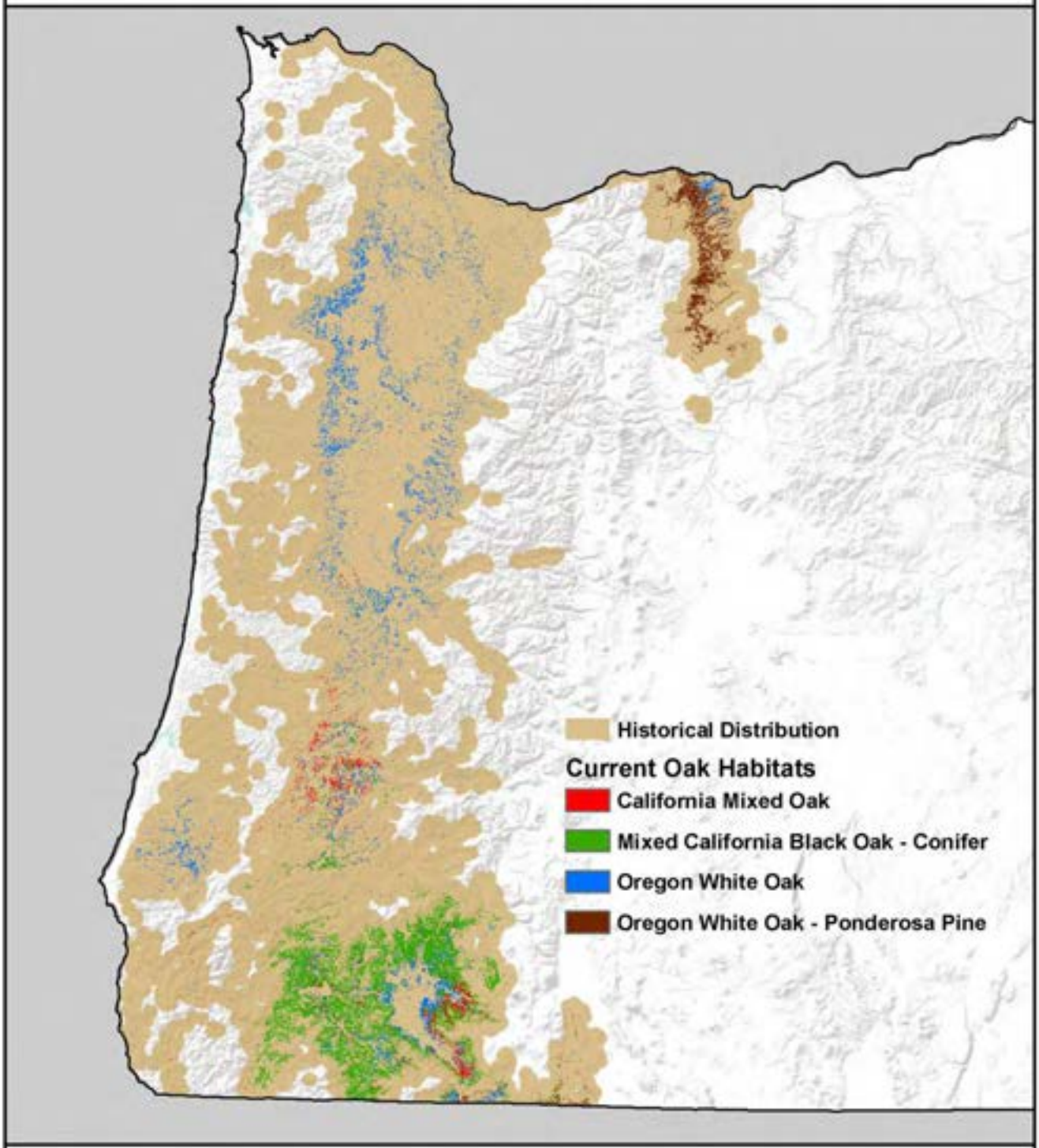
Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

The Oregon white oak is the indicator species for oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats. Species that are supported by these habitats include: streaked horned lark, the Western meadowlark, Lewis' woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, western bluebird, acorn woodpecker, western gray squirrel, Columbian white-tailed deer, Fender's blue butterfly, Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, Kincaid's lupine, and the Willamette daisy, among many other plant species depending on the region. At least seven federally Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species are dependent on these habitats.

Oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats also support aquatic ecosystems that exist within their habitat range. The watershed function and process of these aquatic ecosystems depend on the health of the oak and associated habitats that foster them. These aquatic habitats host inland native fish species, such as salmon, steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout. Conservation actions to protect oak woodland and prairie habitat should be designed in way that limits unintended consequences to aquatic habitats in these areas.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

Focused Investment Priority for Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat



OWEB

Current and Historical Distribution of Oak Habitats in Oregon

N
W E
S

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles

Current distribution of oak habitats was derived from the 2010 Ecological Systems Framework Data Layer. Historical distribution was derived from the Oregon Historic Vegetation Framework Data Layer by buffering historic oak habitat polygons by two miles.

Why it is significant to the state

In a national assessment, oak and associated prairie and chaparral habitats are one of the most endangered ecosystems in the U.S. due to land conversions and altered fire regimes. Yet, these habitats are home to roughly 30 bird, terrestrial, and plant species addressed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Maintaining the connectivity of oaks and their associated prairie and chaparral habitats is crucial to support species utilization of greater habitat range, but also to facilitating the gradual movement of species to the north from California in response to climate change. Many species dependent on oak habitats may be considered for ESA-listing in the future; thus, an increase in habitat connectivity, complexity and acreage will benefit these vulnerable species. In addition, these habitat types are iconic and culturally important to the Native American tribes.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Habitat loss and fragmentation due to land-use conversion (e.g., residential, timber, agricultural);
- Habitat degradation, including shrub-tree and conifer encroachment, invasive species encroachment, and disease such as sudden oak death syndrome; and
- Impaired habitat persistence, due to loss of fire disturbance regimes, over-grazing, and the subsequent lack of recruitment of young oaks.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) Recovery Plan for Prairie species of Western Oregon and SW Washington (USFWS 2010) (http://www.fws.gov/oregonfwo/Species/PrairieSpecies/)
3) Oregon White Oak Restoration Strategy for National Forest System Lands East of the Cascade Range (USFS 2013) (http://ecoshare.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/Oak_Strategy_draft_3-6-13_FINAL_HQ.pdf)
4) Northwest Power and Conservation Council – Willamette Subbasin Plan (https://www.nwcouncil.org/fw/subbasinplanning/willamette/plan)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
OREGON CLOSED LAKES BASIN WETLAND HABITATS

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in the **Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitats** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitats guides voluntary actions that address primary limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also will support and/or improve watershed functions and processes. **These actions will be guided by the habitat, limiting factors, ecological outcomes, and conservation approaches outlined in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Intermountain Joint Venture's (IWJV) Habitat Conservation Strategy Implementation Plan, which are listed on page 4 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are identified as high-priority wetland and floodplain habitat for migratory and resident bird and native fish species in the associated plans. These areas exist within the Oregon portion of the Closed Lakes Basin area (within Harney, Lake and a small portion of Malheur counties).

Background

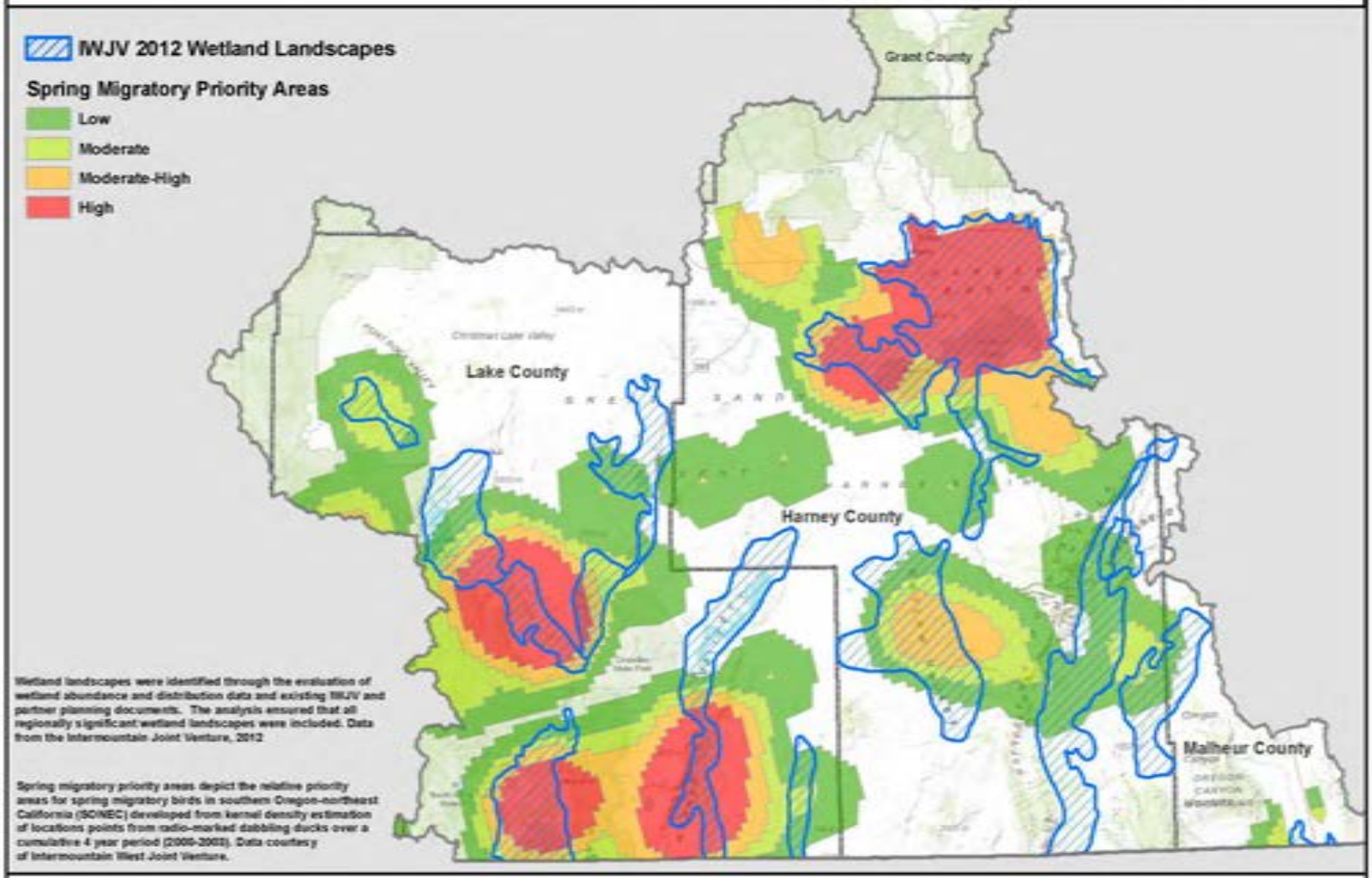
Where it occurs

The Closed Lakes Basin wetlands exist within the Southern Oregon Northeast California (SONEC) region, which is a portion of the Closed Lakes network within the Great Basin (see map). The SONEC region geography and habitat has been defined by the IWJV and in the federal North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The Closed Lakes Basin within the SONEC region is an important part of the intercontinental Pacific Flyway. Within the SONEC region, 75% of wetland habitat is located on private lands, most of which is managed as flood-irrigated hay and pastureland. These areas also support native fish species, including ESA-listed sucker fish.

In Oregon, Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitat exists primarily in Lake and Harney Counties (including Malheur National Wildlife Refuge), with a small portion in Malheur County. Closed Lakes Basin wetland habitats include shallow lakes and marshes, wet meadows, and irrigated pasturelands. Many of the managed wetland/pastures exist in the floodplain of tributaries and lakes in the area. Closed Lakes Basin wetlands represent a unique chain of desert oases that, as an integrated network, provide critical habitat and food for waterbirds throughout the seasonal cycle.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

Focused Investment Priority for Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats



OWEB

2012 IWJV Wetland Landscapes and Spring Migratory Priority Areas Within the Lakes Reporting Basin

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles

N
W E
S

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

An estimated 70 percent of migratory birds—including over 6 million waterbirds—annually pass through the SONEC region, which includes the Oregon Closed Lakes Basin. Moreover, the Closed Lakes Basin provides critical habitat to important bird species that utilize this region as part of the Great Basin network of habitat: 1) most of North America's snowy plovers (federally listed under the Endangered Species Act [ESA]) breed in the region; 2) most of North America's eared grebes, long-billed dowitchers, and all of the world's Wilson's phalaropes use the region during migration; 3) most of the world's American avocets (a keystone species) use the region for an extended post-breeding period, and over 50% of this species breeds in the Great Basin; 4) most of the world's white-faced ibis breed in the Great Basin; and 5) about 80% of nesting greater sandhill cranes in Oregon are found into the Closed Lakes Basin. Additional migratory and resident bird species also rely on this habitat.

Of particular importance is habitat for shorebird species and migratory birds on the spring migration path. This region provides a diversity of food production at different salt regimes throughout the year; thus, seasonal water conditions drive habitat function and productivity. Additionally, the Closed Lakes Basin wetlands support native fish species such as Warner and Modoc sucker fish (ESA-listed), tui chub, and redband trout.

Why it is significant to the state

Closed Lakes Basin wetlands are ecologically unique high-desert wetlands that provide critical habitat for numerous migratory and resident bird species. This region has international importance as habitat for migratory birds, including the ESA-listed species cited above. Oregon's Closed Lakes Basin wetlands habitat are a significant portion of the greater SONEC complex of wetlands that are so critical to the millions of birds that travel the Pacific Flyway each year. The Intermountain West Joint Venture recognizes the SONEC region as one of two priority areas in the Intermountain West for wetland-dependent birds. Greater sage-grouse depend on these wetland habitats for foraging habitat for brooding (see related priority). ESA-listed Warner and Modoc sucker fish also are found in this habitat, as referenced above.

The region also fosters an historic and vitally important ranching community and associated economy that depends on the ecological health of these wetland habitats. In addition, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge and other wildlife areas in the Closed Lakes Basin are critical recreational and economic resources for these rural counties. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has documented over 65,000 annual visitors to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge alone.

Finally, the implications of climate change in this region may lead to a reduction in water availability, further altering the natural hydrologic regime, which could lead to higher salinity levels in lakes and wetlands. This issue lends added urgency to the importance of conservation efforts concerning this unique habitat.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Loss and degradation of wetlands habitat, including salinization and an imbalance of seasonal saline gradients;
- Seasonal water availability as a result of altered natural hydrologic functioning, including the conversion to sprinkler irrigation from flood irrigation that provided surrogate wetland habitat and impacts of climate change;
- Proliferation of invasive common carp, whose feeding behavior has destroyed vast natural marsh habitat by uprooting vegetation and increasing suspended sediments and turbidity that significantly reduces vegetation otherwise available as a food source for birds and other wildlife; and
- Invasive plant and macroinvertebrate species, which can reduce food production for native bird species.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) North American Waterfowl Management Plan (http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/Planstrategy.shtm)
3) Intermountain West Joint Venture Habitat Conservation Strategy Implementation Plan (http://iwjv.org/2013-implementation-plan)

OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority
SAGEBRUSH/SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT

Summary Statement of Priority

The OWEB Board will consider proposals for investment in **sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat** for initiatives that address habitat conservation and restoration needs to achieve ecological outcomes over time at the landscape scale[1].

OWEB's Focused Investment Priority for sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat guides voluntary actions that address primary ecological threats and limiting factors related to the quality of this habitat type. These actions also will support and/or improve ecosystem functions and processes, including those required by Greater sage-grouse, which is an indicator species for this habitat type. **These actions will be guided by the habitat and population objectives set forth in the State's sage-grouse strategy and the combined ecological and social outcomes described in the State's "Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan" which are listed on page 3 of this document.**

Focal areas for this Priority are Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) and the important connectivity corridors between these areas (see explanation and map). PACs do not represent individual populations, but rather key areas that have been identified as crucial to ensure adequate representation, redundancy, and resilience for conservation of its associated population or populations. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW's) sage-grouse strategy identifies core areas of habitat that align with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS's) PAC habitats. The core area approach uses biological information to identify important habitats with the objective of protecting the highest density breeding areas.

Landscape-scale sage-grouse conservation is critically important in Oregon as the habitat present here, along with that in southwest Idaho and northeast Nevada, has been identified by FWS as one of two sage-grouse 'strongholds' in the U.S. These sage-grouse strongholds are distinguished primarily as those areas that contain the highest densities of birds, are the most resistant and resilient to invasive species and altered fire regimes, and are the least vulnerable to impacts associated with the onset of climate change.

Background

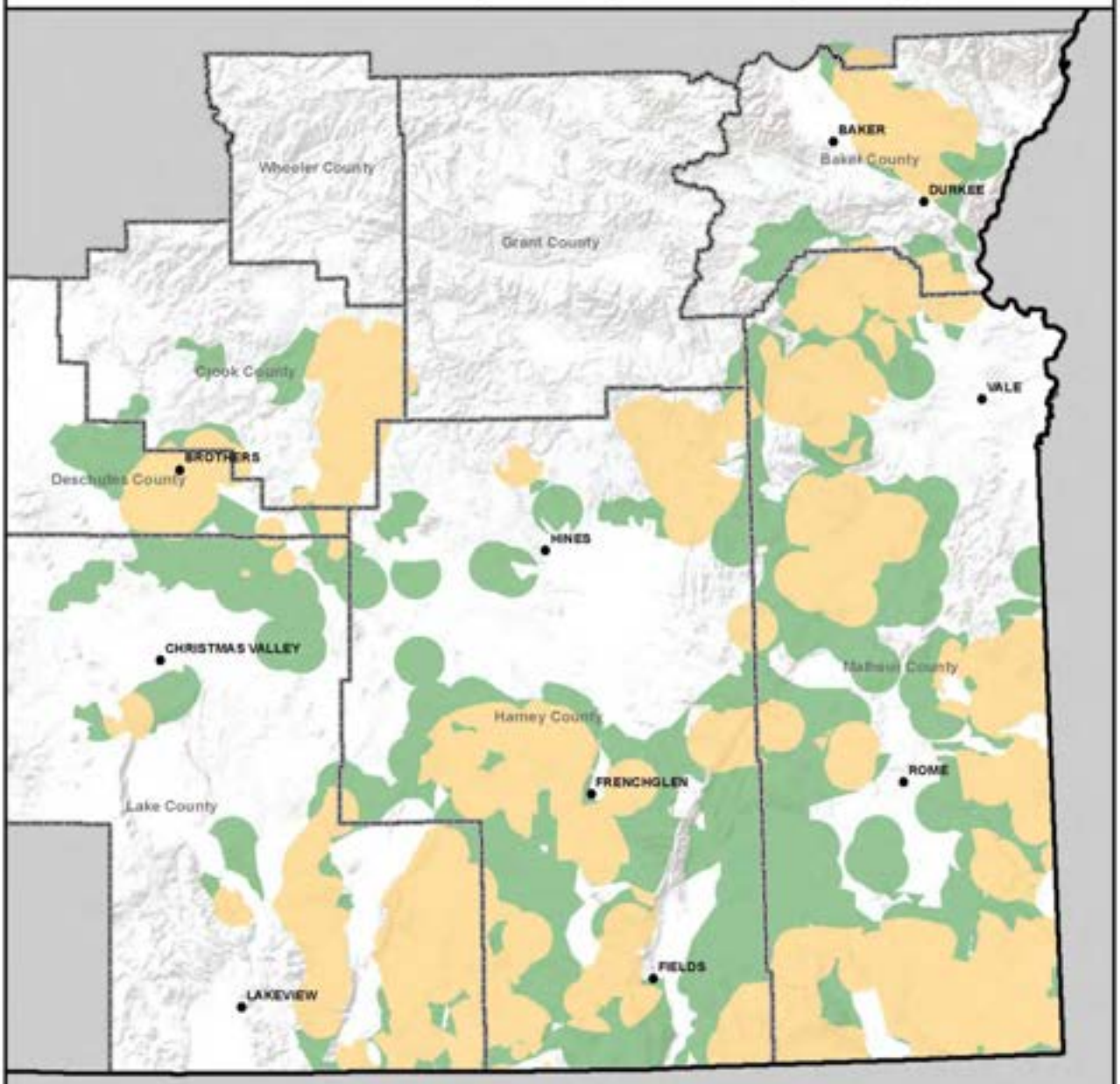
Where it occurs

Sage-steppe habitat occurs throughout eastern Oregon and in parts of Central Oregon. Several ecoregions identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (i.e., Northern Basin and Range, Blue Mountains, Columbia Plateau and East Cascades) contain this habitat type.

These habitats are both extensive and diverse. In general, sagebrush habitats occur on dry flats and plains, rolling hills, rocky hill slopes, saddles and ridges where precipitation is low. Sagebrush-steppe is dominated by grasses and forbs (more than 25 percent of the area) with an open shrub layer. In sagebrush steppe, natural fire regimes historically maintained a patchy distribution of shrubs and predominance of grasses. Connectivity corridors of similar habitats between these areas are important to connect otherwise fragmented sage-steppe habitat.

[1] The landscape scale refers to the scale at which environmental, economic, and social factors intersect.

Focused Investment Priority for Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat



Core and low density areas are ODFW designations. ODFW Core areas align with the USFWS Priority Areas for Conservation (PACs) for sage-grouse in Oregon.

OWEB

Sage Grouse Core and Low Density Areas

N
W E
S

0 5 10 20 30 40
Miles

- S-G Core Areas / PACs
- S-G Low Density
- Counties
- cities

Indicator species and/or species of interest supported by this habitat

Oregon Conservation Strategy Species associated with sagebrush include Greater sage-grouse, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, sage sparrow, Brewer's sparrow, sagebrush lizard, Washington ground squirrel, and pygmy rabbits. Other wildlife closely associated with sagebrush include: black-throated sparrow, sage thrasher, sagebrush vole, and pronghorn.

One particular species supported by sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat—the Greater sage-grouse—currently is being considered for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and would be considered the primary indicator species for identification of priority investments for the Board through the Focused Investment Partnership program. Conservation actions to protect sagebrush/sage-steppe habitats should be designed in way that limits unintended consequences to aquatic habitats in these areas.

Why it is significant to the state

Sagebrush/sage-steppe habitat is an imperiled habitat that supports a range of species. These areas are associated with an economically and socially important ranching and agricultural industry in communities throughout a large portion of the state. The state of Oregon is developing an "Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan" to outline the actions necessary to conserve sage-grouse in Oregon in an effort to proactively avoid ESA- listing of the species. The plan has broad support by state and federal agencies, the ranching industry and conservationists.

Key limiting factors and/or ecological threats, with a focus on ecosystem function and process

- Altered fire regimes, which result in changes to native plant communities and increased risk of habitat loss due to intense wildfires;
- Invasive species such as juniper and non-native grasses, which increase the frequency, intensity and extent of wildfires;
- Conversion to other land uses, which results in habitat loss and connectivity; and
- Limitations of current restoration technologies and the need for successful restoration approaches, particularly in low-elevation areas that face severe challenges to native plant species regeneration following wildfire.

Reference plans

1) Oregon Conservation Strategy (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/read_the_strategy.asp)
2) ODFW's Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy for Oregon (http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/sagegrouse/)
3) Final report from the Sage-Grouse Conservation Objectives Team (COT) 2013 (http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/sagegrouse/COT/COT-Report-with-Dear-Interested-Reader-Letter.pdf)
4) Oregon Sage Grouse Action Plan (in development)

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item L supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item updates the board on the current subcommittee structure, the board discussion of the subcommittee structure at the July 2019 meeting, and requests board action on selecting a subcommittee structure at the October 2019 meeting.

II. Background

The board currently has subcommittees structured around OWEB's grant programs:

- The Open Solicitation Subcommittee focuses on issues related to open solicitation grants, including restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement, and the effectiveness of these programs.
- 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.
- The Focused Investment Subcommittee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP).
- The Acquisitions Subcommittee meets on an ad-hoc basis, and focuses on issues related to the land acquisition grant program, including applications and policy reviews.
- The Monitoring Subcommittee oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring: Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes, FIP monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.
- The chair of each subcommittee serves with the board co-chairs on the Executive Committee which meets as needed to discuss OWEB policy, program, and budget issues.

III. July Board Meeting Discussion

At the July meeting, the board reflected on a number of topics related to subcommittees, including:

- Experience with the current subcommittees, particularly on what elements the board has found useful, or have not provided as much value.
- Involvement with subcommittees of other boards, commissions, or similar groups, and any feedback or advice that can be shared that may strengthen OWEB's board subcommittees.
- Topics are of interest that could be incorporated into the subcommittee structure. These include retaining the current subcommittee structure based on OWEB grant programs, building a new structure based on 2018 Strategic Plan priorities, a combination of those, and other important natural resource policy issues relevant to OWEB.
- Logistics for subcommittee meetings and reporting out to the full board.

IV. October Board Meeting Discussion

OWEB staff reviewed board feedback, and developed a set of preliminary standing and ad-hoc board subcommittees:

- Standing Committees:
    - Monitoring
    - Focused Investments
    - Acquisitions
    - Strategic Plan Implementation
    - Executive/Audit
- Ad Hoc Committees:
    - Climate Change
    - Water

In September, staff sent a survey to the board to get additional feedback on both these preliminary board subcommittees and the preferred timing and methods for meeting. At the October board meeting, staff will present to the board the results of the survey, and facilitate a discussion to identify the preferred board subcommittee structure moving forward, including consideration of staff and board member capacity. Following establishment of committee structure, board members will be asked for their committee preferences, with final committee membership to be determined by the co-chairs.

V. Recommendation

Staff do not have a recommendation for the board. The topic will be discussed at the October board meeting, with a subcommittee structure determined by the board.

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Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M– Land Acquisition Grant Program - Time Extensions
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board extended closing dates for the Tillamook River Wetlands, South Tongue Point, Canyon Creek Ranch, and Bennett Ranch land acquisition projects. Staff will also initiate a conversation with the board about the 18-month requirement for closing established in rule.

II. Background

Every land acquisition grant awarded by the board is conditioned on general and project-specific due diligence requirements, which must be met before funds are released for the land transaction.

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.

The following projects were funded by the board at its April 2018 meeting and have closing deadlines of October 24, 2019. For the reasons explained below, the grantees will not close the transactions by the deadline and have requested closing extensions.

III. Extension Requests

A. Tillamook River Wetlands

Funds for the Tillamook River Wetlands Project (Grant No. 218-9903-15905) were awarded to North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC). The funds will be used for the fee simple purchase of an approximately 70-acre property in Tillamook County.

NCLC has completed a portion of the due diligence required by OWEB's funding conditions. NCLC's accomplishments include completion of a purchase and sale agreement, environmental site assessment, appraisal, partnership agreement for restoration, and analysis of permitting requirements for restoration. However, more work is needed on due diligence items such as access agreements and resolution of title matters including the purchase of mineral rights held by the Department of State Lands (DSL). Project activities have been slowed by several factors, including an extended timeframe for DSL's sale of the mineral rights and delays in completing documents such as the option and survey.

B. South Tongue Point

Funds for the South Tongue Point Project (Grant No. 218-9905-15908) were awarded to Columbia Land Trust (CLT). The funds will be used for the fee simple purchase of an approximately 83-acre property in Clatsop County.

CLT has completed a portion of the due diligence required by OWEB's funding conditions. CLT's accomplishments include completion of an appraisal, environmental site assessment, stewardship funding plan, and partnership agreement. Project activities have been slowed by several factors, including a DSL sale of neighboring property which must be completed prior to CLT's land purchase, land use actions, and delays in completing project documents such as an option and transfer agreement.

C. Canyon Creek Ranch

Funds for the Canyon Creek Ranch Project (Grant No. 218-9906-15909) were awarded to Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT). The funds will be used for the purchase of a conservation easement on an approximately 6,785-acre property in Wheeler County.

BMLT has completed a portion of the diligence required by OWEB's funding conditions. BMLT's accomplishments include completion of a baseline inventory and property management plan; title, mineral rights, water rights, and access analyses; and a partner agreement. The conservation easement is not complete. Work on the conservation easement has been extensive and has involved meshing the requirements of OWEB and the project co-funder, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The goal of the conservation easement drafting is to develop a template document for multiple projects while accounting for specific Canyon Creek Ranch circumstances and meeting the needs of two parties that hold an interest in the property. Project delays have also occurred with regard to the appraisal and the option. Additional easement review by NRCS will be required.

D. Bennett Ranch

Funds for the Bennett Ranch Project (Grant No. 218-9909-15912) were also awarded to BMLT. The funds will be used for the purchase of a conservation easement on an approximately 8,953-acre property in Baker County.

BMLT has completed a portion of the due diligence required by OWEB's funding conditions, including title, mineral rights, and water rights analyses, and an option. The conservation easement, which will be based on the template being developed for the Canyon Ranch project, has been an extensive drafting process as described in the Canyon Creek Ranch project above, with additional time taken as the seller deliberated whether to move ahead with an easement that includes OWEB-required language. The project has also been delayed by a change in project partners, with BMLT taking over the due diligence role previously proposed for The Trust for Public Land. Additional easement review by NRCS will be required.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board extend the closing deadline to June 30, 2020 for Tillamook River Wetlands (Grant No. 218-9903-15905) and South Tongue Point (Grant No. 218-9905-15908), and December 31, 2020 for Canyon Creek Ranch (Grant No. 218-9906-15909) and Bennett Ranch (Grant No. 218-9909-15912), with all other conditions of the projects to remain unchanged.

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Agenda Item N supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Oregon's 100-year Water Vision Update
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report briefs the board on the latest actions related to Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

II. Background

Many areas of Oregon are known for clean and reliable water. This is due to both favorable climate and the infrastructure we built in the 19th and 20th centuries to effectively move water from its source to where it is used.

As has been identified in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, three forces combine to place significant stress on Oregon's water:

1. Climate change and associated increases in fire, drought and flooding,
2. A half-century of underinvestment in built and natural water infrastructure, and
3. Changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others.

III. Oregon's 100-Year Water 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 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.

To provide feedback on the 100-Year Water Vision draft, this fall and winter, the Governor's Natural Resources Office and state agencies will be listening, learning, and gathering information about the 100-Year Water Vision and its associated goals and problem statements, while engaging leaders across the state to learn more about water in Oregon. In addition, we'll be working to increase our understanding of data and gaps, and funding coordination needs.

IV. Ways to Engage

At the October board meeting, staff will hold a brief discussion with the board about the vision to get general feedback on its contents (Attachment A). Staff will ask the following questions:

1. Do the goals represent your relationship to and usage of water? If not, what goals are missing, or what changes to you recommend?
2. Do the identified problems reflect the concerns you have surrounding the future of Oregon's water security? If not, what is missing, or what changes do you recommend?

V. Other Ways to Engage

- ✓ **Website:** www.OregonWaterVision.org, which includes a place for partners to share their thoughts about the 100-year vision.
- ✓ **Technical Workshops:** to help state agencies better define what we know and gaps in knowledge around natural and built water infrastructure, current surface and groundwater condition, and funding.
- ✓ **Water Academies:** held around the state, focused on the vision's four goals (Health, Safety, Environment, and Economy), and the history of water in Oregon.
- ✓ **Interviews:** While the actions above are in progress, the State is partnering with Oregon Consensus to conduct neutral interviews with a broad range of organizations who have an interest in Oregon's water future, as well as tribes and local governments.

VI. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

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Agenda Item O supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds and priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Implementation Monitoring
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's (BEF) ongoing work related to the FIP program.

II. Background

Over the past two biennia, OWEB and BEF have partnered on various aspects of FIP program development, assessment, and tracking. Notably, BEF led the development of progress monitoring frameworks for each Implementation FIP. These frameworks provide a practical and consistent framework for measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives (outputs) and predicted ecological results (outcomes) through the course of six-year FIP investments and beyond. In addition to tracking and communicating progress, progress monitoring frameworks are intended to inform adaptive management of FIP restoration initiatives by the partnerships.

BEF has also been integral in other FIP program efforts, such as:

- Continuing to refine progress monitoring frameworks with Implementation partnerships and providing guidance on restoration initiative monitoring and adaptive management;
- Assisting OWEB staff in developing graphics to convey results chains in a simplified manner for use with less-technical audiences and tracking and reporting approaches to quantify and visualize progress to the board and other funders through time;
- Conducting FIP program assessment to inform continuous improvement by OWEB staff;
- Developing adaptive management guidance as a tool for each FIP; and

- Supporting training of other OWEB grantees in progress monitoring framework and theory of change concepts.

The funding request proposed herein will support continued work in the program areas identified above. BEF will further assist with:

- Completing development of results chains for each of the board-identified FIP Priorities (e.g., Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species);
- Evaluating challenges and successes with OWEB's strategic action plan template to guide further refinement of this document;
- Hosting a FIP gathering in 2020 that will convene all Implementation FIP partnerships to discuss lessons learned, restoration planning tools and strategies, and partnership management and coordination, among other topics;
- Strategizing roll-out of the 'Adaptively Managing Restoration Initiatives' guidance document and offering consultations with FIP partners on incorporating adaptive management principles into their FIP initiatives; and
- Providing insights about partnership evolution and performance that will help enhance OWEB's understanding of partnership-based restoration at the programmatic scale.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award up to $150,000 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2019-21 spending plan to support the ongoing work of the OWEB-BEF partnership toward continued development and improvement of the FIP program, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2019.

Attachments

A. Excerpt from recently completed 'Adaptively Managing Restoration Initiatives' Guidance Document



Methow River, WA *Photo by Robert Warren*

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Adaptively Managing Restoration Initiatives

A GUIDE PREPARED FOR

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Focused Investment Partnership Program

BONNEVILLE ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION

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Lauren Mork *Upper Deschutes Watershed Council*

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27 Clarify roles and decision-making procedures

28 Support ongoing learning

29 *Conclusion*

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Acknowledgements

The development of this guide was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board through a grant to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Layout and design by Casey Davis (caseydavisdesign.com).



What is OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Program?

The Focused Investment Partnership Program awards grants to high performing partnerships that apply a collaborative, results-oriented approach to restoration based on strategic planning. Partnerships that receive FIP Implementation grants are eligible for funding of up to $12M over six years to implement a set of pre-defined restoration strategies addressing one or more of OWEB's Board-approved ecological priorities of significance to the state.

The Focused Investment Partnerships program therefore represents both a significant investment by the state of Oregon as well as a prime opportunity to improve the practice of restoration in each ecological priority area.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Introduction

The complex and dynamic nature of ecosystems make efforts to successfully restore and conserve them challenging. Restoration practitioners operate with imperfect knowledge about the ecosystems they hope to improve and the effectiveness of strategies they design to reach desired ecological outcomes. The formal practice of ***adaptive management*** offers a way to address these uncertainties through an iterative process of learning by doing, which cycles through the steps of planning, implementation, evaluation, and adjustment. With sustained commitment to ongoing learning and the willingness to make changes in response to new information, an adaptive management approach to an ecological restoration initiative has the potential to reduce uncertainties and improve ecological outcomes.

This guide, developed within the context of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB's) Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program, is intended to help restoration partnerships design, build, and maintain an adaptive management approach that overcomes common challenges and meets their specific needs, ambitions, and capacity.

As a funder, OWEB is interested in helping grantees and other restoration partnerships apply the elements of an adaptive management framework to better understand and improve the impact of their investments. OWEB also believes in the potential for this approach to contribute to the larger body of knowledge and practice of ecological restoration. While this guidance is written with specific references to the Focused Investment Partnership program, it is intended to be useful for any program or initiative aimed at improving restoration outcomes.



Methow River, WA *Photo by Robert Warren*

The Benefits of Adaptive Management

Applying an adaptive management approach requires commitment and investment of resources at each step in the cycle. When implemented effectively, this approach can yield substantial value, including:

- reducing uncertainty about the effectiveness of specific restoration actions;
- learning from and avoiding past mistakes;
- responding to new information and evolving conditions;
- achieving stated restoration goals and objectives more efficiently and effectively;
- increasing confidence and buy-in among partnership members and other stakeholders;
- developing and institutionalizing a practice of ongoing learning and improvement; and
- documenting lessons that can be applied elsewhere.

Achieving this full suite of benefits may be possible with a relatively modest investment at each of the steps of adaptive management, described in this document as **Adaptive Management Fundamentals.** However, in many situations the complex ecological, social, and political context of restoration requires additional attention and resources at different steps in the process to effectively implement adaptive management and fully realize these benefits. These are described as **Added Investments in Adaptive Management.**

A successful adaptive management program can be defined as one in which:

1 restoration practitioners and key partners are committed to and engaged in learning,

2 results from research and monitoring are used to affirm and/or improve decisions about restoration, and

3 progress is made toward achieving restoration objectives.

How to Use this Document

This guide is designed to help partnerships structure and manage an adaptive management process that delivers the benefits previously described. It will also benefit those that may have already integrated elements of an adaptive approach in their work but desire to enhance its potential.

This guide is meant to be a companion to the guidance offered in the **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Strategic Action Planning for Prospective Focused Investment Partnerships** (OWEB Strategic Action Planning Guidance). A number of the sections in that document address steps in the adaptive management process. In this document, relevant sections of the OWEB Strategic Action Planning Guidance are referenced where they address elements of adaptive management.

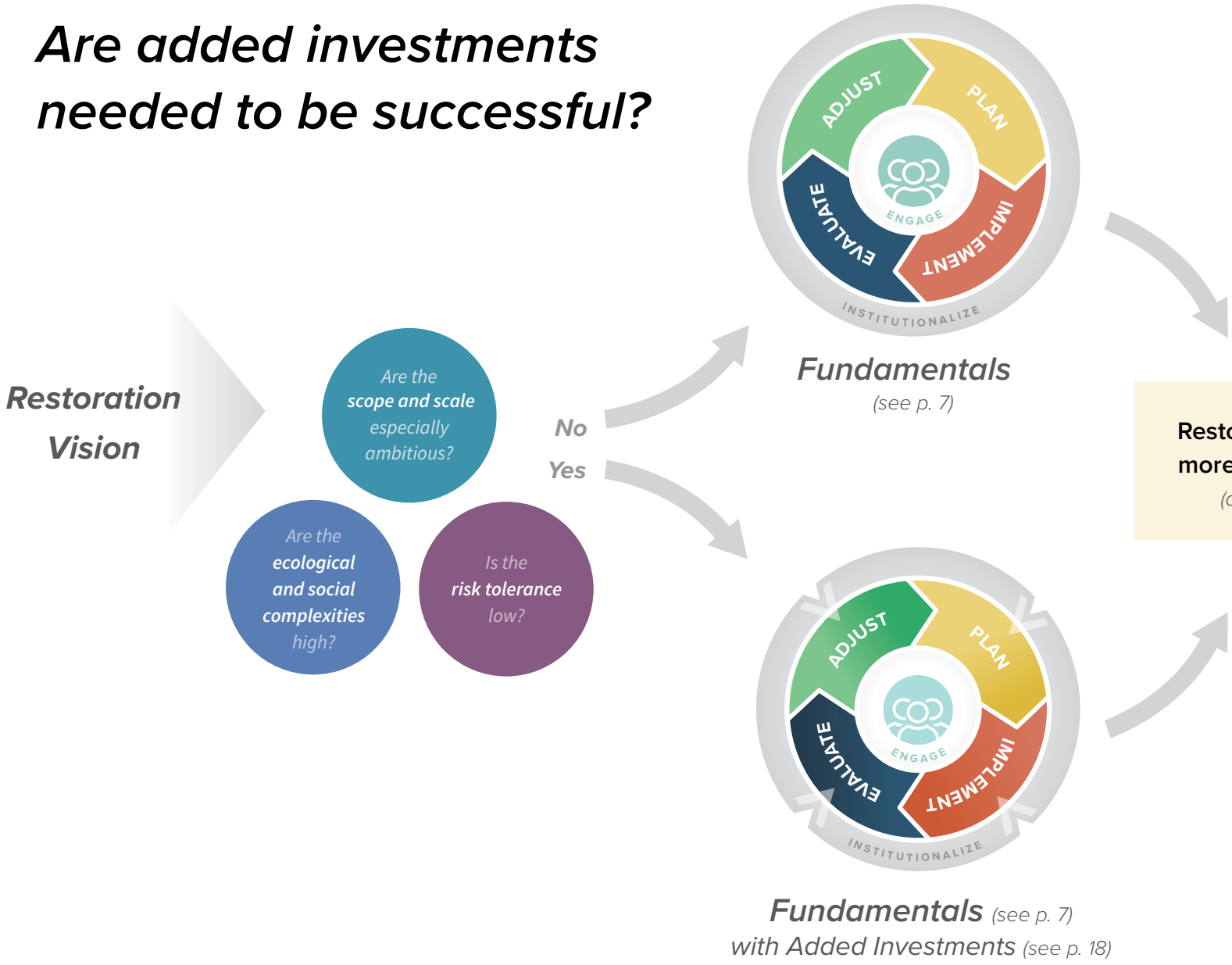
This document is comprised of ***two interrelated sections:***

Adaptive Management Fundamentals

This section describes the basic steps required for adaptive management (plan, implement, evaluate, and adjust), as well as two underpinnings of successful adaptive management: ongoing partner engagement and institutional processes that support and sustain the effort. As noted above, these require at least a modest investment of partnership time and budget beyond what is typically needed to plan and implement a restoration initiative.

Added Investments in Adaptive Management

This section describes efforts that can be layered onto the fundamental adaptive management steps to address common challenges and more fully realize the expected benefits described above. In particular, these additional investments may be desirable for more complex, larger-scale, novel, or controversial restoration initiatives. They can help partnerships answer questions about restoration outcomes with a higher level of confidence and buy-in and more directly link learning to decision-making, but require greater commitment and investment than the steps described in Adaptive Management Fundamentals.


Are added investments needed to be successful?
Restoration Vision
Are the scope and scale especially ambitious?
Are the ecological and social complexities high?
Is the risk tolerance low?
No
Yes
ADJUST
PLAN
EVALUATE
IMPLEMENT
ENGAGE
INSTITUTIONALIZE
Fundamentals
(see p. 7)
Restoration goals are achieved more efficiently and effectively
(and other benefits see p. 4)
Fundamentals (see p. 7)
with Added Investments (see p. 18)

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Other Business
October 15-16, 2019 Board Meeting

Introduction

Staff request the board approve a supplement to OWEB's 2019-2021 biennial award to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to support critical monitoring in the Willamette Basin.

I. Background

Spring Chinook and winter steelhead from the upper Willamette River (UWR) are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. These populations are at risk of extinction and, thus, are the focus of many recovery efforts by state and federal agencies, local restoration partners, and others.

Data about adult salmon and steelhead migrating upstream has been collected for decades at Willamette Falls, which is a "gateway" to habitat for these species. The data have been instrumental in tracking and understanding fish population status. However, accurate data about not only upstream-moving adults, but also downstream-moving juveniles is needed to calculate smolt-to-adult return (SAR) information. SAR is used to assess where limitations for UWR Chinook and steelhead (in particular, naturally-produced fish) are occurring, which subsequently allows recovery actions to be better focused. Although adult counts are made annually, SAR data currently are lacking or limited for these listed species at Willamette Falls.

Portland General Electric (PGE) operates the T.W. Sullivan hydroelectric plant on the west side of Willamette Falls. This facility includes two bypass systems to direct migrating juvenile salmonids away from the power turbines. Both bypass routes have passive integrated transponder (PIT) antennae on them, which allow the tracking of individual fish. The bypass also includes an evaluator trap, which can be used to catch, sample, and tag juvenile salmonids. Historically, the evaluator trap was used by PGE biologists to determine passage efficiency and survival of juvenile out-migrating salmonids through the power plant. More recently, the trap has been used to catch and PIT tag juvenile salmonids for preliminary estimates of SARs for wild fish.

III. Funding Need and Justification

The evaluator trap, where juvenile out-migrants are collected for tagging and evaluation, became inoperable as of spring 2018 due to extensive corrosion and damage to the debris cleaning system. The wholesale loss of this trap puts at risk the ability to gather data that would benefit the management and recovery of UWR Chinook and steelhead.

In coordination with ODFW and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), OWEB staff have explored options to resolve this issue by utilizing Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) resources. Together, the agencies propose allocating $183,000 of existing PCSRF funding from OWEB to ODFW to help fund a rebuild of the evaluator trap with entirely new hardware and a debris-cleaning system. Additional funds in the amount of $180,000 from the Bonneville Power Administration will provide the balance of the funding needed to complete this work. PGE will be contracted by ODFW to rebuild the evaluator trap.

This infrastructure upgrade for the trap will enable monitoring of juvenile out-migrants, resulting in: increased understanding of SARs and knowledge about the role of life-history diversity in recovery; assessment of key threats to the viability of UWR steelhead and Chinook populations, as described in the UWR recovery plan; and better informed restoration actions and conservation measures in the future.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award an additional $183,000 of existing Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund monies to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife during the 2019-2021 biennium to support the work described in this staff report, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2019.