OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Board Meeting
January 22-23, 2020

Jacksonville, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
January 22-23, 2020

Wednesday, January 22, 2020

Jacksonville Community Center
160 E. Main St.
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/3jimfFZHcEcB9MgG6

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 N), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes*. Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 15, 2020 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 15-16, 2019 meeting in Condon 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 report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation. *Information item.*

F. **OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (9:25 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, and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will join the discussion to provide an OWEB staff perspective. *Action item.*

G. **Land Acquisition Conveyance (10:25 a.m.)**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request the board approve the transfer of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement from the Deschutes Land Trust to the McKenzie River Trust. *Action item.*

H. **Receive Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Funding and Recaptured Funds for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance (10:45 a.m.)**

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request the board accept $200,000 from the NRCS, and add $37,771 of recaptured funds for the CREP Technical Assistance grant program. *Action item.*

I. **Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Awards (11:00 a.m.)**

NOTE: Public Comment specific for this agenda item at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff and Partnerships Coordinator Leah Tai will provide an overview of the 2019 Partnership TA grant offering and request board consider Partnership TA grant awards. *Action item.*

J. **Director's Update (12:55 p.m.)**

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

K. **Organization Collaboration Grant Awards (2:05 p.m.)**

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will request board action on an Organization Collaboration grant application that was submitted during the September 2019 grant offering. *Action item.*

L. **Telling the Restoration Story (2:25 pm)**

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will provide an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering, and provide examples from the West Fork Smith River and Warner Lakes Basin. *Information item.*

M. **Conservation Easement Management (2:40 p.m.)**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Stewardship Director Kristi Mergenthaler will present to the board on conservation easement management from the perspective of a local land trust. *Information item.*

Tour – 3:30 p.m.

The board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of an acquisition project at the Rogue River Preserve, which spans two miles of the Rogue River and contains diverse habitats, including oak savanna, vernal pools, meadows, oak-pine woodlands, and chaparral. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

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

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

Location:
Jacksonville Community Center
160 E. Main St.
Jacksonville, OR 97530
Directions: https://goo.gl/maps/3jimfFZHcEcB9MgG6

Thursday, January 23, 2020

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 N,), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The board encourages persons to limit comments to 3 to 5 minutes*. Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after January 15, 2020 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

N. **Public Comment (8:00 a.m.)**

This time is reserved for general public comment.

O. **Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Priorities-Tribal Engagement (8:15 a.m.)**

Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho will update the board on tribal outreach conducted in order to obtain feedback on the board-adopted FIP habitat priorities. *Action item.*

P. **Winter Lake Project Update (8:45 a.m.)**

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, Oregon Department of Fish Umpqua Watershed Manager Tim Walters, The Nature Conservancy Water Program Manager Jason Nuckols, Coquille Watershed Association Executive Director Melaney Dunne, and Beaver Slough Drainage District Manager Fred Messerle will provide an update on the Winter Lake Restoration project. *Information item.*

Q. **Water Acquisition Grant Awards (9:30 a.m.)**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request board action on Water Acquisition grant applications that were received during the August 2019 grant offering. *Action item.*

R. **FIP Program Monitoring and Progress Tracking (10:15 a.m.)**

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Conservation Outcomes Specialist Lisa Appel, Partnerships Coordinators Andrew Dutterer and Leah Tai, Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Program Director Robert Warren will present to the board a suite of products intended to help monitor the progress of FIP initiatives. *Information item.*

S. **Open Solicitation Grant Offering (11:30 a.m.)**

Grant Program Coordinator Eric Williams will lead a board discussion on adjusting the open solicitation grant offering schedule from fall and spring application deadlines and grant awards to winter and summer application deadlines and grant awards. *Information item.*

T. **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (12:05 p.m.)**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on recent developments to OAHP, and request action on re-appointing Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima as members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. *Action item.*

U. **Other Business (12:20 p.m.)**

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

Meeting Rules and Procedures

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

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

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

Voting Rules
The OWEB Board has 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and 7 are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into 2 categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business
A general business quorum is 6 voting members. General business requires a majority of all voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of at least 6 voting members. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards
Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special quorum of at least 8 voting members present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, if 3 or more voting members object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony
The board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Wednesday, January 22 at 9:00 a.m., and Thursday, January 23 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 15, 2020* 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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meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Nicki Prather
nicki.k.prather@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2020 Board Meeting Schedule
January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21-22, in Enterprise
July 21-22, in Clackamas
October 20-21, in Sisters/Redmond

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

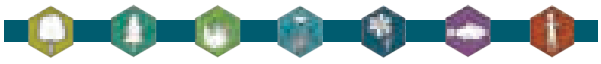
- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farms, ranches, and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement 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

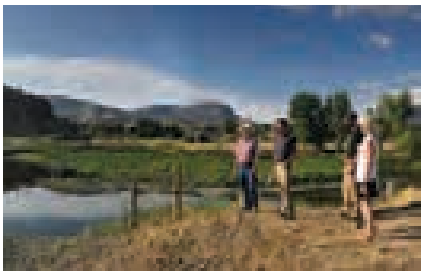


Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- 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	Additions to spending plan Jan 2020	Spending Plan as of Jan 2020	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date	Jan 2020 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Jan 2020 awards	Other $$ Received & Awarded
1	**Open Solicitation:**							
2	Restoration		31.200	8.048	23.152		23.152	0.000
3	Technical Assistance							
4	Restoration TA		3.100	0.991	2.109		2.109	
5	CREP TA	0.038	1.163	1.125	0.038	0.038	0.000	0.250
6	Stakeholder Engagement		1.000	0.245	0.755		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	0.157	6.593	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**	**0.038**	**54.291**	**17.469**	**36.822**	**0.195**	**36.627**	1.134
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**54.75%**					
16	**Focused Investments:**							
17	Deschutes		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		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	0.150	0.300		0.300	0.000
29	**TOTAL**		**27.051**	**26.751**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**	0.000
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**27.28%**					
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	0.100	0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance		0.500	0.000	0.500	0.779	(0.279)	0.000
36	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**15.366**	**14.580**	**0.786**	**0.879**	**(0.093)**	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	0.700	0.000		0.000	0.000
42	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**2.450**	**2.450**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	0.000
43	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**2.47%**					
44	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**0.038**	**99.158**	**61.250**	**37.908**	**1.074**	**36.834**	**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**	**0.000**	**12.011**	**12.011**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	0.500
50	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds**	**0.038**	**111.169**	**73.261**	**37.908**	**1.074**	**36.834**	1.634

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 15, 2019 Board Meeting

Memorial Hall
114 John Day Hwy.
Condon, OR 97823

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/S7Q_oJwYYsk

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT	OWEB STAFF PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara	Ciannella, Greg	Coordes, Regan
Brandt, Stephen	Davis, Renee	Lorion, Chris
Buckmaster, Bruce	Dutterer, Andrew	John Anderson
Henning, Alan	Duzik, Katie	Hannah Fatland
Hollen, Debbie	Greer, Sue	Norie Wright
Labhart, Mark	Grenbemer, Mark	Roger Lathrop
Marshall, Gary	Hartstein, Eric	Rita Rattray
McAlister, Liza Jane	Menton, Coby	Dennis Goodwin
McComb, Brenda	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Jan Lee
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie	Nicki Prather	Kelley Beamer
Murray, Eric	Redon, Liz	Keith Wolf
Reeves, Meg	Shaff, Courtney	Tony Malmberg
Robison, Jason	Williams, Eric	Hannah Latco
Selle, Tony		Amy Charette
		Kristen Walz
ABSENT		Deb Bunch
Alvarado, Ron		Rich Harper
Henson, Paul		Herb Winters
Kile, Molly		
Labbe, Randy		

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 00:50)
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 = 53:30)
The minutes of the July 16-17, 2019 meeting in Klamath Falls were presented to the board for approval. Brenda McComb noted that the minutes reflected that the Board of Forestry position was vacant, but that she has filled the position and was present at the meeting. Jason Robison noted that Liza Jane McAlister was absent on the second day of the board meeting, July 17.

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board approve the minutes from the July 16-17, 2019 meeting in Klamath Falls with the changes that Brenda McComb is representing the Board of Forestry and

that Liza Jane McAlister was not present on the second day of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 54:40)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio =: 55:38)
Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates to the full board on the recent topics discussed in subcommittee calls.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 1:00:30)
Amy Charette, Kristen Walz and Herb Winters, representing the John Day Basin Partnership, welcomed the board and thanked them for the support and continued partnership.

E. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 1:02:00)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reported on progress made on strategic plan implementation over the last quarter and highlighted updates in all priority areas.

F. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (Audio = 1:17:00)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on recent developments to OAHP, and requested action on re-appointing Mark Bennett as a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Mark Labhart moved the board reappoint Mark Bennett to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for a four-year term. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:29:00)

G. Director's Update (Audio = 1:30:21)
G-1: Annual Performance Progress Report (Audio=1:33:19) -- Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an update on 2019 Key Performance Measures report for OWEB that summarizes the agency's performance measure scores. In response to an earlier request from the board, Davis also provided a briefing on natural and working lands as it pertains to potential legislation addressing climate change.

G-2 FIP Update (Audio=2:05:49) -- Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented the first completed ecological results chain (sagebrush-sage steppe) and noted that the Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration FIP has obligated all of their funding for the third biennium, marking the first FIP to be completed.

G-3 Salmon License Plates (Audio =2:13:57) -- Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden unveiled the new design for the Oregon salmon license plate.

H. Council Capacity Grants – Technical Correction (Audio = 2:17:00)
Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested board action on establishing an award date of July 1, 2019 on the 2019-2021 biennium council capacity grants.

Gary Marshall moved the board make a retroactive technical correction to the award date of the 2019-2021 Council Capacity grants to July 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:16:00)

I. Spring 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 2:30:00)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives provided background information on the Spring 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment (Audio = 0:00)
No public comment.

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications
The board considered grant applications submitted through the Spring 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations were discussed and acted on by the board.

Meg Reeves moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report. The motion was seconded by Jamie McLeod-Skinner. The motion passed unanimously. Audio = 4:12:30)

J. Focused Investment Partnership Priorities (Audio = 4:12:30)
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 led a discussion on the process for updating board-adopted FIP habitat priorities, and requested board approval of the priorities.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the Focused Investment Partnership Ecological Priorities as described in Attachment D to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Barbara Boyer. (Audio = 4:52:30)

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board amend the motion to include: direct staff to present this plan to all nine federally recognized tribes requesting their feedback prior to the next OWEB board meeting and have it on the agenda for further review. The motion was seconded by Brenda McComb. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:58:38)

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the amended motion of the Focused Investment Partnership Ecological Priorities as described in Attachment D to the staff report and direct staff to present this plan to all nine federally recognized tribes requesting their feedback prior to the next OWEB board meeting and have it on the agenda for further review. The motion was seconded by Brenda McComb. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:59:03)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 16, 2019 Board Meeting

Memorial Hall
120 S. Main St.
Condon, OR 97823

MINUTES: Some agenda items are discussed out of order.
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/_GL8zoVW7Kk

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT	OWEB STAFF PRESENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara	Ciannella, Greg	Coordes, Regan
Brandt, Stephen	Davis, Renee	Lorion, Chris
Buckmaster, Bruce	Dutterer, Andrew	Amanda Martino
Alan Henning	Duzik, Katie	Jan Lee
Hollen, Debbie	Greer, Sue	Kelley Beamer
Marshall, Gary	Hartstein, Eric	
McAlister, Liza Jane	Loftsgaarden, Meta	
McComb, Brenda	Menton, Coby	
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie	Prather, Nicki	
Murray, Eric	Shaff, Courtney	
Reeves, Meg	Williams, Eric	
Robison, Jason		
Selle, Tony		

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy

K. Public Comment (Audio = 0:01:30)
Jan Lee, representing the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts and Kelley Beamer representing the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts provided an update on partnership activities.

L. OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (Audio = 0:13:31)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein led a facilitated discussion on the subcommittee structure for the board. Deputy Director Renee Davis, Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams joined the discussion to provide an OWEB staff perspective.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board adopt the subcommittee structure as discussed today, moving forward with the following committees, Monitoring, Focused Investments, Executive/Audit, and Acquisitions, with additional discussions on the topics of Water, Climate Change, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Strategic Plan to be convened between now and the

next board meeting in January. Staff will bring recommendations for discussion to the January board meeting. The motion was seconded by Meg Reeves. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:28:56)

M. Land Acquisition Grant Program – Time Extensions (Audio = 1:29:03)
Grant Program Coordinator Eric Williams provided a progress update on several land acquisition grants, and requested the board approve time extensions to allow the grantees to close the transactions.

Jason Robison moved 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. The motion was seconded by Brenda McComb. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:40:11)

N. Oregon Water Vision (Audio = 1:41:01)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an update and solicited board feedback on current actions related to Oregon's 100 Year Water Vision.

O. Focused Investment Partnerships – Implementation Monitoring (Audio = 2:24:45)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer described approaches for monitoring Focused Investment Partnership initiatives, and requested 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.

Jason Robison moved 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. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:46:57)

January 22-23, 2020 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 November 19, 2019. Staff and subcommittee members who are serving in an ex-officio role on the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) for revising the monitoring grant administrative rules provided a status update. The discussion focused on sections of the rules requiring the most substantial changes (e.g., adding a 'Purpose' section, extensive updates to the section outlining eligibility, evaluation criteria, and review processes). The RAC convened for a fourth and final meeting on December 5, 2019. The timeline for rulemaking proposed to the board in April 2019 is on schedule.

Also, at the November meeting, subcommittee members and staff discussed:

- Working with staff at the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to provide the subcommittee with an informational presentation in early 2020 about DEQ's recently launched data management system for water-quality data. Subcommittee members provided suggestions about topics and questions they were interested in addressing during this presentation.
- Progress on ongoing initiatives, including "Telling the Restoration Story" investments, 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.
- Upcoming monitoring subcommittee discussion topics, including a joint meeting with the Focused Investment Subcommittee in early 2020 to discuss the concept of post-FIP progress tracking reporting. Subcommittee members also suggested that in the spirit of OWEB's Strategic Plan Priority #7 (focused on bold and innovative actions), the subcommittee consider exploring the topic of monitoring related to social outcomes of OWEB's investments. Staff will add this to the list of items for discussion in 2020.

The group is scheduled to meet again on January 14, 2020.

To be Presented at the January 2020 Board Meeting by:
Alan Henning, Subcommittee Chair.

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

January 22-23, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee Members
Jason Robison (Chair), 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 December 13 and the discussion is summarized below:

FIP Priorities and Tribal Input
Andrew Dutterer summarized staff follow-up activities to reach out to tribes for input on the board-identified FIP priorities, which was approved by the board contingent upon additional outreach to the Oregon tribes. Staff will provide a summary of tribal comments received by December 20th and OWEB staff responses at the January board meeting (Agenda item O), including whether additional revisions are being considered.

FIP Program Monitoring and Progress Tracking
Leah Tai summarized the content of the various FIP monitoring and tracking tools, including the generic theory of change diagrams for each of the seven FIP priorities linking actions to inputs to outcomes, progress monitoring frameworks that are developed at the beginning of a FIP initiative, and include a results chain that diagrams the restoration strategies, restoration outputs, and ecological outcomes to be pursued through the initiative, and progress tracking reports that capture accomplishments over time. These products will be shared at the January meeting (Agenda item R).

Preview Partnership TA recommendations
Eric Williams previewed the staff recommendations for board award of Partnership TA grants ahead of the January meeting (Agenda item I).

Board Members Attending FIP Gathering
The FIP Gathering will be held April 28-29 at Menucha Retreat Center. Staff are working with BEF on an agenda. Board members expressed interest in attending the event, and wanted to make sure that FIP attendees would not feel constrained if board members are present. Staff discussed this issue and felt that the program has matured to the extent that partners are unlikely to feel inhibited by board member presence. Jason suggested that he and co-chair Randy Labbe may poll board members on their level of interest in attending.

2021-2023 Implementation FIP Solicitation Timeline
The solicitation will be released in late January, with applications due in June. An applicant webinar has been scheduled for February 20. Pre-application consultations will be held in the spring. Expert panels will be convened to review applications in the summer, with evaluations provided to the subcommittee in October. Partnership interviews will be scheduled with the subcommittee in November. A "hold the date" notice for November interviews will be provided to the subcommittee early in 2020.

To be Presented at the January 2020 Board Meeting by:
Jason Robison, Subcommittee Chair

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

Kate Brown, Governor

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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
January 22-23, 2020 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, October to December 2019

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – October-December 2019

- Black text describes progress on actions and measures for the current quarter, along with the associated strategies, outputs and outcomes.
- Blue text describes all other content extracted from the strategic plan for the purpose of providing framing information, but for which no actions or progress occurred this quarter.

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	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Oregon Lottery placed an advertisement featuring watershed restoration in the 2020 Fishing Regulations for Oregon publication. - Oregon Lottery sponsored content in The Oregonian highlighting restoration projects. - In August and September, Oregon Lottery did a focused media campaign including airing a 30-second commercial and digital media to promote awareness of watershed restoration and OWEB's featured grantee videos and web profiles. - Executive Director and staff presented at the national American Fisheries Conference on Oregon's approach to conservation.	So That: (outputs) - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress. - 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.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - 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. - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.	**Near-term measure:** - Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views , 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019) - 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January - November 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.
	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	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Presented to the House Energy and Environment Committee about OWEB's work on equity and environmental justice issues. - Completed summary of information for tribal cultural items survey to Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and Governor's office. - Submitted Annual Tribal Report to LCIS and Governor's office. - Engaged Tribes in providing input on Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision through attending the Annual Tribal Summit in December and met face-to-face with tribal leaders to listen and gain their input. - In November, OWEB's IDEA Team engaged all staff in an interactive activity to gain input on planning for 2020 DEI training. - Held a "streamside chat" with Gilliam Soil & Water Conservation District so staff could learn about living and working in a rural Oregon community from a grantee's perspective. - Two staff attended the Philanthropy Northwest Conference, with a focus on DEI issues and grantmaking.	So That: (outputs) - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - 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. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.	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 280 hours of training (July 2018-December 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.

	Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table		- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.		
	Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)				
Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds					
Strategies	Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Selected a consultant to complete the retrospective evaluation of OWEB's capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.	So That: (outputs) - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions. - 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.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - 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.
	Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity	- Participated in a meeting with Water Resources Department and Ford Family Foundation to discuss support for placed-based planning and other community-led planning efforts in Oregon. - Presented at the Association of Oregon Counties about how county governments can engage with watershed councils. - Received 15 applications 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. Technical reviews were held and funding recommendations prepared.			
	Accelerate state/federal agency participation in 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	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)			
	Align common investment areas with private foundations				
	Explore creative funding opportunities and 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	- Executive Director and staff led outreach for Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision: o 8 community water conversations, 1 technical workshop, and feedback from OregonWaterVision.org website resulted in input from over 600 people around Oregon about Phase I of the Vision. o Presented Water Vision to the following groups to receive feedback: Association of Clean Water Agencies, League of Oregon Cities, Oregon Business Council, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, a coalition of environmental/conservation and environmental justice organizations, Environmental Justice Task Force, Oregon Sustainability Board, Oregon Association of Nurseries, and Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians. o Met individually with five of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to discuss Water Vision priorities and gain feedback; additional meetings are still being scheduled. o Coordinated small-scale legislative site visits on water to Madras, Burns, Tillamook, Warrenton, Prineville and Warm Springs to solicit comments. - Continued engagement with the state's process to update Oregon's Climate Change Adaptation Framework, including presentation to Natural Resources Agency Directors about options for coordination leadership for adaptation actions and investments. - Participated on the Oregon state team at the recent U.S. Climate Alliance Regional Learning Lab focused on natural and working lands opportunities for carbon sequestration and ecosystem resilience. - Supported Business Oregon to develop a proposal to distribute $6 million in grants and loans for tide gate infrastructure projects.	So That: (outputs) - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.	Near-term measure: - Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees. Potential impact measure: - Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects. - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment. - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.
Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health					
Strategies	Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)	So That: (outputs) - 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.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability. - Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - 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
	Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners	- Executive Director led panel discussion at regional meeting hosted by The Nature Conservancy with a focus on how to engage landowners in natural and working lands climate solutions in Sacramento, CA.			
	Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands	- Executive Director participated in panel discussion agency directors from Oregon Departments of Fish & Wildlife and Forestry to highlight the importance of reporting voluntary conservation measures on private forest lands at Oregon Forest Industries Council meeting.			
	Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands	- Eight Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define goals and submit applications for technical assistance funding through OWEB's targeted SIA grant offering.			

	Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations	- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance grant program received 14 grant applications requesting over $1.73 million in response to the 2020 grant solicitation. Thirteen projects proposed for funding will cover 22 counties across the state. - OWEB awarded Stakeholder Engagement grants that communicate with and recruit private working landowners in the following watersheds: John Day Basin (ranches and farms), Lower Crooked River (irrigators), Upper Klamath Basin (agriculture), Lower Williams Creek (ranches and farms), and Lower Nehalem River (forest land). - Executive Director participated in annual Sage Grouse Conservation (SageCon) meeting in Burns with a focus on continuing to increase private landowner participation in conservation that improves sage-steppe habitat while supporting the local agricultural economy.	- New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - 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.		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.
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness					
	Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Finalized work with seven "Telling the Restoration Story" grantees on outreach product development; the majority of deliverables will be available in December 2019. - The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership completed an update to the Fifteenmile Creek Watershed Case Study, incorporating new studies and data to describe the outcomes from converting to direct seed/no-till agricultural practices and other improvements.	So That: (outputs) - Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - 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.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Partners are using results-based restoration 'stories' to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - 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. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.	Near-term measure: - 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019). Potential impact measure: - 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 - 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.
	Invest in monitoring over the long term				
	Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- The interagency STREAM Team developed an issue paper on "The Value of Sharing Continuous Water Temperature Data among Oregon's Water Monitoring Agencies," outlining challenges, opportunities, and specific recommendations to improve access to continuous temperature data. - Local teams for the Thirtymile, Eightmile, and Lower North Fork Malheur SIAs convened to develop specific monitoring proposals to understand the impacts of SIA projects.			
	Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Engaged in the planning process for a Willamette State of the Science meeting to occur in Jan. 2020. The event will bring together partners from across the basin to strengthen the connection between scientists and practitioners and to incorporate evolving science into restoration work. Planning involved making connections between different FIP partnerships to discuss lessons learned.			
	Define monitoring priorities				
	Develop and promote a monitoring framework				

				- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.	

Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds					
Strategies	Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions) - Regional Review Teams completed first project technical reviews for most new FIPs; implementation of projects will begin in spring 2020. - Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed work to develop a theory of change and progress monitoring framework for each of the new cohort of FIPs. - Shared and discussed Adaptive Management Guidance document with FIPs. It is intended to strengthen adaptive management in partnership-based restoration.	So That: (outputs) - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB's landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - 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 encourages a culture of innovation. - 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. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk	Near-term measure: - 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.
	Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies	- Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by soliciting a request for proposal for a pipe-sizing tool to aid in the development of tide gate designs that meet regulatory requirements for fish passage. - Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by soliciting a request for proposal for the development of a funding decision support tool to help optimize funding for tide gate repair and replacement projects.			
	Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission	- OWEB's Project Life Cycle team initiated a project to scope software programming opportunities to better capture and share lessons learned in Project Completion Reports to make the information more accessible internally and externally.			

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: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an update on ongoing discussion on the board subcommittee structure, and requests board action on selecting a subcommittee structure at the January 2020 meeting.

II. Background

Beginning at the July, 2019 meeting, the board initiated a process to refresh subcommittees, which to that point had largely been organized around OWEB's grant programs. At the July meeting, the board reflected on their experience with OWEB subcommittees, involvement with subcommittees on other boards and commissions, and topics of interest that could be incorporated into a revised subcommittee structure.

Based on the July board meeting discussion, staff surveyed board members on a proposed subcommittee structure that included retaining the following standing subcommittees: Focused Investment, Monitoring, Acquisitions, and Executive. The proposed subcommittee structure also included a new standing subcommittee on Strategic Plan Implementation, and ad hoc subcommittees based on Water and Climate Change.

III. October Board Meeting Discussion

At the October meeting, the board agreed to move forward with the following subcommittees:

- The Focused Investment Subcommittee which focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP), and other OWEB grant programs with a similar mandate.
- The Acquisitions Subcommittee which focuses on issues related to OWEB's acquisition grant program, including applications and policy reviews.
- The Monitoring Subcommittee which oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring, including: Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes, FIP monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.
- The Executive Subcommittee which is composed of the board co-chairs and the chair of each subcommittee to discuss OWEB policy, program, and budget issues.

At the October meeting, the board also had robust discussion around the topics of climate change, water, strategic plan implantation, and diversity, equity, and inclusion, and requested additional conversations on these topics before the January 2020 board meeting and ultimate selection of a subcommittee structure. At the meeting, board members signed up for participating on a call on a topic(s) that were of interest to them.

IV. January Board Meeting Discussion

In December, board members participated on phone calls, each organized around a specific topic identified for further discussion at the October, 2019 board meeting (i.e., climate change, water, strategic plan implantation, and diversity, equity, and inclusion). On each call, board members discussed why the topic was of interest to them, why it should be elevated at the board level, and a recommendation for the board to consider in evaluating a subcommittee structure. These summaries are included in Attachment A to the staff report.

Based on the discussions, staff have also developed a draft schematic that outlines a revised subcommittee structure (Attachment B) that includes ad hoc subcommittees on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Strategic Plan, Water, and Climate Change. At the conclusion of each ad hoc subcommittee, a final report to the board would be drafted that would include recommendations on how the subcommittee's topic would be moved forward either at a standing subcommittee or at the board level. If the recommendation from an ad hoc committee is not to become a standing committee, members should also recommend how the topic continues to be considered at either the executive committee or full board levels.

At the January board meeting, staff will facilitate a discussion to identify the preferred board subcommittee structure moving forward, including consideration of staff and board member capacity. Following establishment of subcommittee 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 January board meeting, with a subcommittee structure determined by the board.

Attachments

A. Board Phone Conversation Summaries
B. Draft Revised Subcommittee Structure

Subcommittee Topic: Strategic Plan

I. Board members interested

Tony Selle, Bruce Buckmaster, Debbie Hollen, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, and Jason Robison

II. Discussion Summary

On December 13th, interested board members convened with staff to discuss how the strategic plan can continue to be elevated at the board level. Board members discussed the following as how oversight of the strategic plan could be structured:

- The board should have ultimate leadership in strategic plan implementation.
- The Executive subcommittee, which is made up of the board co-chairs, and the chairs of subcommittees, could be tasked with strategic plan oversight, but there may be elements within the plan that require a closer look through an existing subcommittee or an ad hoc subcommittee developed to address the issue.
- Staff will continue to provide updates to strategic plan implementation at every board meeting.
- It is important for the board to understand where OWEB is at in terms of implementing the strategic plan; any recognized gaps in the plan, if OWEB is on track to reach the objectives of the plan, and if any modifications to the plan are needed.
- In order to ensure that goals of the strategic plan are being met, a template could be developed for projects, that would provide the following information: 1) at the beginning of a project, how it will advance the strategic plan, 2) at the middle of a project, how it is meeting its objectives, and 3) at the end of the project, whether it met its objectives.

III. Recommendation

Board members recommended that, given that the Executive Committee includes chairs from other committees, it should have oversight of the strategic plan, including a close review of the strategic plan 1-2 times per year. The review should include:

- Are OWEB's activities consistent with and advancing the strategic plan?
- Are there gaps in implementing the strategic plan?
- At what point does the Strategic Plan need modifications?

If gaps are identified in topics that do not easily fit into the charge of the Executive subcommittee or other subcommittees, an ad hoc Strategic Plan subcommittee may be formed.

The board members also recommended that an ad hoc committee could be formed early on to develop a high-level template measuring how OWEB's projects are advancing the strategic plan. The template would be used for projects, and include questions like:

- At the beginning of the project, how will this project advance the plan?
- In the middle of the project, is the plan meeting objectives?
- At the end of the project, did the plan meet the objectives? Did it advance the strategic plan?

Subcommittee Topic: Water

I. Board members interested

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Mark Labhart, Jason Robison, Eric Murray, Meg Reeves, and Gary Marshall

II. Discussion Summary

On December 9th, board members interested in the topic of water convened with staff to discuss how water may be elevated at the board level. Board members discussed the following as potential topics of interest around the theme of water:

- Oregon's 100 Year Water Vision, particularly the connection with "natural infrastructure".
- Current programs involving both water quality and quantity, and how OWEB may address in the future.
- Coordination with other funders and agencies that also have a focus on water.
- Water infrastructure projects and benefits to salmon.
- Groundwater/surface water connections.
- Impacts to fish and wildlife, with a focus on endangered species issues.
- How water storage can impact and/or restore watersheds.
- Recognize OWEB's non-regulatory role as a funder of projects and programs.
- Impacts of climate change on water supply.
- Water transactions (which is a more technical topic that may be appropriate for an expanded Acquisitions subcommittee, which can include in its charge both land and water acquisitions topics).
- It may be important for the board to be proactive on this issue, as water is a legislative priority.

III. Recommendation

Board members recommended beginning with an ad hoc Water subcommittee organized around Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision. The subcommittee would be charged by the board to develop a more refined purpose, including strategic alignment with OWEB grants in the future.

Subcommittee Topic: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

I. Board members interested

Tony Selle, Meg Reeves, Liza Jane McAlister, Debbie Hollen, Jason Robison, and Brenda McComb

II. Discussion Summary

On December 11th, board members interested in the topic of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), convened with staff to discuss how DEI may be elevated at the board level. Board members discussed the following as potential topics of interest around the theme of DEI:

- Work on the issue is happening in many different venues, and is an integral part of OWEB's strategic plan.
- There is uncertainty of how well underserved populations in the state know of OWEB and the projects that the agency funds, let alone how well these underserved populations participate in the development, implementation, and monitoring of projects.
- DEI is a difficult issue that the country is struggling with, and there is concern that inertia may set in when addressing a topic as challenging as DEI.
- It is important that all stakeholders have a voice, regardless of whether they are easy or difficult to reach.
- Given the constitutional sideboards established through Measure 76, there are challenges in incorporating DEI into OWEB's grant programs.
- It is important that OWEB to model that the agency integrates DEI into its culture.
- OWEB's diverse board has responsibility to help staff on the topic, it will be important that both board and staff are well-trained on DEI issues.
- Board members participating recommended four key areas of focus moving forward:
    - OWEB staff and board are trained and model that we are inclusive and diverse
    - OWEB ensures all stakeholders are heard and at the table
    - OWEB considers ways to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into how and where we grant
    - OWEB works to ensure that the agency reaches diverse participants to make sure they know funding is available and how to participate in OWEB programs.

III. Recommendation

Board members recommended beginning with an ad hoc DEI subcommittee that provides leadership on the topic, and assists staff in organizing a focused DEI training for all board members. Within a short timeframe, it is recommended that the work of the ad hoc subcommittee would be transferred to the Executive subcommittee in order to incorporate the DEI values into OWEB's grant making and agency culture.

Subcommittee Topic: Climate Change

I. Board members interested

Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Bruce Buckmaster, Brenda McComb, and Eric Murray

II. Discussion Summary

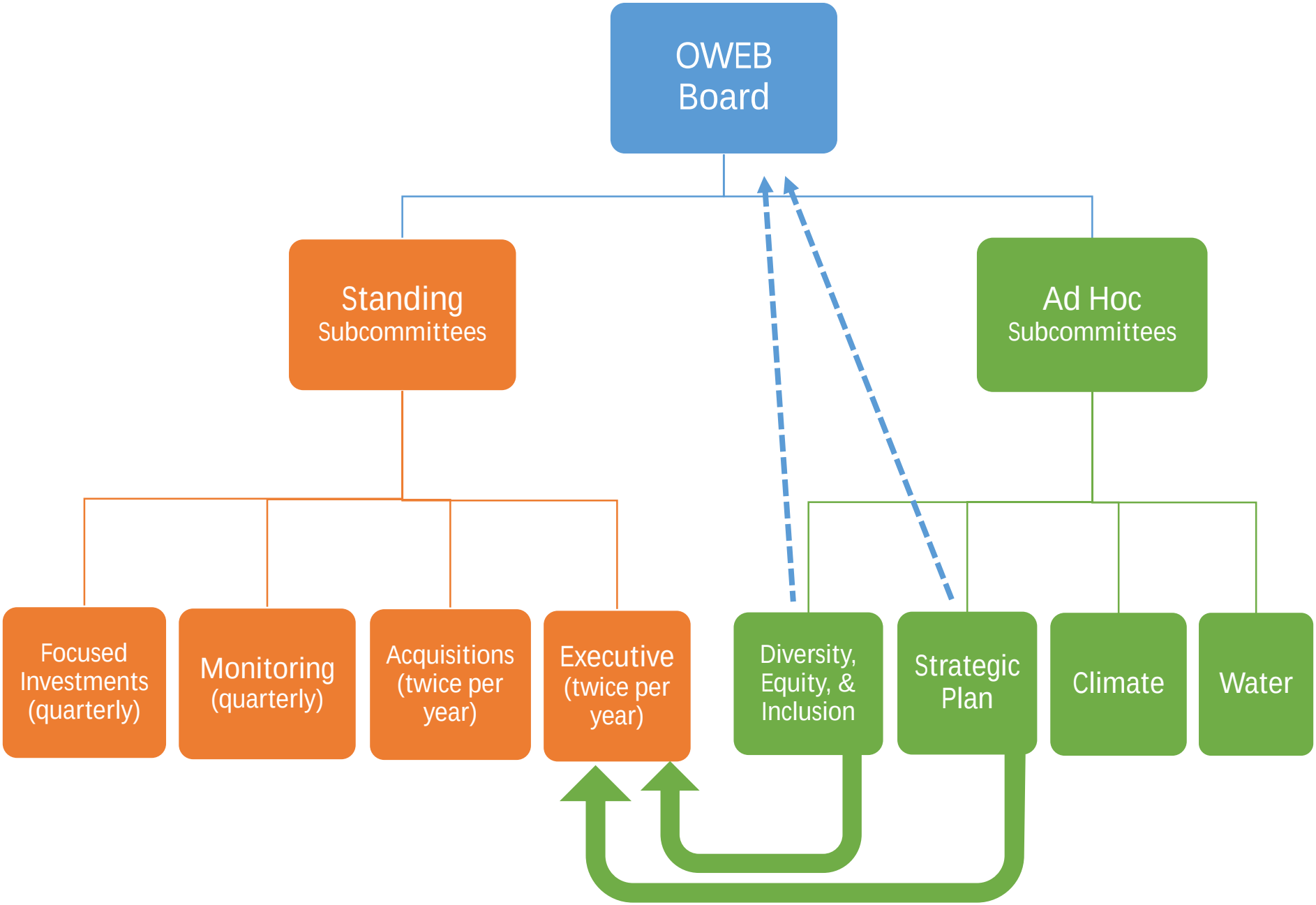
On December 10th, board members interested in the topic of climate change convened with staff to discuss how climate change may be elevated at the board level. Board members discussed the following as potential topics of interest around the theme of climate change:

- OWEB's strategic plan highlights that "improving our watersheds requires taking the long view", and any restoration work completed should take into account a changing future.
- OWEB is an enabler of conservation work, and can be a lead in implementing project-level actions to address climate change through nature-based solutions.
- Climate change is impacting all of OWEB's programs and projects.
- OWEB can play a leadership role in communicating science to our on-the-ground partners, and also reflecting from those partners back to agencies that may be able to provide information to fill identified scientific gaps, in order to implement more effective conservation work.
- While all of OWEB's projects have some tie to climate, we do not have a clear standard on what we are looking for in how to evaluate projects from a climate action perspective.
- Underserved communities may be most impacted by climate change, OWEB may play a role in promoting environmental justice in this regard.
- Our ability to downscale predictions of climate impacts to local areas has improved significantly in recent years, and that may help in prioritizing projects that have lasting impacts in the face of climate change.

III. Recommendation

Board members recommended beginning with an ad hoc climate subcommittee that could identify specific areas of focus and next steps which may include a standing committee to practically incorporate climate change into OWEB's granting programs. Areas of initial focus could include:

1) Identifying approaches to help disseminate the breadth of climate science to on-the-ground partners,
2) Identifying climate-related gaps in information that local stakeholders need to better understand how climate change could impact local projects, and bringing that information back to the scientific community, and
3) Inviting expert review of OWEB's granting through the lens of climate action and bring recommendations to the full board to strengthen connections between grants and climate change impacts.


OWEB Board
Standing Subcommittees
Ad Hoc Subcommittees
Focused Investments (quarterly)
Monitoring (quarterly)
Acquisitions (twice per year)
Executive (twice per year)
Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion
Strategic Plan
Climate
Water

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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: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Land Acquisition Conveyance
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This item requests approval of the assignment of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement from Deschutes Land Trust (DLT) to McKenzie River Trust (MRT).

II. Program Requirements

Conveyances of property interests previously purchased with OWEB funds must comply with ORS 541.960 and OAR 695-045-0210, which include the requirement that conveyances be made subject to board approval and shall not result in profit. The board may require conditions on a conveyance to ensure consistency with the intent of the grant, ensure the ability of the party receiving the property interest to carry out obligations under the grant, and address conveyance proceeds.

III. Assignment Request

The board awarded land acquisition grant funds to DLT for the purchase of a conservation easement on property in Deschutes and Jefferson Counties, referred to as Rimrock Ranch (OWEB Grant No. 206-106). DLT has proposed to assign the conservation easement to MRT prior to DLT's purchase of fee simple title to Rimrock Ranch.

The Rimrock Ranch conservation easement would be at risk of termination by operation of law, due to the merger of title, should DLT purchase fee title to Rimrock Ranch while still holding the conservation easement. Merger is the absorption of a lesser estate such as an easement by a greater estate such as fee simple title and takes place when the two estates meet in the same entity at the same time. Therefore, to ensure that the conservation easement is not terminated, DLT proposes to assign the conservation easement to MRT before purchasing fee simple title to Rimrock Ranch. DLT has indicated that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which also provided funding for the purchase of the conservation easement, is preparing to approve the assignment of the easement to MRT.

MRT has agreed to be assigned the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement. At staff request, DLT submitted an acquisition application with results and benefits and organizational capacity sections completed so staff could evaluate the rationale for the proposal, the intended

outcomes, and the capacity of MRT to serve as the holder of the easement. The proposal states that MRT works with many partners in the region and is well suited to assume the responsibilities of holding the conservation easement.

IV. Staff Review

Staff have worked with the Department of Justice to review the soundness of the proposal, including documents that will accomplish the assignment. The review did not identify any significant concerns, although there are various items that will need to be addressed before the assignment documents can be finalized. These include ensuring compliance with applicable statutes and rules, establishing the circumstances of the transaction, documenting MRT's assumption of responsibilities, and establishing other understandings including approval from NRCS. Staff have let DLT know of items that will require attention and do not anticipate complications in finalizing the documents.

MRT is accredited by the National Land Trust Alliance, and has successfully completed previous OWEB acquisition transactions. The proposed conveyance aligns well with the mission of the organization. MRT staff have sufficient expertise and processes in place to ensure the conservation values of the property are protected. An endowment for annual stewardship costs is in place and is expected to adequately cover the annual costs of easement monitoring and stewardship.

V. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the assignment of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement (OWEB Grant No. 206-106) from Deschutes Land Trust to McKenzie River Trust conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents.

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Agenda Item H 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
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Receive Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Funding and Recaptured Funds for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board accept $200,000 in federal funds from the NRCS for CREP technical assistance (TA) and add $37,771 of recaptured funds to the CREP TA line item of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan in order to fully fund thirteen 2020 CREP TA grant applications that are recommended for funding.

II. Background

The Oregon CREP is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Service Agency, with technical support from NRCS and local partners, including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities.

In addition to providing cost-share on conservation practice implementation, OWEB also provides statewide CREP TA grants every two years. These grants, available since 2012, fund CREP technician positions that are typically housed with watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. CREP technicians engage with landowners to inform them about the program and then work with interested landowners to assist with program enrollment and to develop conservation plans specific to their properties. Grantees are required to report to OWEB, NRCS and FSA quarterly on their progress in these areas.

While this is a competitive offering, CREP TA grants are similar to capacity investments in that the majority of the funds are used for salary, training, and travel for CREP technicians,

and other local CREP operating expenses. The composition of grantees has changed slightly with each offering, but 10 of the 13 applicants have funded CREP technician positions continuously since 2012 through CREP TA grant funding.

III. 2020 CREP TA Grant Solicitation

On September 13, 2019, OWEB received 14 applications, requesting a combined $1,739,698, in response to the 2020 CREP Technical Assistance Grant offering. The review team met on October 3, 2019 to evaluate and rank the applications. Thirteen applications, requesting $1,654,712, were recommended for funding, which exceeds the spending plan line item by $289,712.

IV. Receipt of NRCS Funding and CREP TA Grant Funding Proposal

NRCS has provided $200,000 to OWEB in support of the CREP-TA program. NRCS has a long history of supporting this program in partnership with OWEB. OWEB staff propose to use these funds, along with unspent CREP TA monitoring and training funds, and recaptured funds from the 2017-2019 biennium as described in Table 1 to fully fund the 13 recommended proposals.

Table 1. Funding scenario for 2020 CREP Technical Assistance Grants.

Funding Source	Fund Amount ($)
OWEB 2019-2021 Spending Plan	$1,365,000
NRCS (July 2019 CREP TA award modification)	$200,000
Unspent 2015-2017 CREP TA Funding and unspent 2017-2019 CREP Monitoring Funds	$51,941
Recapture from 2017-2019	$37,771
TOTAL	$1,654,712

V. Recommendation

1) Staff recommend that the board approve receipt of $200,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for CREP technical assistance and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements.
2) Staff request that the board add $37,771 of recaptured funds to the CREP technical assistance line item of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds for appropriate agreements.

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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: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
Leah Tai, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Awards
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2019 Partnership TA grant offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment A to the staff report.

II. Background

At the July 2019 meeting, the board adopted its 2019-2021 spending plan and allocated $1 million for the new Partnership TA grants and approved staff to offer two grant cycles this biennium, with $500,000 being available for each offering. Since this is a new grant program, $500,000 per cycle was a rough estimate of potential demand. This new grant offering emerged from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation's Partnership Learning Project, and lessons learned from the previously offered Capacity Building and Development FIP grant offerings. However in the Partnership TA grant offering, applicants are not required to address a board-identified Focused Investment Priority of significance to the state.

There are two project types within the Partnership TA grants, Development and Capacity, as shown in Attachment B.

III. Summary of Solicitation and Review Process

A. Solicitation

In July 2019, staff solicited for the first round of Partnership TA grants for the 2019-2021 biennium. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to participate in a consultation with staff. The purpose of the consultation is to review the program's purpose, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing with applicants.

B. Applications Submitted

Fifteen applications were received by the October 14, 2019 deadline requesting $1,707,202. Four applications applied for Partnership Capacity funding and 11 applications applied for Development funding. Applications were submitted from each

of OWEB's six regions; a map of the applications can be found in Attachment C to the staff report.

C. Review Process
Applications were evaluated based the evaluation criteria included in the technical assistance rules OAR 695-030-0045(3): 1) stakeholder engagement, 2) proposal clarity, 3) technical soundness, and 4) organizational capacity. Reviewers provided a 'fund', 'fund with conditions, or 'do not fund' recommendation, and ranked applications.

IV. Funding Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award Partnership TA grants as shown in Attachment A. This staff recommended funding amount is $279,222 above the current board adopted spending plan of $500,000 for this offering. When developing this recommendation staff considered that this is a new grant offering with an expanded scope compared to previous Development and Capacity grant offerings. When the spending plan was adopted in July 2019, the board set this offering at the same amount as the previously offered Development FIP grants. However, with the expansion of the scope of these grants beyond the FIP geographies, OWEB received a high number of high quality applications from around the state, and staff recommend that the top applications be funded to reduce backlog in a future cycle.

The next grant offering will be announced in July 2020, with applications due in October and board action in January 2021. While a vote is not required at this time, in order to support a robust second grant offering, staff recommend the board signal its intent to add additional funds to the Partnership TA grant spending plan category when it updates the spending plan in July 2020. Based on current budget projections and funds recaptured from completed grants, it is anticipated the board will have additional funds to add to the spending plan in July.

Attachments

A. Staff Funding Recommendation
B. Partnership TA graphic
C. Map
D. Evaluations

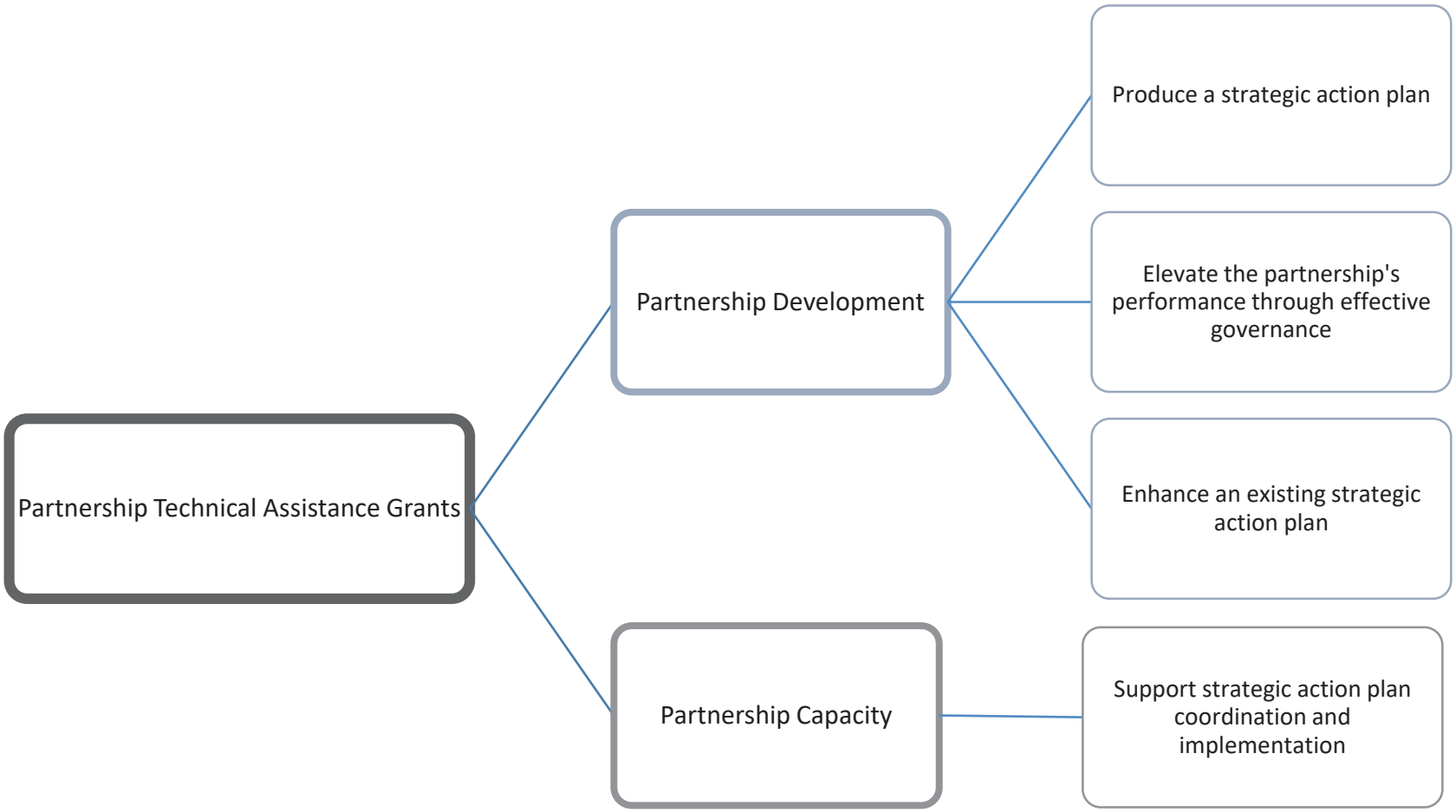
Staff Funding Recommendation
2019 Partnership Technical Assistance

Partnership TA Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order						
Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	Project Type	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	Priority
220-8309	Wallowa Resources	Wallowa County Annual Invasive Grass Partnership	Development	The newly formed Wallowa County Annual Invasive Grass Partnership will develop a strategic action plan, financial plan, communication plan, monitoring plan, and best management practices to address invasive grasses in bunchgrass dominated ecosystems.	$ 105,488	1
220-8301	Siuslaw WC	Siuslaw Coho Partnership Capacity	Capacity	The Siuslaw Coho Partnership will complete updates to two strategic action plan documents, complete an acquisition plan, and engage stakeholders in high priority watersheds as the partnership transitions from planning to implementation.	$ 144,168	2
220-8313	Union County	Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership - Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Planning	Development	The Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed Partnership will develop a strategic action plan in conjunction with a place-based integrated water resources implementation plan to prepare the partnership for implementation.	$ 100,000	3
220-8311	Willamette Partnership	Supporting the Emerging Partnership of the Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative	Capacity	The Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative will formalize internal operating procedures and establish committees and work groups to support the partnership as it transitions from planning to implementation.	$ 150,000	4
220-8303	North Santiam WC	Advancing the Partners of the North Santiam	Development	The Partners of the North Santiam will develop three focused restoration initiatives based off an existing strategic action plan; each initiative will have an associated monitoring framework, stakeholder engagement strategies, and a fundraising plan to prepare the partnership for implementation.	$ 149,859	5
220-8306	Upper Deschutes WC	Upper Deschutes Partnership	Development	The Upper Deschutes Partnership will develop a strategic action plan and associated governance and communications documents, initiating a collaborative habitat restoration planning effort in the upper Deschutes watershed.	$ 129,707	6
Total Partnership TA Projects Recommended for Funding by TRT and OWEB Staff					$ 779,222	
Partnership TA Projects Recommended by TRT but Not Funded in Priority Order						
220-8312	Klamath Bird Observatory	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network Partnership Capacity	Capacity	The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network will develop mapping and monitoring tools to support the partnership's transition from planning to implementation.	$ 80,106	7
220-8315	Forest Park Conservancy	Forest Park Restoration Collaborative (FPRC)	Development	The Forest Park Restoration Collaborative will develop a strategic action plan, governance structure, communications plan, financial plan, and establish a data library to organize and inform ongoing restoration in Forest Park.	$ 92,796	8
Total Partnership TA Projects Recommended by TRT but Not Funded					$ 172,902	

Staff Funding Recommendation
2019 Partnership Technical Assistance

Partnership TA Projects Not Recommended for Funding by TRT				
Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	Project Type	OWEB Request
220-8302	Rogue Basin Partnership	RBP: the next 3 years...	Capacity	$ 147,840
220-8304	Coastal Quest	10-Year Strategic Action Plan Development for Clackamas River Water Providers	Development	$ 100,000
220-8305	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Partnership Technical Assistance	Development	$ 149,248
220-8307	Crooked River WC	Crooked River Water Quality Partnership	Development	$ 81,763
220-8308	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Basin Water Planning Partnership	Development	$ 79,008
220-8310	Necanium WC	Columbia Pacific Pollinator Collaborative	Development	$ 58,769
220-8314	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Increasing Restoration and Conservation Impact in the Upper Willamette, Phase I	Development	$ 148,450
Total Partnership TA Projects Not Recommended for funding by TRT				$ 765,078
TOTAL: All Partnership TA Project Requests				$ 1,717,202

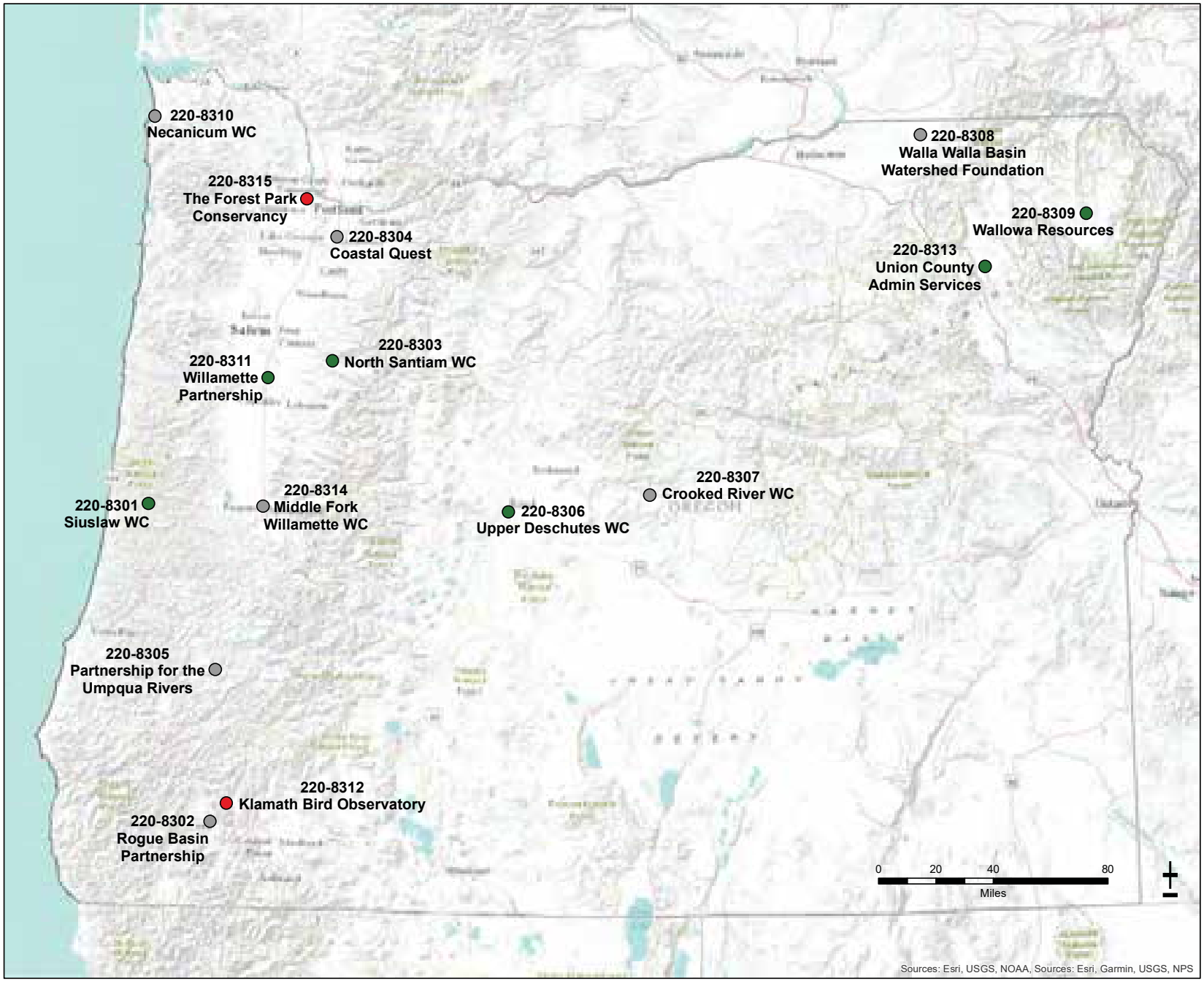
Partnership Technical Assistance Grants



Attachment C

Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Applications

October 2019



Funding Recommendations

- Staff Recommended Funding
- Below Funding Line
- Do Not Fund

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Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluations

Project #: 220-8301

OWEB Region: 1

Applicant: Siuslaw Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $144,168

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership was formally convened in response to NOAA's federal recovery plan for the Oregon Coast coho salmon, spawned from OWEB and other funders' strategic investments in partnerships to formulate individual recovery plans for the OC coho ESU. The Siuslaw Coho Partnership completed two strategic action plans (SAPs) for recovery of the species within the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes watersheds. The Partnership is seeking additional funding to sustain and propel the capacity of the Partnership in the following ways: 1. Complete the Coastal Lakes SAP in a final formatted design and update the Coastal Lakes SAP and Siuslaw SAP in accordance with OWEB's new SAP criteria for applying to the FIP program next biennium and address feedback from OWEB's technical review of the previous FIP application. 2. Complete an Acquisition Plan for the partnership in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes Basins. 3. Support stakeholder engagement and outreach to build support for coho recovery actions and the implementation of projects on private lands within the high priority watersheds. 4. Provide match funding to a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion planning process to begin in year 2 or 3 of the 3 year grant. The Siuslaw Coho Partnership's geography covers the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Watersheds (Siltcoos and Tahkenitch) on the Central Oregon Coast. Partners include: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, McKenzie River Trust, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Siuslaw National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The Siuslaw Coho Partnership is a well-established partnership that has the right partners working together.
- The application is timely, it builds off the partnership's current activities and builds momentum toward future restoration actions.
- The application was very specific and tied the proposed activities directly to the two existing strategic action plans and future conservation actions.
- The application is introspective and demonstrates the partnership has a thorough understanding of the importance and challenges around stakeholder engagement. The

partnership will work to engage new stakeholder groups as a part of the application, including underrepresented groups.

- The timeline and budget are realistic and align with the proposed deliverables.
- Partnership roles and responsibilities are clear, it's nice to see the budget compensates partners for participating.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- There are no private landowners listed as core partners, which might be beneficial to the partnership given the challenges of working with private landowners in the coastal lakes basins.
- Without additional funding, which the applicant is seeking, the partnership may not be able to complete the proposed diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work.

Concluding Analysis

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership has been working together for many years and has successfully completed multiple planning processes. The application demonstrates the partnership is ready to move from planning to implementation and has a clear vision for the next steps, including expanding who it engages with in the watershed.

Review Team Priority Ranking 2/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $144,168

Project #: 220-8302

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Rogue Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: $147,840

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary

The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP), a 501(c)(3) Oregon nonprofit corporation, seeks capacity funding to support continuing implementation of the Rogue Restoration Action Plan (RRAP). A) The RRAP is a Rogue Basin-wide action plan. RBP has 20 members and additional partners across the Basin. RBP works Basin-wide to support RRAP implementation. b) 2020 marks 5 years since the RRAP was released; the 10-year Plan calls for a 5-year review of its 75 strategies and their implementation. In 2020, RBP's organizational strategic plan sunsets; this document sets priorities for RBP's RRAP implementation actions. 2020 also marks 5 years since RBP's incorporation. Since 2015, RBP has gone from infancy, through adolescence to young-adulthood. Capacity funding will help RBP to continue to mature. It will allow RBP to leverage existing secured funding so it can update its two plans while: continuing to coordinate RRAP implementation; improving communication between members; planning, tracking and reporting to members the status of implementation actions; and seeking additional, non-FIP funding to support implementation actions. c) Work will include: Coordination and support of Working Groups; Planning and facilitation of members' and Board meetings; Planning and facilitation of the RBP Board's revision of the priority-setting RBP strategic plan; Seeking non-FIP funding for RBP staff and RRAP implementation activities; Updating the data and strategies underlying the RRAP; Completing the RRAP theory of change and project monitoring framework; Extending the on-line project tracking platform; and Arranging and facilitating an annual "State of the Basin" workshop to bring together all members of the Rogue Basin restoration community to advance RRAP implementation by sharing information and promoting further collaboration. Partners include: RBP's 20 members; and Local, state and federal agencies.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has a long list of accomplishments and a strong executive director that has been effective in leading and facilitating the large partnership.
- The partnership has successfully developed and implemented a template for effective engagement of working groups to act as the implementers of the strategic action plan.
- The partnership has an active approach for engaging stakeholders in the Rogue Basin.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- There are a lot of organizations operating in the Rogue Basin; this application does not clearly articulate the role of the Rogue Basin Partnership and its role in implementing conservation actions.
- The organizational structure of the partnership is hard to understand, specifically what is the role of the members and how are decisions made beyond the membership meetings.

- The application clearly articulates the accomplishments of the individual members, it does not clearly articulate the accomplishments of the partnership and how those accomplishments have benefits to conservation outcomes on the ground.
- It is not clear how the proposed actions build off the partnership's strategic action plan.
- There are lots of activities listed, but the long-term vision for the partnership and its role in conservation actions in the Rogue Basin are unclear.

Concluding Analysis

The Rogue Basin Partnership has developed an effective workgroup structure to engage the variety of members that are involved in the organization. The partnership have several plans that guide the work of the partnership. The application did not clearly describe the niche of the partnership and how the activities proposed in the application are linked to the strategic action plan and will result in future conservation actions.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8303

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: North Santiam Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $149,859

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

The geographic scope for the Partners of the North Santiam (PNS) is the entire North Santiam Watershed, from the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains to the mid-Willamette Valley floor. Based on science-based references and plans created by agencies addressing natural resource concerns in the North Santiam Watershed (See draft Plan Appendix J), the PNS prioritized four main goals for the watershed: clean and ample supply of water, robust aquatic habitats, healthy riparian systems, and healthy terrestrial habitats. The PNS will address the limiting factors affecting those goals by conserving and enhancing the ecological processes upon which they rely. Key limiting factors to achieving these goals include inefficient water management practices, urban and agricultural sediment and nutrient runoff, elevated water temperatures, loss of instream habitat complexity, loss of habitat access, simplification of the streams channel systems, removal of riparian and floodplain vegetation, and introduction of nonnative species. After receiving OWEB FIP review team feedback the PNS recognized the need to be more focused; prioritizing the more pressing limiting factors impacting the watershed's ecosystem processes. The PNS will work with BEF to develop a theory of change framework based on the existing action plan strategies. With a tailored theory of change conceptual model and results chain, PNS will work with GSI Water Solutions, Inc. to identify and develop up to three focused basin initiatives. For each initiative, PNS will prioritize projects, create a monitoring framework and database tracking system, initiate stakeholder engagement, formalize the governance structure and update the action plan. Grant funds will be used for contracted services, staff time and database services. Partners include: Santiam Water Control District, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Marion SWCD, City of Salem, Marion County, Linn County, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Forestry, Natural Resources and Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, South Santiam Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust, and private landowners.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has a history of effectively working together and has the skills and capacity to successfully complete this planning effort.
- The application has a strong stakeholder engagement strategy and identified an appropriate list of stakeholders relevant to the geography and ecological focus. Water users are included in the process, which will likely help to build buy-in and lead to successful implementation.
- The application and budget are clearly articulated.
- The partnership is working with consultants to provide technical expertise in the theory of change and plan to contract facilitation to a group familiar with the geography. Pursuing external support from qualified consultants in lieu of relying solely on internal capacity

demonstrates an awareness of lessons learned from the previous North Santiam strategic planning effort.
- The application responds to prior feedback by developing a more focused strategy and formalized governance structure.

Application concerns identified during review include:
- The partnership encompasses the entire North Santiam Watershed; implementation at this scale may be unwieldy or challenging.
- The approach to develop three focused initiatives is interesting, but it is not clear how these focal areas will be determined.

Concluding Analysis

The Partners of the North Santiam have been effective at collaborating in the past; they have completed one large strategic planning effort and secured non-OWEB partnership funding for related efforts. The group recognizes that additional focused planning is needed before moving to implementation. The partnership shows a clear vision for planning at this large scale by proposing a unique approach to identify three focused initiatives and detail individual action plans for each.

Review Team Priority Ranking 5/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $149,859

Project #: 220-8304

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: Coastal Quest

Requested Amount: $100,000

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

Coastal Quest, along with our partner Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP), is seeking OWEB funding to support its development of a 10-Year Strategic Action Plan for the 940 square mile Clackamas River watershed. CRWP is a coalition of eight municipal water providers on the Clackamas River which serve over 300,000 people's drinking water in Clackamas and Washington Counties. CRWP coordinates source water protection and public outreach and education efforts around watershed issues, drinking water, and water conservation. In 2010, CRWP created a Drinking Water Protection Plan (DWPP) for the Clackamas River that provides coalition members with source water protection strategies. The DWPP allows CRWP to 1) organize efforts that identify, prevent, minimize, and mitigate activities that have potentially harmful impacts on drinking water quality, and 2) promote public awareness and stewardship of healthy watershed ecology in collaboration with other stakeholders. Since this time, CRWP is increasingly aware of the watershed's need for a strategic approach to source protection efforts in a way that aligns priorities, leverages resources, and integrates with partner actions and leadership through long-term agreements. A 10-Year Strategic Action Plan will allow CRWP to address, among other things, land use and urban growth issues related to water quality and fish population impacts, water supply concerns regarding withdrawals for people, and Programmatic and operational infrastructure improvements for effective engagement and alignment between the CRWP and its basin partners. CRWP will partner with Coastal Quest, an Oakland, California based 501(c)3 to identify CRWP strengths and areas for improvement, assess future needs and areas of opportunity, and identify strategies for effective collaboration and coordination. Using this information, Coastal Quest and CRWP will develop a 10-Year Strategic Action Plan as a final deliverable. Partners include: the City of Estacada, the City of Tigard, the City of Lake Oswego, Clackamas River Water, the City of Gladstone, Oak Lodge Water Services, Sunrise Water Authority, and the South Fork Water Board.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has a history of implementing important work to improve water quality in the region.
- The partnership has a current plan focused on water quality and this project would incorporate water quantity strategies into their new action plan.
- The partnership is comprised of groups that don't typically work with OWEB and the application's focus is outside of the box.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The stakeholder engagement plan is lacking specificity and appears to be collecting information from constituents rather than working with the community in collaborative way.
- The application does not reference the Clackamas Partnership, an active Focused Investment Partnership in the same geographic region with potentially overlapping long-term goals.
- The budget is not sufficiently detailed to understand the various project components provided by contracted services.
- The application does not address potential barriers, such as water rights considerations or differing standpoints of core partners related to water use.

Concluding Analysis

The Clackamas River Water Providers propose a unique regional approach to incorporate water quantity into upcoming water quality planning efforts. The application focuses on data collection from partners and stakeholders and does not clearly explain how the planning effort would lead to watershed improvement actions. The partners should consider applying for an OWEB Open Solicitation technical assistance planning/resource assessment grant to survey their stakeholders and establish the social baseline information needed for the future work of the partnership.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do not fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8305

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Requested Amount: $149,248

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

The Umpqua Basin is a 4,640 square mile watershed that stretches from the Cascades to the coast in southern Oregon. The Umpqua is a valuable stronghold for native salmon and steelhead but past land management activities have negatively affected fish runs. In order to efficiently and effectively address restoration across such a large area, the Umpqua Basin Partnership (UBP) has developed a new basin-wide Strategic Action Plan (SAP) as part of the Focused Investment Partnership. Through the development of the basin wide action plan, the UBP identified coho habitat restoration as a priority. The Partnership now seeks to create a coho specific action plan with the assistance of the Wild Salmon Center (WSC). WSC will work with the UBP to develop a Coho SAP to identify and prioritize coho specific protection and restoration efforts, aimed at a specific population, using a holistic approach that maximizes ecological benefits to the resource. This plan, combined with our previously developed basin wide strategic action plan, uses a science based approach to create coordinated, contiguous restoration projects throughout the Umpqua Basin. WSC staff will work closely with PUR and other partners to finalize production of the Coho SAP. The partnership includes: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Elk Creek Watershed Council, Smith River Watershed Council, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, Roseburg/Coos Bay BLM, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The board membership is diverse and tribes are represented within the partnership.
- The Wild Salmon Center has a well-coordinated framework for coho strategic planning and a track record of successful efforts in other basins along the Oregon coast. This established process generates buy-in for local stakeholders and rolls up final products to a common framework.
- The budget has a clear and reasonable distribution of funds among partners. This demonstrates that partners are engaged and have a stake in the results.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application lacks a clear description of who comprises the core partners versus additional partners and engaged community stakeholders, i.e. timber, agriculture, and private landowners.
- The partnership has experienced recent transition in leadership and the application does not clearly describe the roles of current membership and functioning governance. It appears that agriculture and timber representatives are included in the partnership, but the role of private landowners is not clear.

- The partnership established a “majority plus one” standard for decision making; this level of agreement may not be sufficient to effectively develop a collaborative coho business plan.
- The application describes partner engagement through board membership, but does not discuss methods for engaging external stakeholders.
- The application does not clearly articulate the rationale for launching into a new coho planning effort while the partnership’s current strategic planning effort is not complete.

Concluding Analysis

The Partners of the Umpqua River were awarded a Partnership Capacity grant in 2016 and are currently working to complete their strategic action plan and finalized governance structure. The scope and number of partners in this group necessitates clear roles and governance to maintain timelines and effectively complete a planning effort, but the application does not clearly show how a second new planning effort would lead to better coordination and implementation.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do not fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8306

OWEB Region: 4

Applicant: Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $129,707

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

The Deschutes Land Trust (DLT), the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) and the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council (UDWC) have been working as the Deschutes Partnership in the Deschutes basin for many years, with strong support from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and other funders. To date, the Partnership has focused upstream of Lake Billy Chinook, supporting the reintroduction of steelhead and Chinook salmon. Certainly, more remains to be done to ensure that program's success and the Partnership will continue to do that work. However, the UDWC, DLT, and DRC are also looking at the Upper Deschutes watershed upstream of the reintroduction area as a geography that could benefit from strategic, collaborative conservation and restoration efforts. This proposal seeks to build on the success of the past by formalizing the Upper Deschutes Partnership and enabling this same group of partners and a group of technical advisors to focus on pressing ecological in the Deschutes river watershed upstream of Big Falls near Terrebonne, OR. Significant stream flow and habitat degradation are presenting threats to native fish and other aquatic species. These issues have gained urgency with the recent listing of the Oregon spotted frog under the Endangered Species Act. Ongoing regulatory and collaborative efforts suggest that flow restoration will begin soon. A strategic action plan delivered through this grant would guide future restoration efforts by this partnership, allowing us to restore habitat for the Oregon spotted frog and native fish species in locations that are not dependent on flow restoration. Also part of the plan will be to and examine and prioritize areas where future flow restoration will allow for successful habitat restoration to occur. Partners include: Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has been working well together since 2005. They have a proven track record of restoration successes and lessons learned from past projects, such as Whychus Creek.
- The partnership has a robust group of technical advisors, including the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, USFS, ODFW and USFS.
- The proposed work is timely given current focus on flow management along the Upper Deschutes. The partnership will focus on habitat connectivity in "non-wetted" areas as well as areas that are not impacted by flow restoration activities, ensuring short-term restoration options are identified while new flow management regulations facilitate long-term restoration options.
- Oregon spotted frog habitat in this basin is critical to the population's success.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application describes the need to engage a broad group of stakeholders as the partnership moves towards implementation activities, but does not specifically address major landowners, such as the BLM and homeowner associations along the Upper Deschutes River. The BLM and private landowners will likely be critical to SAP success. The communication plan should include information on how to engage additional partners that will be key to future implementation.

Concluding Analysis

The Upper Deschutes Partnership is comprised of members from the high-performing Deschutes Partnership and have a long history successfully implementing a FIP initiative. The ecological need and timeliness for a strategic action plan to address the decline of the Oregon spotted frog is clear. The partnership plans to first develop governance documents which will help guide the goals and expectations of the partners. The core team should also consider preparing a plan to incorporate new partners early in the strategic planning process to ensure bi-directional communication with interested stakeholders, such as private landowners or members of the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative.

Review Team Priority Ranking 6/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund with conditions

Staff Recommendation: Fund with conditions

Amount: $129,707

Explanation of Conditions: The partnership should incorporate a stakeholder engagement plan into their communications document to formalize processes for integrating additional partners and input from key landowners in the planning process.

Project #: 220-8307

OWEB Region: 4

Applicant: Crooked River Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $81,763

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

This application supports the development of a formal water quality partnership focused on the Crooked River watershed. The Crooked river has several water quality listings on the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's 303d list, including temperature, e.coli, and turbidity. Moreover, recent data from Eilers and Vache (2019) suggests that nutrients from the Crooked River may affect the algal communities of Lake Billy Chinook and the lower Deschutes River, which may in turn affect the biological production and macroinvertebrate communities that form the base of the food web for anadromous fish in the Deschutes Basin. The partners in this application hope to work together to create a formal partnership focused on Crooked River water quality, leveraging each partners strengths and assets to create a durable and sustainable entity that can work together to improve water quality in the watershed. The partnership is focused on a long term (25+ year) strategic action plan (SAP) that will be used to prioritize planning, implementation, and monitoring activities across the watershed to improve water quality. Funding requested will be used to directly support the planning and writing time involved for the creation of the SAP. We anticipate the collaboration needed for the SAP development will occur over a two-year period, with quarterly meetings incorporated as check-ins during the process. We hope to include a broad swath of natural resource agencies and non-governmental organizations that have an interest in improving water quality and can provide demonstrable benefit or resources to the partnership. Partners include: Crooked River Watershed Council, Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Crook County, the City of Prineville, technical advisers, and outside stakeholders.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partners have collaborated previously implementing FIP work with the Deschutes Partnership and gained experience successfully participating in a strategic planning process.
- The application lists appropriate stakeholders to engage in the planning process.
- The decision to form a partnership is based off of recently acquired water quality data; partners have clearly recognized a need to address water quality issues within the partnership's geography.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application does not describe in detail the roles and responsibilities for core partners, and lists several partners in the budget that are not reflected in the composition of core partners.
- The application demonstrates shared recognition of a water quality problem in Crook County, but it is unclear if a shared vision around future conservation outcomes exists among partners and stakeholders in addressing this complex issue.
- It is not clear how the partnership proposes engaging key stakeholders, such as irrigation districts, in the strategic planning process, particularly since there is not a history of

engagement between the core partners and the additional stakeholders listed in the application.

- The application does not clearly describe the technical qualifications needed to convene, facilitate, and manage a collaborative partnership and a plan for securing this expertise.
- The timeline to develop a 25-year strategic action plan is short; the partnership proposes to complete this planning process in 6 months.

Concluding Analysis

The Crooked River Water Quality Partnership recognized a mutual concern regarding water quality and brought together entities to address this issue that have experience effectively working in a collaborative initiative. However, the application does not clearly articulate a method for shared learning and building consensus with partners and stakeholders of Crook County in the development of a vision and strategic action plan. The application may be missing key technical qualifications for facilitating and managing this collaborative endeavor.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do not fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8308

OWEB Region: 6

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $79,008

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

There are four water planning activities occurring in the Walla Walla Basin. The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council (WWBWC) is co-leading two of these planning activities, and assisting with data collection, data compilation, outreach, and/or providing community input in the other two activities. The four planning activities are; (1) the Bi-state Walla Walla Basin Integrated Flow Enhancement Study (the WWBWC has been co-leading this effort for the last 5 years), (2) the Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan which is a new basin-wide water planning effort, (3) WWBWC is co-leading the development of a bi-state Walla Walla Basin Water Partnership organization, and (4) assisting Oregon Water Resources Department with data support and outreach, as needed, for the Walla Walla Basin Water Resources Study that OWRD is planning to begin implementing in the Spring of 2020. This grant application seeks OWEB support for a Walla Walla Water Planning Partnership project, which will include project management, data collection, data compilation and analysis, subcontracted facilitation and strategic action plan development, assistance with plan writing, outreach, and grant administration to support the Oregon portion of the Walla Walla Basin citizens' participation in all four bi-state planning efforts. Partners include: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Washington Department of Ecology, and over 30 members of the Walla Walla Basin Flow Enhancement Study Steering Committee.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has a history of successfully implementing projects and has strong technical skills that contribute to various conservation efforts within the basin.
- The application includes stakeholder outreach incorporated into various planning components.
- The application has clear roles and processes for the steering committee outlined in the associated Integrated Flow Enhancement Study documents.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The Walla Walla Basin clearly has several interrelated water studies and partnerships with complex issues that require coordination, but the application lacks focus and well-articulated outcomes expected from this funding.
- It appears that the duration of the steering committee is limited to the completion of a strategic action plan. A discussion of the path to future restoration is needed to understand how implementation will occur.
- The application describes collaborative efforts on four interrelated fronts and proposes developing numerous reports and planning documents. Focus on fewer, specific proposed activities would clarify the application and improve likelihood of measurable success.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla Watershed Council is involved in four complex and cross-boundary water planning activities at various stages of development. Although timely with regards to ongoing related efforts, the application does not demonstrate a clear vision for success and outputs that lead to future conservation outcomes.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do not fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8309

OWEB Region: 5

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Requested Amount: $105,488

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

Wallowa County's bunchgrass dominated grasslands range from the high Zumwalt Prairie to the Snake River canyons (approximately 600,000 acres) and are important both ecologically and economically. Annual invasive grasses (AIG) are a serious threat to the integrity of these grasslands. In this project, we propose creating a formal partnership to develop a strategic action plan to address annual invasive grasses in the Pacific Bunchgrass Prairie and Canyon grassland ecosystems of Wallowa County. Products of this project include the strategic action plan, a Memorandum of Understanding, communications plan, financial plan, and best management practices for AIG management. We hope the knowledge we gain can be translated to other inter-mountain West communities battling the same issues. Partners include: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University Extension, private landowners, the Nature Conservancy, Umatilla National Forest, Wallowa County Soil and Water Conservation District, Wallowa County Vegetation Department, Wallowa Resources, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership represents a spectrum of agencies, public and private landowners, and technical experts. They are a diverse and appropriate group of partners to address invasive plant management in Wallowa County.
- The application has a comprehensive list of stakeholders. The partnership recognizes the critical role private landowners and contractors play in project success and propose an innovative approach to ensure quality engagement in planning by financially compensating these stakeholders for their time.
- The application is well-written and clearly outlines objectives, roles and responsibilities, and proposed activities.
- Wallowa Resources, a core partner and project coordinator, has expertise in collaborative processes and a 20-year history of coordinating technical invasive species work in the community.
- The project includes pilot work and development of Best Management Practices (BMPs), which will be transferable to other geographic locations. These BMPs indicate a high likelihood of future restoration projects resulting from this work.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application describes the formalization of decision-making processes, but does not explicitly state where these governance protocols will be documented. Consider including them in the MOU or other operations plan.

Concluding Analysis

The Wallowa County Annual Invasive Grass Partnership is a new partnership comprised of a diverse array of appropriate groups that have worked together informally in the past. Their collective momentum is building and this proposal is an important next step towards formalizing their partnership. The partners have the right technical and collaborative skills to successfully execute a strategic planning effort. The inclusion of key stakeholders for implementation and development of BMPs demonstrates the partnership's forward-thinking towards future restoration actions.

Review Team Priority Ranking 1/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund with conditions

Staff Recommendation: Fund with conditions

Amount: $105,488

Explanation of Conditions: The grantee will include their governance structure and operating protocols either within their MOU or as a stand-alone document.

Project #: 220-8310

OWEB Region: 1

Applicant: Necanicum Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $58,769

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

The project encompasses the geography of the Nicolai-Wickiup, Necanicum, Youngs Bay and Big Creek watersheds located within Clatsop County and northern Tillamook County and includes the communities of Manzanita, Cannon Beach, Seaside, Warrenton and Astoria. Habitat loss has not only led to the threatened status of the Oregon silverspot butterfly, but the decline of other resident pollinator species on Oregon's North Coast (Xerces Society). Recovery efforts over the past two decades have highlighted the importance of establishing habitat corridors as an effective tool for building diverse and sustainable pollinator communities. Resilient native coastal landscapes can only be accomplished by establishing corridors of pollinator-friendly habitat that connect private and public land. A pollinator corridor linking habitat conservation areas to support native pollinators—a connection that is built collaboratively by residents and local land managers—will not only help pollinators, but also challenge people to think differently about conservation. Developing the Columbia Pacific Pollinator Collaborative (CPPC) to encourage these connections between species, habitats, local residents and land managers will ensure that our North Coast communities will persist. The CPPC focuses on two areas: (1) building partner capacity to accomplish work that supports pollinators and their habitat and (2) increasing awareness about the importance of pollinators in the Columbia Pacific Region. Each organization is working on projects that involve pollinators at some level, whether it is habitat restoration, education or landowner outreach. Partners include: Necanicum Watershed Council, North Coast Watershed Association, North Coast Land Conservancy, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, Oregon Military Department –Camp Rilea, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partners have a history of working together and have the technical expertise and commitment to plan and implement a strategic action plan.
- OPRD staff have strong facilitation skills to help lead this effort.
- The timing is right to address coastal pollinator connectivity and the partners demonstrate a clear need for a strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application does not address stakeholder engagement with private landowners and other community members that may be central to strategic plan development and implementation.
- The budget and timeline are ambitious. The requested funding is primarily directed towards contracted services in lieu of partner organization staff time. This may not adequately cover the costs to keep all members of the partnership at the table and allow for sufficient time to develop a strategic action plan.

- The application timeline does not clearly describe the development of an MOU or governance documents; past partnerships have benefited from working through these key components before embarking on strategic action planning.

Concluding Analysis

Columbia Pacific Pollinator Collaborative recently formed to focus on a timely issue along the North Oregon Coast: pollinator habitat connectivity. The core partners have strong technical backgrounds, but the application does not clearly show that the partnership has budgeted sufficient resources towards partner and stakeholder engagement to be successful. The partnership would benefit from reflecting at this early stage on potential challenges to implementing a habitat connectivity action plan to ensure that the right people and resources are incorporated in their planning.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do not fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8311

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: Willamette Partnership

Requested Amount: $150,000

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary

The Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative (WVOPC or Cooperative) is submitting an application for OWEB's Partnership Technical Assistance funding to increase capacity for Strategic Action Plan implementation. The primary planning area addressed by this Plan includes all land within the Willamette Valley ecoregion, minus the Portland area (currently being addressed in a parallel effort), encompassing approximately 2.4 million acres. The WVOPC is in the final stages of completing our Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The emerging partnership has been working extremely effectively for the past two years to develop the plan. WVOPC Steering Committee members, in their roles as leaders in oak and prairie conservation in the Valley, however, do not have capacity to sustain the consistent, coordinated effort needed to advance this work. As such, we are requesting OWEB funds to contract with a coordinator to support the operation and function of the Cooperative. One of the key roles of the coordinator will be to help the WVOPC formalize our internal operating structures, and help establish committees and work groups that will take on the substantive work of SAP implementation. We also intend to use these funds to make progress on four priorities identified in our SAP: 1) Policy Development, 2) Communications, and Outreach & Engagement, 3) Creating a Fire Resilience Strategy, and 4) Addressing threats from Urban & Rural Development. These priorities have been selected based on the foundational role they play in the long term effectiveness of implementing the SAP and on the urgency of the threats to be addressed. We also intend to continue our work to advance a regional oak-prairie partnership with other FIPs. Partners include: Greenbelt Land Trust, Pacific Birds, Willamette Partnership, Long Tom Watershed Council, Institute for Applied Ecology, City of Eugene, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde and Ducks Unlimited.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The composition of the partnership is appropriate given that the strategic action plan covers a large and complex geography.
- The application clearly articulates how the proposed actions are tied to the strategic action plan and will result in future conservation actions.
- Partnership roles and responsibilities are clearly described in the application, including the role of the steering committee.
- The application is clearly written and demonstrates a sophisticated partnership that has a clear vision, with prioritized next steps, for the implementation of the strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The partnership is currently relying on passive stakeholder engagement techniques, such as email and website; it would be nice to see the inclusion of more active techniques as the partnership moves from planning to implementation.

- The partnership is planning to hire a partnership coordinator; with such a large and complex partnership and many duties on the coordinator's it may be challenging for one person to facilitate and coordinate this partnership.

Concluding Analysis

The Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Partnership has successfully worked together to develop a strategic action plan and prioritize actions over a large and complex geography. The application demonstrates the partnership is ready to move from planning to implementation and has a clear vision for the next steps. The partnership will need to continue to work to engage stakeholders within the large geography and coordinate the large, complex, partnership.

Review Team Priority Ranking 4/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $150,000

Project #: 220-8312

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Klamath Bird Observatory
Requested Amount: $144,710

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary

The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON) is a collaborative regional partnership that conserves oak habitats on private and public lands in southern Oregon and northern California. This project will occur throughout the KSON geography in Oregon (Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Klamath, and Curry counties). Oak vegetation types are among the most imperiled habitats in Oregon, and as such, plants and animals within these ecosystems are at-risk. KSON has a history of implementing multi-million dollar investments with a programmatic approach to oak woodland conservation and recently completed a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) with support through the OWEB Focused Investment Program. Now, positioned with greater strategic focus for future efforts, KSON partners seek funding to enhance the partnership through capacity support to maintain coordination and fill internal partnership needs identified as enabling strategies in our Theory of Change. Specifically, we seek funding to 1. Support the KSON Coordinator position to complete tasks associated with partner organization and SAP roll-out, 2. Scale-down mapping tools to be applicable to project-level planning and make them available as an interactive online tool, and 3. Develop a Monitoring Plan to implement our Progress Monitoring Framework and inform adaptive management, including integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge. Partners include: Bureau of Land Management, Klamath Bird Observatory, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and US Forest Service.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The actions proposed in the application are the clear next step for the partnership.
- The partnership proposes to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into their work. The key partner is this effort is Lomakatsi, who is the right partner in this geography to help the partnership achieve this goal.
- The partnership has successfully worked together through the development of their strategic action plan, which is almost complete.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The partnership did not clearly describe the roles and responsibilities of the partners. There is recognition that the partners have a history of working together, but the application did not clearly articulate the vision for the future.
- The partners are working with Lomakatsi to achieve their tribal engagement goals, but the application was lacking detail on exactly how tribes would be involved as they work to incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into their work.
- It is not clear from the proposal if the partnership is ready to make the transition from planning to implementation. It appears that future conservation actions will occur on public

and private land, however key partners, such as local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, are missing from the partnership. These are logical entities to engage with to achieve restoration actions on private land.

Concluding Analysis

The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network has successfully worked together through the planning process. The application clearly articulates the necessary next steps for the partnership. However, the application does not clearly articulate a vision for how the partnership will achieve conservation outcomes prioritized within the strategic action plan. The partnership roles and responsibilities are unclear and key partners might be missing for successful future implementation on private lands.
Review Team Priority Ranking 7/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund, falls below funding line

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8313

OWEB Region: 5

Applicant: Union County Admin Services

Requested Amount: $100,000

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

1. The Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed (UGRRW) is located within the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed, Union County, Oregon. 2. The UGRRW had many stakeholders working on critical water issues, but lacked planning and coordination of these efforts. The UGRRW Partnership has filled this gap. We have been meeting for more than three years, 75 meetings, and more than 2,250 hours of work volunteered by the more than 25 diverse Stakeholders. We have been working through the five-step place-based integrated water resources planning process created by Oregon Water Resources Department and are delighted to be approaching completion of this work. We anticipate entering the implementation phase of our project soon and need support to keep the UGRRW Partnership functioning. Maintaining the Partnership as a forum for continued collaboration, technical support, and facilitation will be critical to the success of this important work as we enter embark upon the implementation phase. 3) Our overall goal is to use these development funds to maintain the UGRRW Partnership and help us transform into a new functional organization, one that manages implementation, rather than participates in planning. We envision an evolved structure of the group where the UGRRW Partnership coordinates and supports each of the Stakeholder groups working on implementation of projects. This will be essential to maintaining communication among the different implementation efforts and ensuring the overall effectiveness of these individual projects. Ensuring the continuity of the Partnership and its diverse membership, which includes agricultural, environmental, tribal, municipal, and governmental interests, also will be critical to maintaining political support and future funding for project implementation. Partners include: Union County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the City of La Grande, Union County Farm Bureau, and over twenty agricultural, environmental, tribal, municipal, and government stakeholders that have signed the UGRRWP Memorandum of Understanding.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has been working together for 3 years; they convened through the Oregon Water Resources Place-Based Planning process and have worked through conflict in the past. The decision-making to date has been unanimous in developing a shared technical understanding and defining the problem statement.
- The partnership is broad, and includes a focus on agricultural partners as well as county leaders and land management agencies. This wide-ranging partnership will likely lead to future restoration implementation opportunities.
- The application acknowledges the importance of stakeholder engagement and proposes methods and tools to accomplish it.
- The application is well written with a clear description of the proposed strategic action plan and well-articulated needs.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Although the contractor identified for partnership facilitation is respected and trusted locally, they are not trained in facilitation.
- The partnership is led by the county commissioner; this role is elected and inherently has transitions that may impact the direction or vision of the partnership.

Concluding Analysis

The UPGR River Watershed Partnership has worked together for 3 years and developed 12 major draft strategies to address water resources in the basin. The partnership encompasses a range of key players, recognizes the importance of stakeholder engagement, and has a strong foundation for strategic action plan development. The application demonstrates that the partnership is clearly ready to progress with a vision towards implementation.

Review Team Priority Ranking 3/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $100,000

Project #: 220-8314

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $148,450

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

The Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (Network) geography includes the Long Tom, McKenzie, and Middle Fork and Coast Fork Willamette watersheds in Lane County.

Members of the Network have been working within their watershed boundaries to solve complex problems such as the decline in native fish populations, the degradation of riparian habitat, the disappearance of upland oak habitat, and urban water quality. The Network has gained momentum integrating across programmatic areas and hiring a Network Coordinator. Due to limited staff capacity that momentum has not yet led to strategic, regional conservation actions addressing landscape-scale ecological challenges. This proposal details a two-year partnership planning process that will bring together Network partnering organization staff to engage in the first phase of Strategic Action Planning across the larger, shared geography. Through a series of regular meetings, participants will develop the foundations of a Strategic Action Plan through facilitated activities designed to build shared understanding of the regional context, identify opportunities for collaborative action, develop a shared vision of the desired future condition, prioritization for regional efforts, and strengthen relationships. This project will increase the efficiency and resilience of the Network and its member organizations by engaging staff in the development of information and asset-sharing platforms that will lead to improved restoration and conservation project planning, coordination, and implementation. Partners include: Long Tom Watershed Council, McKenzie Watershed Council, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, and the McKenzie River Trust.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The core partners are sharing assets and leveraging resources. This increased coordination would likely lead to future implementation of conservation projects.
- The partnership acknowledges past conflicts and demonstrates an interesting and innovative approach towards partnership building.
- The scale of the partnership is large and ambitious.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The partnership consists of watershed councils and a land trust. It does not include potentially important players, such as SWCDs and municipalities, who may be necessary for a planning effort encompassing the entire upper Willamette.
- The stakeholder engagement plan focuses on research about constituents' work, but does not include any engagement activities.

- It is not clear that the large geographic scale for this strategic planning effort is appropriate for the work that the partnership seeks to accomplish and the larger regional goals for collaboration and restoration in the upper Willamette.
- The application did not articulate many barriers to success, but it is likely that this scale and scope would have significant barriers to address as the partnership embarks on writing a strategic action plan.
- The project requires high investment costs, but does not produce a strategic action plan.

Concluding Analysis

Upper Willamette Stewardship Network is using innovative collaboration approaches to enhance their partnership's effectiveness, and was recently awarded an OWEB Organizational Collaboration grant. The partners propose starting the pre-work to writing a strategic action plan for the upper Willamette, but the Network may be missing key partners to garner buy-in and successfully plan large landscape-scale conservation actions across the upper Willamette. A stronger rationale for the subject and geography of this preliminary work would enhance its likelihood of leading to on-the-ground conservation outcomes.

Review Team Priority Ranking N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do not fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund

Amount: $0

Project #: 220-8315

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: The Forest Park Conservancy

Requested Amount: $92,796

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary

Forest Park (FP) is a 5,200-acre natural area that runs along the E slopes of the Tualatin Mts. in Multnomah County in the City of Portland. The greater Forest Park ecosystem encompasses more than 15,000 acres including 10,000 acres of public and private land surrounding the park that is being restored and protected under the Greater Forest Park Conservation Initiative (GFPCI), a collaborative effort to ensure natural resources and surrounding connected habitats are conserved. Within FP there are eight tributaries that flow north-east into the Willamette River, and three in the GFPCI that flow to the Multnomah Channel. Negatively impacted by past and ongoing disturbances, current restoration is focused in areas in late stages of ivy invasion causing degraded habitats, reduced regeneration of conifers and advanced erosion. Research shows that this ecosystem has been significantly altered over past decades resulting in novel conditions without reference complicating restoration practices. A science-based adaptive management program to inform ongoing restoration is advised to guide restoration of forest function. The FPRC brings together the Forest Park Conservancy, Portland Parks and Recreation and Portland State University leveraging the unique strengths of each organization. The partners have a long history of collaborating but there is a need and opportunity for natural resources managers and researchers to work together in a more strategic structured and collaborative manner, particularly in light of climate change and population growth. None of these organizations currently have the capacity to coordinate and organize the work, provide continuity, and synthesize resources among them. OWEB funding will be used to build processes and agreements among the organizations through a strategic action plan, governance structure, communications and financial plans, and to establish a shared data library and establish data stewardship standards for FPRC. Partners include: Forest Park Conservancy, Portland Parks and Recreation, and Portland State University.

Review Summary

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The core partners have a history of working together and strong local expertise.
- The roles and responsibilities of the partners and partnership communication methods are clearly articulated.
- The application is straightforward in describing the work the partnership proposes.
- The history and focus on diversity, equity and inclusion work by the partners is impressive.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The communication plan between the partnership and external stakeholders is not clear. Forest Park is a popular urban recreation area with complex social barriers and adjacent private landowners. The partnership may need to include additional stakeholders to adequately engage relevant groups.

- The application does not address how potential barriers, such as social dynamics and long-term ivy management needs, will be mitigated.
- The application describes a need for data hosting, but does not clearly explain what data will be stored or how this will be managed by the partnership in the long-term.
- The budget relies heavily on a single consultant with local experience, but it is unclear whether the consultant has all of the technical qualifications needed for this planning effort.

Concluding Analysis

The Forest Park Restoration Collaborative has a history of partnership and incorporating diversity, equity and inclusion practices into their work. The application is well articulated, but would benefit from additional rationale on how restoration will be accomplished in light of the various social and ecological issues at Forest Park. The park experiences a diversity of uses, including recreation and homelessness, and a stakeholder engagement plan to address these constituencies would strengthen the application.

Review Team Priority Ranking 8/8

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do not fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Amount: $0

January 22-23, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update J-1: Budget and Legislative

This report provides the board an update about the budgeting process during both the legislative 2020 short session and 2021 long session, along with a general legislative update in advance of the 2020 session.

Background

The 2020 legislative session will begin on February 3 and must adjourn by March 8. A limited number of budget requests and policy bills are considered during short sessions. State agencies also are beginning to prepare for the next biennial budget cycle for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Policy Bills

At the time of writing this report, specific legislative concepts for the 2020 session have not been released. However, there is an expectation that legislation will be forthcoming on issues related to the 100-Year Water Vision (see Attachment A in Executive Director Update J-3), addressing catastrophic wildfire, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), and climate change. Staff will be tracking legislation on these, and other bills that may have impacts to OWEB, and will update the board at the April 2020 meeting.

The Legislative Budgeting Process – 2020 and 2021 Sessions

Historically, OWEB has not made budget requests during short legislative sessions. However, at the request of the Governor's Office and in coordination with several other agencies, OWEB has submitted a request related to the 100-Year Water Vision. A similar request was included in the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) for the 2019-2021 biennium, but was not funded in OWEB's Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB) for the current biennium. OWEB has received preliminary feedback from the Legislative Fiscal Office that this request likely will be considered during the 2020 session, and will update the board about any new developments at the January 2020 meeting. Other companion requests are outlined in Attachment A to this update.

Looking toward the next budget cycle, the Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. Agency 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."

Budget instructions for the 2021-2023 biennium have not yet been released. Based on past processes OWEB expects that all financial information will need to be entered into the state's budgeting system by the end of June 2020, and OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) narrative submitted to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services by the end of August 2020. Given this timeline, staff have discussed agency needs, and will present early ideas to the board about possible ARB requests at the January 2020 board meeting. Feedback from the board, along with input from key stakeholders, will inform development of POPs that will be presented to the board at the April 2020 meeting for consideration and approval.

When considering budget needs for the 2021-2023 biennium, staff focused on functions the agency needs to perform. First, staff considered how needed functions could be completed with existing staffing or contract resources. As a result of those conversations, the agency's Executive Team proposes that, in addition to the agency's base budget, the OWEB ARB may include funding for positions and contracted services as follows:

Operations

- Program Continuity package – Continuation of two limited duration positions—the Conservation Outcomes Specialist and the Partnerships Coordinator—and miscellaneous operations costs (e.g., rent for regional offices).
- Water Vision Support – Potential request for two limited duration staff positions and contracted services funding to support coordination and implementation of Phase 2 of the 100-Year Water Vision; dependent on outcome of 2020 short session request.
- OAHP Support – Potential request for limited duration staff positions and contracted services funding to support implementation of OAHP.
- Climate Initiatives Support – Potential request for staffing and/or contracted services in support of multiple state-level initiatives including, but not limited to climate adaptation framework implementation and natural and working lands-based climate solutions; being scoped in coordination with other relevant natural resources agencies to ensure complementarity and efficiency.

Grants

- Carryforward – Request to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active during the 2021-2023 biennium.
- Federal Funds Limitation – Request to allow OWEB to receive and expend grant funding from federal sources, such as Natural Resources Conservation Service for local technical capacity and assistance grants, should funding be available and services requested.
- Other Funds Limitation – Request to allow OWEB to receive and expend grant funding from other sources, such as PacifiCorp in support of water-quality related habitat improvements in the Upper Klamath Basin and Idaho Power in support of restoration work in eastern Oregon, should funding be available and services requested.
- OAHP Grants – Potential request for grant funding in support of OAHP; dependent on outcome of anticipated request during 2020 short session.

Staff currently are coordinating with the Governor's Office and other agencies on ideas for policy packages, and will have additional information regarding budget concepts at the April board meeting. Staff will bring an updated list of packages for inclusion in the 2021-2023 ARB for the board's consideration and approval at that meeting.

Staff Contact

Policy topics: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029. Budget topics: Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

Attachments

A. Water Vision 2020 session budget requests FINAL

Proposed 2020 Budget Requests

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregon will steward its water resources to ensure clean and abundant water for our people, our economy and our environment, now and for future generations. Strategic investments and policies will result in resilient natural and built water systems across the state to support safe and healthy communities, vibrant local economies and a healthy environment.

2020 Budget Request	Amount	Agency	Description	Tie to 2019 ARB or GRB Request
			Water Vision Coordination	
Water Vision Coordination & Implementation	$350,000 LF	OWEB	Provides funding for one lead staff position and one technical support position to coordinate 100-Year Water Vision planning Phase II, along with associated contracted services funding	In 2019 session, this was OWEB POP 130. Shifted contracting funds to staff that support the Governor's office, and associated contracting funds to support the water vision
Water Vision Decision Support Tool Development	$250,000 DEQ GF	DEQ	Supports framework to provide water and water infrastructure data as part of a suite of decision support tools for strategic planning and investment prioritization. Will be matched with $250,000 from Business Oregon to begin needed local assessments and coordinated through the state's Water Core Team	In 2019 Session, this was DEQ POP 161. Has been re-designed based on work completed by agencies in the last 12 months
Water Vision Business Case	$200,000 GF	OWRD	Funding to support a statewide business case assessment that would examine the economic value that the use of water provides in Oregon, the impacts of not investing in Oregon's natural and built water infrastructure, and the associated need for continued infrastructure investments.	In 2019 session, this was a part of WRD POP 104, which is split into two proposals for 2020 – Protecting the Public through Dam Safety and Water Infrastructure Business Case
			Water Vision Early Implementation Needs	
Protecting the Public Through Dam Safety	$2,000,000 GF	OWRD	THIS POP MAY BE INCLUDED IN A SEPARATE RESILIENCY PACKAGE, but is referenced to recognize the cross-connection. Provides staff and contract funds to assess dams for seismic, flood and other safety risks to prioritize dams for repair and funding. Also includes staff/contract funds to support a dam safety task force to identify approaches to prioritize dam repair/safety actions, and to recommend funding approaches for repair/safety actions.	In 2019 session, this was a part of WRD POP 104, which is split into two proposals for 2020 – dam safety and water infrastructure business case (above)
Place-Based Planning	$200,000 GF	OWRD	Request remaining funds from 2019 GRB ask to meet need to: 1) continue developing place-based integrated water resources plan by the Mid-Coast and Harney County groups; and 2) coordinate Lower John Day and Upper Grande Ronde plan implementation.	In 2019 session, this was WRD POP 101

ODFW – Place-based Planning and Mitigation Coordination (implementing the IWRS)	$472,885 GF	ODFW	Funding for staff to 1) engage in local planning efforts, including Place Based Planning, and provide technical information regarding fish and wildlife flow and temperature needs to planning teams; and 2) work with water users and other agencies to develop a comprehensive solution to water mitigation for fish and wildlife that address fish and wildlife priorities while also providing development opportunities.	In 2019 session, this was an ARB request – ODFW POP 123.
Willamette Basin Complex Water Issues	OWRD - $581,394 ODFW – $491,895 GF	OWRD and ODFW	Funding for staff to implement actions following completion of the Willamette Reservoir Reallocation Study and Willamette BiOp. WRD and ODFW's multi-year implementation effort will require staff to coordinate basin activities, facilitate meetings, provide technical analyses, develop instream flow targets, manage contested case processes for minimum perennial flow conversions, and shepherd any necessary law changes.	This was not requested in either ARB or GRB in 2019 session
Strategic Implementation Areas	$276,000 LF	ODA	Funding to expand ODA's work with partner agencies and organizations to achieve water quality goals in small agricultural watersheds throughout the state, implemented through the coordinated streamside management effort.	In 2019 Session, this was ODA POP 310; adjusted for shortened biennial timeframe
Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA	$156,250 LF	ODA	Provides funding for leadership and facilitation to stakeholders in the Lower Umatilla Basin GWMA, develop measurable objectives, and identify monitoring needs, with the ultimate goal of meeting criteria to remove the area's Groundwater Management Area designation.	In 2019 session, this was ODA POP 350. Reducing amount to account for shortened biennial timeframe.
Complex Water Issues	$898,391 GF	OWRD	Funding for three positions to work with parties involved in complex water management issues to assist in developing solutions. In addition to staff, includes contract dollars for consultants and facilitators.	In 2019 session, this was an ARB request – WRD POP 103.
Water Management in the Field	$563,914 GF	OWRD	Strengthening the WRD field presence and addressing field workload challenges will help implement Recommended Action 10.F of the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. Further, field staff implement other recommended actions of the Strategy, from increasing water use measurement (2.B) to improving water resource data collection (1.B).	In 2019 Session, this was WRD POP 106. This requests same positions, modifying locations based on the most current workload needs. This includes two watermasters in the South Central Region, and two assistant watermasters in the Southwest Region.

This report provides the board an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2017-2019 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The 2017-2019 Biennial Report was submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office prior to the January 15, 2020 deadline.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 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. The report, which is submitted to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees, 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. The Report must be submitted by January 15 of each even-numbered year, and summarizes the Oregon Plan accomplishments for the prior biennium. At the July 2019 meeting, the board approved its recommendations for the 2017-2019 Biennial Report.

2017-2019 Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report

The Report consists of two components: 1) a two-page Executive Summary, available online (https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-Exec-2017-19.aspx) and in hard copy format as required by the Oregon Legislature (see Attachment A); and 2) a full Report, providing an overview of investments and accomplishments associated with the Oregon Plan. The full Report is available online (https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-2017-19.aspx) and includes links to provide additional information from other agencies implementing the Oregon Plan. The full Report includes three sections:

- Highlights of coordinated actions around the state and programs of natural resources agencies implementing aspects of the Oregon Plan;
- Data and examples of progress for each of the 15 Oregon Plan reporting basins; and
- Recommendations from the OWEB Board.

The online report also includes a summary of accomplishments from OWEB's 'Telling the Restoration Story' grant offering (see staff report for Agenda Item L). This offering was funded for the first time in the 2017-2019 biennium, and helps grantees summarize progress from OWEB investments into data-driven outreach products.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, at audrey.hatch@oregon.gov or 503-934-0605 or Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. OWEB Biennial Report 2017-2019 Executive Summary

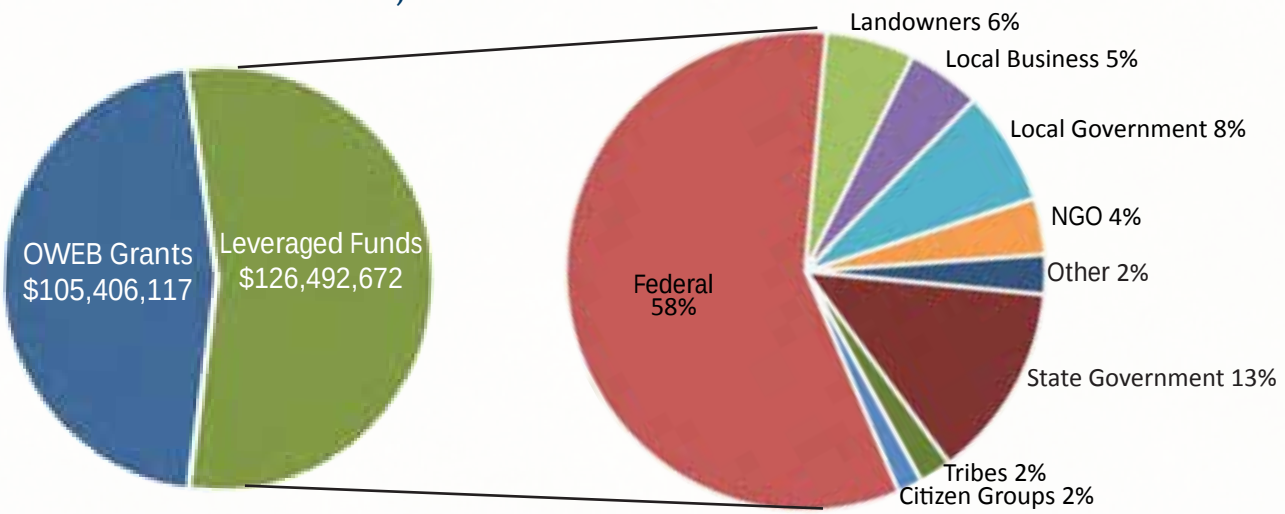
2017-2019 Biennial Report Executive Summary

The *Oregon Plan* for Salmon and Watersheds

Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds has provided a framework for grass-roots stewardship enhancing water quality and restoring habitat for the state's native fish and wildlife. The Oregon Plan supports diverse local economies and enriches communities through local, voluntary restoration.

The Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2017-2019 biennium (per Oregon Revised Statute 541.972). This Executive Summary highlights key investments and accomplishments; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The full report can be found online (https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-2017-19.aspx) and includes specific information about each of the fifteen Oregon Plan Reporting Basins. Additional examples of quantified restoration success are available through OWEB's new grant offering, Telling the Restoration Story (https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6).

OWEB Awarded Grants, 2017-2019



Grants awarded by OWEB, the amount of matching funds leveraged by grant participants, and the percentage of leveraged funds contributed by different partners (from 7/1/17 through 6/30/19).

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	291	36	189	517
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	89	56	114.5	260
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	86	36	198	320
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	62	22	62	146
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	4	-	-	4
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	37	-	-	37
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	71,196	3,049	-	74,245
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	1,325	-	1,244	2,569
Miles of Road Closures and Decommissionings	11	5	47.2	64
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	37	8	59.3	134
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	291.2	-	-	291

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/17 to 12/31/18 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), maintained by OWEB; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

2017-2019 Investments and Accomplishments

During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB invested over $105 million for watershed enhancement projects throughout the state. This total includes funding from the Oregon Lottery, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. These dollars leverage significant funding that is provided by other agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding. Oregon Plan partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, local businesses, tribes, and all levels of government.

Coordinated Agency Actions

Collaboration is the heart of the Oregon Plan, and coordinated efforts across the state's natural resources agencies continued throughout the 2017-2019 biennium. Highlights include:

- Launching Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, an ambitious approach to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians
- Updating Oregon's climate change adaptation framework
- Implementing the Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan
- Addressing challenges with tide gates along the coast
- Identifying efficiencies in water monitoring through interagency teams

OWEB Board Recommendations

Oregonians have chosen to permanently invest in healthy watersheds, which allow local partners to test bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds. 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's investments support non-profits, tribal nations, local governments, universities, and others to work with farmers, ranchers, forestland owners, and local contractors to provide clean water for Oregonians and healthy habitat for our fish and wildlife and benefits to local economies.

Looking ahead to the next ten years, the board recommends focusing efforts on strategic priorities:

- Working with partners we will continue to 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 grants.

OWEB

January 22-23, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update J-3: **Oregon's 100**-Year Water Vision

This update describes outreach progress to date on Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

Background

The first draft of Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision document (Attachment A) leads with "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."

Throughout the fall, OWEB has been leading an effort on behalf of Governor Brown's Office to receive feedback on the first draft of the vision and receive recommendations on process steps for future phases of this work, and to begin conversations about information and decision-support tools needed in communities related to water. The sessions focused on listening, learning, and gathering information about the Vision and its associated goals and problem statements, while engaging leaders across the state to learn more about water in Oregon.

Outreach Summary

As of December 2019, the following outreach was completed:

- 8 community water conversations (7 communities, 1 virtual): over 400 participants;
- 1 technical workshop focused on community data and information needs: over 100 participants
- 80 interviews with a diversity of organizations that have an interest in water, ranging from agriculture and environmental groups to environmental justice, housing, healthcare, business and local governments;
- Focus group with Natural Resources Agency directors;
- Presentations at board, commission, and other meetings including OWEB, Water Resources Commission, Board of Forestry, Board of Agriculture, Land Conservation and Development Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Sustainability Board, Environmental Justice Task Force, Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and Mid-Valley Regional Solutions;
- Presentations at statewide and organizational meetings including: Oregon Coastal Economic Summit, Association of Clean Water Agencies, League of Oregon Cities, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Water Resources Congress, environmental organization gathering, Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, and Oregon Water Law Conference;
- Government-to-Government consultations completed with 5 of Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribes, with the additional scheduled in January of 2020; and
- Over 200 comments received on feedback at www.OregonWaterVision.org website.

Next Steps

Staff expect to complete summaries of all information gathered, along with a comprehensive set of notes, by early February. Staff will propose changes to the Vision as a result of the feedback received. A series of presentation meetings are proposed once the work is complete.

Attachments

A. Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

Preparing a Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

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.

Premise

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) Our changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others.

These factors impact the quality and quantity of water for our communities, including water in our rivers, lakes, reservoirs and aquifers. Simply put, if we are not willing to roll up our sleeves and work together to invest in our natural and built water systems, we place the safety of our communities, the health of our people and environment, and Oregon's economic future at risk.

Goals

- Health
  Secure, safe, accessible, and healthy water for current and future Oregonians.
- Economy
  Adequate and clean ground and surface water to support economic vitality for all Oregonians.
- Environment
  Adequate cool, clean water for native fish and wildlife to thrive, and healthy watersheds that can store and filter water naturally.
- Safety
  Resilient water supply and flood protection systems that can face natural hazards like earthquakes, floods and drought.

Problem Statement

Oregon's water infrastructure has served us well, but is showing its age. We have underinvested in natural and built infrastructure to meet current challenges and have not adapted systems to meet the needs of a vibrant Oregon for the next 100 years.

- ✓ Without modern water supply systems and water conservation approaches that combine to provide reliable access to water, including in emergencies, Oregonians risk not having

water available when it's needed for healthy people and communities, food production, tribal treaty rights, and a thriving economy.

- ✓ Without resilient built and natural infrastructure that provides cool and clean water across all Oregon watersheds, our people – and our fish and wildlife – are increasingly vulnerable to the health risks associated with lack of access to adequate, clean water.
- ✓ Without upgraded levees, dams, stormwater systems, tide gates and the natural protection of wetlands and estuaries, our communities will be less safe and at increased risk of damage and economic hardship from localized and catastrophic flooding.
- ✓ Without access to relevant water data for effective decision-making, cross-agency coordination, and intentional approaches to test new ideas, built and natural water systems will perennially fall short of providing for Oregon's in-stream and out-of-stream water needs, including tribal treaty obligations.
- ✓ Without strong capacity across all Oregon communities to plan for their water future, and effective ways to ensure strategic water investment decisions are coordinated across and between local, regional, state, tribal and federal agencies, communities will not be prepared to take advantage of large-scale water infrastructure funding opportunities or collaborative and innovative partnerships.
- ✓ Without coordinated built and natural water infrastructure investments, Oregonians - including Oregon's federally recognized tribes and those in disproportionately impacted and rural communities – may be unable to access adequate clean water and return it to our rivers for downstream users, fish, and wildlife.

Our Shared Water Future

Oregon's water future is already being shaped by climate and population changes. How we choose to steward our water resources now will determine if we pass a legacy of clean and abundant water to future generations of Oregonians so they can enjoy a vibrant economy and live in a quality environment. The investments we make now in natural and built water infrastructure will support a prosperous Oregon in the 21st century and beyond.

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2019 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in 2019. The 2019 Annual Tribal Report has been submitted to the Legislature Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and Governor's Office.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 182.166 (3) requires OWEB to submit an annual report by December 15 to the LCIS and the Governor's Tribal Liaison, that must describe; the policy developed and implemented to establish and promote relations with tribes; the names of the individuals who are responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect tribes; the effort made to promote communication between the state agency and the tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes; the process established to identify the programs that affect tribes; a description of training attended; and the method established for notifying employees of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes and the agency's tribal policy.

2019 Annual Tribal Report

The 2019 Annual Tribal Report includes a description of the following:

- Agency overview to identify the key contacts responsible to establish and promote relations with tribes and a description of OWEB;
- Tribal participation in OWEB's Board and grant programs;
- Promotion of communication between OWEB and tribes, and
- Training for staff to learn more about the provisions of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes.

The annual report also includes a summary of the amount of funding OWEB has provided to tribes in 2019, and for the first time staff quantified the amount of funding that tribes have contributed to grants that closed in 2019. In 2019, OWEB granted approximately $720,000 to tribes in the Open Solicitation grant offering. Across all grant programs, tribes provided approximately $1.4 million in cash and in-kind support to OWEB grants that were completed in 2019. Finally, photos were provided in the report to highlight some of the projects that OWEB has funded to help the tribes and OWEB meet joint goals and objectives to enhance watershed health in Oregon.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Tribal Liaison, at ken.fetcho@oregon.gov or 503-986-0035 or Metal Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

A. 2019 Annual Tribal Report

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

2019
Annual Tribal Report

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360, Salem, OR 97301-1290

Agency Overview

Key Contact
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
503-986-0180
meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

Tribal Liaison
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
503-986-0035
ken.fetcho@oregon.gov

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency with statutory authority to administer constitutionally dedicated funds for the purpose of protecting and enhancing Oregon's watersheds and native fish and wildlife habitats. The responsibilities of the agency include:

- Managing a grant program for watershed protection and enhancement;
- Assisting in the development and implementation of watershed-scale restoration efforts; and
- Coordinating and supporting local infrastructure throughout the state to achieve voluntary cooperative conservation outcomes.

OWEB works with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon on a government-to-government basis to address watershed scale restoration needs. OWEB operates grant programs to fund a variety of watershed management, protection, and restoration projects that the tribes leverage to meet their natural and cultural resource restoration goals and objectives.

OWEB is led by an 18-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, five state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and six federal land management and natural resource agencies. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations, and agencies working to restore healthy watersheds in Oregon. OWEB actions support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, created in 1997. Funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as a result of citizen initiatives in 1998 and 2010, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon recovery funds, and other sources.

Tribal Policy

In 2018, OWEB completed its process and revised its tribal policy with LCIS and tribal input. In 2019, OWEB's tribal liaison and director continued to work together to communicate the intent of OWEB's Tribal Policy and how staff can work effectively with tribes.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB works closely with tribes and involves them in programs and decision-making processes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency's interactions during 2019 with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe that occupies lands in Idaho and Oregon.

OWEB Board and Grant Programs Tribal Participation

Board Membership

The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position currently is occupied by Jason Robison, Natural Resources Director of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

The tribal representative helps identify opportunities for collaboration and ensures the OWEB board and staff is aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Robison is fully engaged in this process and actively participates on the board's focused investments and monitoring subcommittees.

Grant Program



Photo 1. Jonesboro wetland, Burns Paiute Tribe's wildlife mitigation site.

Grant Applicants

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [ORS 541.375(1)]. In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of local watershed councils. Oregon statute describing watershed councils (ORS 541.388) specifically identifies "federally recognized Indian Tribes" as potential members of local watershed councils. Tribes are a critical partner in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grants that watershed councils and SWCDs receive. OWEB records show that in 2019 there were 29 completed grants that included tribal contributions. Across all grant programs, tribes provided $1,218,815 in cash and $144,476 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2019.

Small Grant Program

In OWEB's Small Grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are eligible to be members of Small Grant Teams in each of the state's 28 Small Grant areas. These Small Grant Teams award grants up to $15,000 for watershed restoration projects. Other team members include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. In 2019, staff reached out to each tribe to identify small grant areas in which they would be eligible to participate. Tribes were invited to participate in the small grant areas with reservation, tribal, ceded lands, or usual and accustom areas located partially or entirely within the team's area. For the teams that have reorganized to date, representatives of all nine federal recognized tribes in Oregon serve on 15 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. We anticipate this number to increase once all teams have submitted their paperwork. The Grand Ronde Tribe was awarded a small grant in 2019 for $15,000 to support riparian hardwood restoration efforts.

Regular Grant Program

OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. During 2019, five grants totaling approximately $720,000 were awarded to tribes: one grant totaling $45,110 to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, three grants totaling $440,698 to the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and one grant totaling $235,097 to the Nez Perce Tribe. Tribal agencies have also submitted three applications in the most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made. Since 2006, OWEB has awarded just over $7,500,000 in grants to tribal governments.

OWEB's Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with appropriate tribal staff. They meet with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and throughout the life of each grant to ensure OWEB works with tribes to meet goals and objectives. In addition, tribes often partner with watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) by helping manage the projects and at times receive funding to implement projects.

Regular Grant Program – Regional Review Teams

Applications received through OWEB's Regular Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprised of state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. All six regional review teams have at least one tribal natural resource professional participating in the review process. In 2019, seven tribal agency representatives participated on OWEB Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.



Photo 2. Floodplain interaction at site of river restoration along the Middle Fork John Day River

Land Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire an interest in land from a willing seller to address the conservation needs of priority habitat and species. OWEB notifies all tribes after a land acquisition application is received to solicit input in the decision-making process. In addition, OWEB notifies tribes once a recommendation has been made allowing tribes to provide additional input prior to the OWEB Board's funding decision.

Water Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB's water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest or interests in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing instream flow. Similar to the land acquisition grant program, OWEB notifies tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received and once a recommendations has been made to allow multiple opportunities to provide input in the decision making process. In 2019, a $36,579 water acquisition grant was awarded to Trout Unlimited to implement a pilot instream leasing project in the South Umpqua River on ranch lands owned by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. This innovative project will build capacity in an effort to expand the Umpqua Basin Flow Restoration Program in the future.

Focused Investment Partnership Program

In 2019, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The OWEB Board made the initial awards in the program in 2016. Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively in partnerships on ambitious, long-term, and landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives aimed at creating measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board.



Photo 3. Before (top) and after aerial photos of stream restoration actions in Dry Creek, tributary to the Grande Ronde River

OWEB invested in five new Implementation FIPs in 2019. Among these, the Clackamas Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and the John Day Basin Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. The technical review team for the John Day Basin Partnership FIP includes representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Two of the Implementation FIP partnerships also include Lomakatsi Restoration. While not a tribal government agency, this non-profit organization is heavily involved in applying Traditional Ecological

Knowledge and providing employment and technical training for tribal members working on watershed restoration projects.

In 2019, the OWEB Board approved a new grant program, which evolved from the previously offered Development FIP grant program. The new Partnership Technical Assistance grants offer two tracks: 1) Partnership Development to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan and governance documents, and 2) Partnership Capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation. Partnership Technical Assistance applications were received in October 2019 and several included tribes as core partners. These applications will be reviewed and awarded later in 2020.

Telling the Restoration Story

Telling the Restoration Story is a 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. Seven projects received OWEB funds to complete outreach products in 2019, and new projects are currently being identified. In addition, the Confederate Tribes of Umatilla Reservation (CTUIR) completed an online story map to highlight outcomes associated with floodplain restoration in Meacham Creek. CTUIR did not use OWEB funding to complete this story, but OWEB staff provided feedback in a similar manner to other projects within this new offering. This information was shared with OWEB staff and Board members and is key to learning about the ecological outcomes that emerged from the restoration efforts in Meacham Creek, for which OWEB contributed grant funds.



Photo 4. Site of future restoration actions in the floodplain of Meacham Creek

Other Grant Program Involvements

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs continues to be a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed and received additional funding this year to continue their important work in this long-term restoration monitoring effort.

OWEB staff participates on the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' John Day restoration review team, which allocates Bonneville Power Administration funding for watershed restoration projects designed to improve salmon habitat.

OWEB staff also participates in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation for the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members

from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP, as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

Tribal Liaison

In conformance with OWEB's tribal policy, OWEB designated a staff person, Ken Fetcho, to operate as a tribal liaison for the agency. The tribal liaison is responsible for ensuring that OWEB's programs and policy development adheres to our tribal policy. This includes coordinating program and policy notices to tribal natural resource key contacts and providing training to staff as appropriate.

In 2019, OWEB's tribal liaison continued to emphasize the importance of OWEB's tribal policy to new employees and board members. Starting in 2019, each new employee and board member is briefed on the tribal policy and receives a copy of the current Annual Tribal Report. In May, the tribal liaison presented the 2018 Annual Tribal Report to OWEB staff to highlight its content and brainstorm improvements for the 2019 Report. These improvements, including the amount of tribal contributions to OWEB grants, was incorporated into this report.

In addition, the tribal liaison worked with Board Tribal Representative Jason Robison to provide a tribal training at OWEB's All-Staff Meeting in August 2019. Jesse Plueard and Kelly Coates, both tribal members and employees at Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, taught staff about the tribe's history and government structure. They highlighted their cultural and natural resource issues. This training was extremely valuable to help OWEB staff learn more about tribal history and culture.

Oregon Water Vision

OWEB has been assisting the Governor's Natural Resources Office (GNRO) in communicating with tribes related to Oregon's 100-year Water Vision to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians. Tribes were invited to attend community water conversations that were held across the state to start the meetings with a tribal welcome and invocation. Four tribes accepted the invitation, and the introduction added to the richness of the meetings. OWEB coordinated with the GNRO to invite tribes to participate in individual water vision meetings to provide feedback regarding the importance of water and the unique connections each tribe has with water and water infrastructure. Scheduling for these meetings is still in process.

Training and Technical Support for Grantees

In 2019, OWEB continued to increase the involvement of tribes in grant programs and in agency policy development. The following is a summary:

1. In March and August 2019, OWEB's fiscal and grant program staff provided in-person training to assist CTWS and CTUIR in administering OWEB grants.

2. OWEB continues to provide additional funding to Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technicians to help them hire licensed archeologists to perform cultural resources surveys during the planning process and monitoring when implementing CREP contracts on private property, if required.
3. OWEB is providing funding to send 10 CREP technicians to attend the State Parks Archeology training in April 2020 to learn more about this regulatory process, and to identify and protect cultural resources before implementing contracts.

Cultural Resources Protection Permits

OWEB continues to emphasize to grantees and grant project managers the importance of complying with regulations to protect cultural resources. OWEB grants pays for expenses to comply with cultural resource regulations to legally implement watershed improvement projects.

Annual Tribal Summit and Tribal Work Groups

OWEB's Executive Director and tribal liaison attended the Annual Tribal Summit and training hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation on December 2 and 3 to engage and listen to tribal representatives to understand the issues that are important to them. The tribal liaison also attended the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meetings in 2019 to share information and to better understand key initiatives tribes and state natural resource agencies are working on that may be relevant to each other. OWEB presented an important topic at the November 2019 meeting to seek tribal input on updating OWEB's ecological priorities in the Focused Investment Partnership Grant Program.

Administrative Rules

In 2019, OWEB provided information to tribes to request comments on two occasions for administrative rulemaking. The OWEB Board adopted rules for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program in 2019, and a representative of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians participated on the Commission, which also served as the Rulemaking Advisory Committee.

OWEB is also currently engaged in rulemaking for both the Water Acquisitions and Monitoring Grant programs, and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warms Springs, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation are participating on these Rulemaking Advisory Committees, with the expectation that the OWEB Board will adopt these rules in 2020.

Meetings with Tribes

OWEB staff met in person with tribes at their local offices in 2019 to improve relations and better understand their short- and long-term goals and objectives related to watershed monitoring and restoration.

The South Coast's Regional Program Representative, Mark Grenbemer, attended an all-day meeting hosted by the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) with representatives from the Coquille Indian Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, state and federal agency representatives, and industrial timber stakeholders to seek technical

input and determine project ripeness. Both of these tribes have representatives on the CoosWA Board and attend the watershed council's executive team meetings.

The OWEB Executive Director attended a meeting with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to better understand their water infrastructure challenges.

On November 7, Katie Duzik, OWEB's North Coast Regional Program Representative attended the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Tribal Summit in Florence. This all-day event had multiple speakers and events to share their history and heritage to improve relations with their tribe and state agencies.

Tribal Cultural Items Survey

In 2019 OWEB's tribal liaison engaged in a comprehensive effort to identify tribal cultural items that they may possess. This effort included attending the all-day training the Task Force hosted in Salem and interviewing staff to identify items located in field offices outside of Salem. The initial report was provided to tribal leaders and cultural resources staff for review.

It is through these interactions that relations are developed and trust is built. OWEB looks forward to fostering these relationships in 2020 and in the years to come.



Photo 5. Cow parsnip bed and harvest of seed at Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in 2017. Photos by Peter Moore and Jeremy Ojua.



Photo 6. Proud harvester showing camas bulbs in the Willamette Valley.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K- Organization Collaboration Grant Awards
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2019-2021 Organization Collaboration grant offerings and staff funding recommendation. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment A to the staff report.

II. Background

OWEB initially announced this grant offering in July 2013. The funding is intended to support new, or expand, strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage communities. Organizational Collaboration grants may support the following activities:

1) Evaluating the operational structure of multiple collaborating organizations to improve service delivery or reach under-served communities/geographies, which may result in sharing of staff and services among the organizations.

2) The merger/consolidation of organizations.

The applicants must demonstrate that the options being considered will strengthen the impact and build resiliency and sustainability of multiple organizations to help increase their ability to implement restoration and/or acquisition projects on the ground.

Since its inception, seven grants have been awarded for a total of $566,717. For the 2019-2021 biennium the board has allocated $200,000 for this grant offering.

III. Solicitation Process

In August 2019, staff announced the Organization Collaboration grant offering for the 2019-2021 biennium, with deadlines in September 2019, and January, March, June and September 2020. There may be additional offerings in 2021 depending on availability of funds. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants are required to participate in a consultation with staff. During the consultations, staff discuss the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

One application from the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network was received by the September 30, 2019 application deadline. The partnership was interviewed by staff and review team members in November 2019. The interview included board and staff members from each of the five partnering organizations. The interview focused on understanding how the existing structure limits capacity for stakeholder engagement and conservation actions, the openness and shared commitment of the organizations to change business practices and the likelihood of success of the project.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding the application as described in Attachment A. The organizations have worked together in various forms for many years and have used their own financial and human capital to develop current partnership structure. The application and interview process demonstrates the organizations are committed to this process and ready to explore organizational options to improve their collective capacity to engage stakeholders and implement conservation actions.

VI. Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award the Organization Collaboration grant as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

A. Evaluation

Organizational Collaboration Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 220-8071

OWEB Region: 3

Partnership Name: Upper Willamette Stewardship Network

Application Name: Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council

Requested Amount: $74,676

Applicant's Summary

The recently minted Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (Network) seeks OWEB support to further its collaborative capacity in pursuit of working with communities to care for land and water in the Upper Willamette. Current partners include Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC), Long Tom Watershed Council (LTWC), McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC), McKenzie River Trust (MRT), and the Friends of Buford Park (FOBP). With the support of our Network Coordinator, EDs, staff, and boards will engage in pursuing the Network's most strategic and emergent opportunities, while working to address shared challenges, redundancies, and knowledge gaps among partnering organizations. OWEB funds will be used to pay for a Network Coordinator, staff time from each organization, and associated travel.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has been working together for several years; and has spent considerable resources to develop the current structure and begin collaborating on shared actions.
- The partnership has support from board members and staff for continued collaboration to deepen engagement moving forward.
- The application presents logical next steps for the partnership considering previous accomplishments and identification of common needs and limitations among network organizations.
- The budget is reasonable and includes funds to ensure partners can dedicate staff time to participate so they all can engage in an equal and meaningful way.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The timeline and proposed deliverables are aggressive. Effective communication among partners will be key to staying on track and successfully completing all of the proposed products on time and within budget.
- Establishing partnership governance will be key for the long-term success of the Network. This piece should be completed early in the course of the project.
- It is unclear how the partnership will sustain the level of funding necessary to continue efforts into future years.

Concluding Analysis

The Upper Willamette Stewardship Network has been collaborating for many years and has invested significant financial and human capital to begin discussions around how collaboration can look different in their collective geography. The groups forming this Network have made significant progress in building trust and determining how to work together to collectively address factors that limit each organization's work. The proposed work will allow the partners to deepen these conversations and engage staff and board members fully in designing the future of this collaborative network. The proposed deliverables and timeline are aggressive, the review team believes there would be an increased likelihood of success with a slightly longer timeline and some additional funds to support the partnership coordinator and individual organization participation in the process.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Fund, increased with conditions

Staff Recommendation: Fund, increased with conditions

The grant is to be extended from one year to 18 months and the partnership should work on partnership governance early on in the collaborative process.

Amount: $100,000

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Telling the Restoration Story
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

"Telling the Restoration Story" is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. These grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes.

Outreach products will reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also have identified specific audiences, so their messages about factors that lead to quantifiable restoration success will have high impact by speaking to landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

II. Progress to Date

Seven projects were funded by OWEB in 2019:

1. Smith River Watershed Council: video, two-page fact sheet and technical report about how stream restoration treatments have increased salmon populations in the West Fork Smith River;
2. Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council: video, four-page fact sheet and technical report that highlights how fish passage projects benefit sensitive species in the Warner Lakes Basin;
3. Rogue Basin Partnership: online story map, fact sheet and compilation of fish passage restoration projects in the Rogue Basin;
4. Coos Watershed Association: video, fact sheet, and update to previously developed Willanch Creek report that details how riparian restoration improved habitat and helped keep water temperatures cool;
5. McKenzie Watershed Alliance: online story map, fact sheet and report on approaches to monitoring geomorphology of Stage 0 restoration using the Deer Creek floodplain enhancement project;

6. Long Tom Watershed Council: online story map, private landowner fact sheet, site brochure and compiled monitoring data on oak and wet prairie restoration to help Streaked Horned Larks and other species in Coyote Creek in the Willamette Valley; and
7. Malheur Watershed Council: video and fact sheet to describe long-term water quality monitoring data set in response to improvements in irrigation efficiency to improve water quality in Willow Creek.

Attachments A and B include example fact sheets for the West Fork Smith and Warner Basin projects. At the January 2020 board meeting, staff will share brief segments from the videos developed for these projects. Products for several of these grants will be completed in early 2020. An online map includes short summaries and links to the Telling the Restoration Story products:
https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6

In addition to the projects listed above, the Confederate Tribes of Umatilla Reservation (CTUIR) completed an online story map to highlight outcomes associated with floodplain restoration in Meacham Creek. CTUIR staff worked closely with OWEB staff to align messaging and formatting for this data-driven outreach product.

III. Stories in Development

Additional Telling the Restoration Story projects currently are in development; these include:

1. Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, to highlight outcomes associated with restoration actions in Horsetail Creek, a Columbia River tributary near Rooster Rock State Park; and
2. Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, to describe outcomes associated with projects to improve streamflow, fish passage, and water temperature.

Staff from OWEB's Technical Services and Grant Management programs continue to work together closely to identify new opportunities for telling the restoration story. Already, several additional projects are anticipated to be developed during the 2019-2021 biennium.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. Smith River fact sheet
Attachment B. Warner Basin fact sheet

Salmon Rebound in the West Fork Smith River

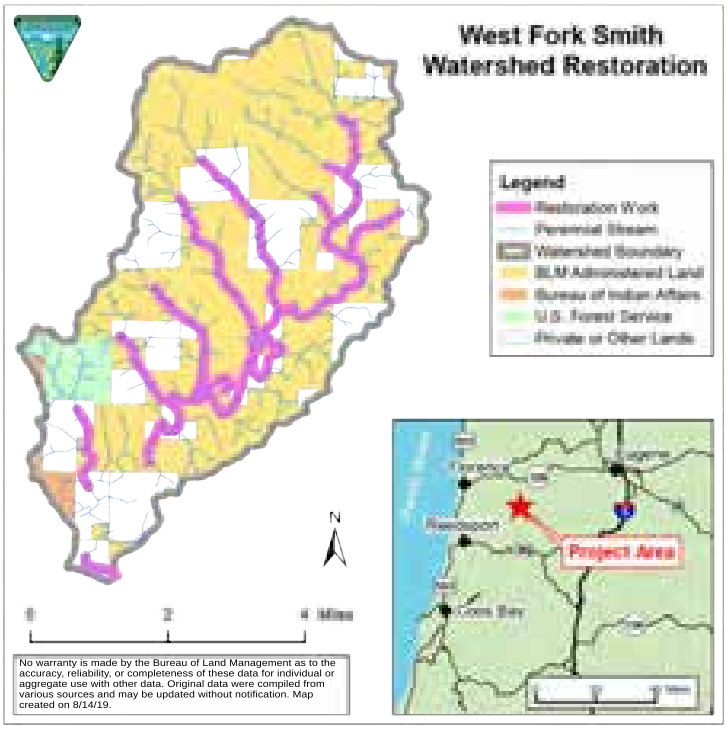
Douglas County, Oregon

60 years of Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife monitoring data confirms the positive effects of investments in habitat restoration.

Summary

Long-term investments by multiple partners in stream restoration in the West Fork Smith River are bringing back native fish. Adult Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) have increased by 1,780% since the late 1970s. Chinook Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) abundance has increased by 300% and Lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*, *Lampetra richardsoni*) numbers are also increasing.*

* As indicated by measurements observed at ODFW monitoring station.



The West Fork Smith (West Fork) River is a 15-mile-long tributary to the Smith River that drains 17,045 acres of land. The Smith River's headwaters begin in the Coast Range near Eugene and reach the ocean through the Umpqua River estuary at Winchester Bay, the second largest estuary on the Oregon Coast.

Over 40 years of investment results in watershed-scale restoration to improve salmon habitat.

13,000 boulders positioned

2,000 trees and logs placed

40 culverts replaced or removed

450 habitat structures installed

Changes to the River

Beginning in the late 1800s, land management activities began impacting the river, and indirectly the fish. Early logging operations and splash dams flushed logs downstream for transport. While an efficient means of transporting logs at the time, it had a dramatic impact on the physical condition of the river, scraping away important river features. Stream cleaning commonly occurred from 1972-1994 and removed more submerged wood needed by fish. By the 1980s, Coho Salmon had reached historically low levels.



The large wood and boulders placed throughout the West Fork Smith River have improved spawning and rearing habitat for salmon.

Restoration Over Time

The first efforts to restore the stream began. The Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) wrote an aquatic habitat management plan detailing the human impacts to aquatic habitat and outlining measures to restore fish populations. Throughout the 1990s, the BLM placed boulders and large wood in the stream, increasing deep gravel beds that salmon quickly used for spawning. Culverts were replaced to increase fish passage. With Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board support, the Partnership for Umpqua Rivers received funding in 2010 to work with Roseburg Forest Products and the BLM to do large-scale restoration. The investment resulted in the placement of thousands of boulders and pieces of large wood back into the river and its tributaries, restoring 23 miles of stream.

September 2019

Long-term Monitoring Provides Valuable Data

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) has monitored salmon in Beaver Creek, a tributary to the West Fork, since 1958. It is one of the longest running annual Coho Salmon surveys in the state. Data collected shows that Coho Salmon have increased by 1,780% in Beaver Creek from 1970's spawning levels.

In 1998, as part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, ODFW began a program to monitor survival and downstream migration of salmon in select watersheds, including the West Fork. The Salmonid Life Cycle Monitoring Project has provided a unique and rich data set to evaluate population trends over time. Both these data sets reveal one measure of the success of the decades-long restoration efforts.

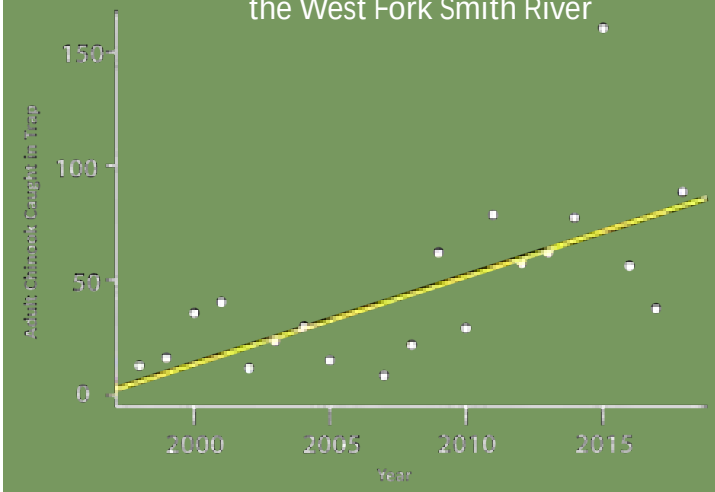
Promising Rebounds in Native Fish

Restoration of spawning habitat was successful for all target species. Since a major flood event in 2007/08 and subsequent restoration treatments, lamprey also show improving trends. Though the winter steelhead population remains stable, Coho and Chinook Salmon populations have continued to increase.



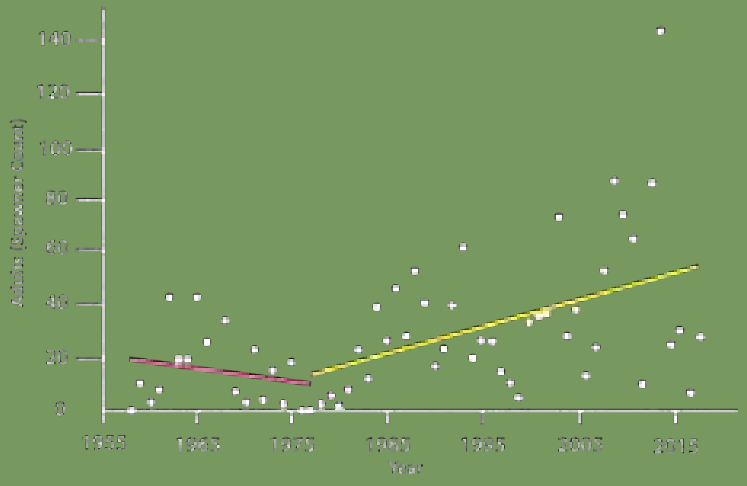
A Coho Salmon trapped at the ODFW monitoring station on the West Fork River near Reedsport.

Fall Chinook Returning Adults in the West Fork Smith River



Chinook Salmon counts have increased to 300% of their initial average since 1998 at the ODFW monitoring station.

Peak Adult Coho in Beaver Creek



Monitoring from 1958-1980 showed a declining trend in peak adult Coho Salmon. Since restoration began, they have increased by 1,780%.

Next Steps

Scientists have determined that Chinook Salmon could still benefit from additional spawning habitat in the West Fork. Research also reveals that summer and winter rearing habitats are now the most significant limiting factors for Coho, steelhead and lamprey recovery. In response, the Smith River Watershed Council is working with partners to design phased-restoration that uses traditional approaches, like instream wood and boulder placement, as well as streamside forest restoration. By improving the forest structure and allowing timber to mature, trees will fall into the stream naturally over time allowing the system to self-sustain.

Partners

Roseburg

OWEB

ecotrust

Help is at Hand

for Warner Sucker and Warner Redband Trout

An innovative partnership that improves stream habitat for these imperiled species also assists ranchers. Through this collaboration, unique new fish passage designs show encouraging success.



Water is the Key to Survival in the Oregon Outback

The Warner Lakes Watershed is an environment of extremes. Spring rain and snowmelt surge into raging torrents that dwindle to a trickle by late summer. Stream flow challenges resilient fish, as well as farmers and ranchers. All depend on the precious water.

Water diversions built for the working landscape have had unintended consequences for once-abundant fish, particularly for two native species. The Warner sucker was listed as Threatened on the Endangered Species list in 1985. The Warner Lakes redband trout is listed as a federal/Oregon Sensitive species. Unlike extreme conditions, water diversions are something people can change.



The Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

The partnership was formed to improve stream connectivity and habitat. Six organizations have joined forces with local landowners and irrigators to establish a plan that will assist ranchers and help with the recovery of Warner sucker and Warner redband trout. Success of the program depends on the willing participation of landowners and water users who manage the land.







Stage One: Honey, Deep and Twentymile Creeks

The partnership took aim at three creeks blocking fish passage. With investments in new research, unique designs were developed. Not only would these updated diversions improve fish passage, but they would also replace old, rusted and leaking structures with ones that are safer and easier to maintain.

As of January, 2019, two new fish passage projects were installed on Honey Creek. Deep Creek adaptations include a rock-ramp fishway and irrigation structure replacements. Along Twentymile Creek, improved fish passage was developed at multiple locations.

Data monitoring the projects already show that the fish passage improvements are working.



Strategic Action Plan and Success

Based on the results thus far, ten additional projects are planned over the next six years on the three creeks. The Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership's 2018 Strategic Action Plan sets a course to meet the recovery criteria for the fish. It is important that the fish can pass through diversions that formerly were barriers. Recovering imperiled species is a challenge, but for these two fish, and Warner Basin stakeholders, success is well on its way.



Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partners

Watershed Councils

Lake County Soil & Water Conservation District

Oregon Fish & Wildlife

USFS

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 Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Conservation Easement Management
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides the board information about land trust responsibility to steward conservation easements funded by OWEB grants. Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, a major easement holder in Southern Oregon, will share their experience with holding conservation easements.

II. Background

OWEB awards land acquisition grants to protect priority fish and wildlife habitat in perpetuity. Land acquisition grants are used to purchase fee simple property interests and conservation easements that include deed restrictions designed to permanently protect habitat. In the case of fee simple transactions, a land trust holds title to the property while OWEB holds a conservation easement. In the case of conservation easement transactions, the property owner retains ownership of the land, the easement holder (often, but not necessarily, a land trust) owns the conservation easement, and OWEB retains a 3rd party right of enforcement on the conservation easement.

III. Conservation Easement Stewardship

Land trusts take on significant responsibility when they hold a conservation easement on a property. The easement holder needs to maintain consistent relationships with the property owner, knowing that both easement-holder staff and the landowner will change over time. The easement holder must monitor the property on a regular basis to ensure that the conservation values are sustained and that the landowner is complying with the provisions of the easement. While easement holders typically visit each property at least annually, OWEB also monitors its acquisition portfolio every five years.

Easement holders incur costs to steward easements, including human resource costs for property visits and reporting, maintenance costs, such as for fencing and vegetation, legal costs in cases of potential easement violations, and consulting costs for natural resource professionals as needed. Because these costs are perpetual, easement holders typically

establish stewardship funds such that annual earnings can be applied to the costs of easement stewardship.

IV. Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, located in Ashland, holds 66 conservation easements on about 10,600 acres of land in southern Oregon. The land trust also owns three properties in fee simple, including the Rogue River Preserve, which was awarded funds by OWEB in 2018 and is the subject of the board tour at the January meeting. Kristi Mergenthaler, Stewardship Director for Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, will provide the board with an overview of land trust conservation easement stewardship responsibilities.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Kate Brown, Governor

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator & Tribal Liaison
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Priorities-Tribal Engagement
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

In April 2015 the board adopted the first FIP Priorities of significance to the state. There are seven FIP Priorities, which encompass a diverse range of species and habitats that establish eligibility for FIP funding and guide the development of FIP restoration initiatives. FIP administrative rules require that these priorities are reviewed at least every five years (OAR 695-047-0030). Staff initiated the review process in September 2018 with the intent of having revised priorities in place for the next solicitation of FIP initiatives in January 2020.

Based on recommendations from the Focused Investments subcommittee, staff approached the revision process in a manner that retains the original intent of the priorities in order to provide applicants consistency as the FIP program continues to mature. Staff reviewed the content of the existing priorities and consulted agency partners who provided information to support proposed revisions. Staff presented proposed revisions to the board at the July 2019 meeting as an informational item. Following that meeting, a public comment period was held from July 18 – August 20 to solicit input on the proposed revisions.

II. October 2019 Board Meeting Discussion

At the October meeting, staff presented final drafts of the revised FIP Priorities for the board to consider for approval. The board approved the revised FIP Priorities and requested additional outreach to Oregon tribal governments to solicit for comments that should also be considered for incorporation in final revised priorities.

III. FIP Priorities – Tribal Engagement

Pursuant to the board's direction at the October meeting, staff engaged with Oregon tribal governments by the following means:

October 25, 2019
Staff emailed Oregon Tribal Natural Resource Directors to provide an update on the FIP Priorities revision process and requested comments on the revised priorities. Drafts of the priorities and a table summarizing revisions were shared in this communication.

November 19, 2019
Staff attended a Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meeting and presented the priorities review process and revisions for discussion. All materials related to the revision process were emailed to Tribal Natural Resource Directors prior to the meeting. Printed versions of these materials were also made available at the meeting. Staff requested that written comments on the revised priorities be submitted by December 20.

December 2, 2019
Staff attended the Annual Tribal Summit hosted by the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation and were available to discuss the FIP Priorities, review process, and priorities revisions with tribal representatives as needed.

December 11, 2019
Staff reminded tribes to provide written comments on the revisions by December 20 and provided follow-up responses to questions that emerged from the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meeting. In some cases, these responses involved staff consulting with agency partners to account for all details and accuracy.

December 20, 2019
Staff received a written comment from one tribal government requesting to shift the Upper and North Fork Malheur River sub-basins from a second level to a top priority within the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species priority (Attachment A). Staff consulted with ODFW partners and concurred with the comment, and updated the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish priority map accordingly. Staff also revised the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Priority memo to clarify that initiatives which include lamprey as a focal species will be assessed independently of the priorities included in the map (Attachment B).

IV. Recommendation
Staff recommend the board adopt the revised Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Priority for the FIP program.

Attachments
A. Tribal comments and staff response
B. Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Priority memo

One tribal comment was received by December 20, 2019 regarding FIP Priority revisions:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Commenter(s)
Calla Hagle,
Natural Resources Director,
Burns Paiute Tribe

Comments
I wanted to emphasize the investment the Tribe has made in the Malheur River system for their native fish recovery goals. I notice that this system has only rated as second highest for the FIP priorities, but would encourage you to consider it as the highest priority given the past, current and future investment in this area as well as the incredible cultural and ecological importance of this system to the Tribe.

Response
OWEB staff discussed this input and consulted with ODFW partners. It was determined that the proposed revision is technically sound and aligns with the bull trout federal recovery plan. In light of the tribe's ongoing conservation investments and cultural significance of this area, the benefit of FIP investment in this area is commensurate with the highest priority (green) designation in the Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species priority map. Staff have revised the priority map accordingly.

Priority Revision(s)
Yes.

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, state conservation, or tribal 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 recovery, state conservation, or tribal 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 recovery and conservation 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, state conservation, or tribal plans. In select cases, habitat needs for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species that do not yet have an associated plan were also considered in assigning focal area priority designations. In some cases, priority designations could be drawn directly from federal recovery, state conservation, or tribal 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 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.

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) or have been identified as threatened, endangered, or sensitive by the state of Oregon. 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, including cultural significance to Oregon tribes. Native fish 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. Pacific lamprey and other native lamprey species are also included in this Priority, and there are no geographic limits for proposed conservation actions targeting lamprey. Proposed FIP initiatives that include lamprey as a focal species will be assessed independently of the associated Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species map. The approaches described above ensure that primary limiting factors can be addressed for a range of native fish species that are of significance to 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 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 recovery, state conservation, or tribal 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 plans guiding conservation efforts that can be referenced in developing FIP 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.

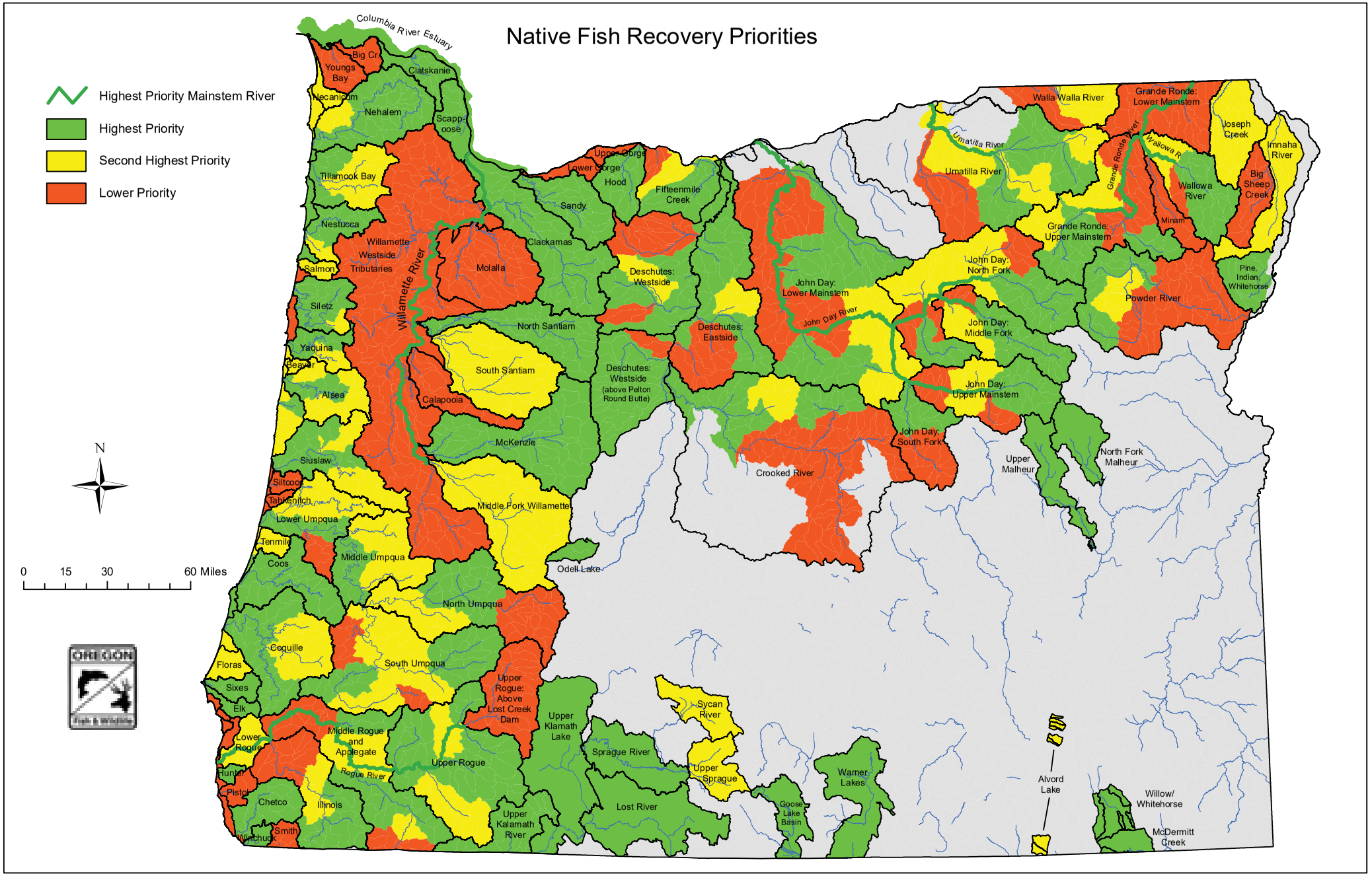
Native Fish Recovery Priorities
Highest Priority Mainstem River
Highest Priority
Second Highest Priority
Lower Priority
N
0 15 30 60 Miles
Columbia River Estuary
Big Cr
Youngs Bay
Clatskanie
Necanicum
Nehalem
Scapp-oose
Tillamook Bay
Nestucca
Willamette Westside Tributaries
Willamette River
Salmon
Siletz
Yaquina
Beaver
Alsea
Siuslaw
Siltcoos
Tahkenitch
Lower Umpqua
Tenmile
Coos
Coquille
Floras
Sixes
Elk
Hunter
Pistol
Chetco
Illinois
Smith
Winchuck
Lower Rogue
Middle Rogue and Applegate
Rogue River
Upper Rogue
Upper Rogue: Above Lost Creek Dam
Middle Umpqua
North Umpqua
South Umpqua
Middle Fork Willamette
Molalla
Clackamas
Sandy
Upper Gorge
Lower Gorge
Hood
Fifteenmile Creek
North Santiam
South Santiam
Calapooia
McKenzie
Deschutes: Westside
Deschutes: Westside (above Pelton Round Butte)
Deschutes: Eastside
Odell Lake
Crooked River
John Day: Lower Mainstem
John Day River
John Day: North Fork
John Day: Middle Fork
John Day: Upper Mainstem
John Day: South Fork
Upper Malheur
North Fork Malheur
Walla Walla River
Umatilla River
Grande Ronde: Lower Mainstem
Grande Ronde River
Wallowa R
Joseph Creek
Imnaha River
Wallowa River
Big Sheep Creek
Minam
Grande Ronde: Upper Mainstem
Powder River
Pine, Indian, Whitehorse
Upper Klamath Lake
Sycan River
Sprague River
Upper Sprague
Lost River
Upper Kalamath River
Goose Lake Basin
Warner Lakes
Alvord Lake
Willow/ Whitehorse
McDermitt Creek

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

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Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 6: Coordinated Monitoring and shared lessons learned to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Fetcho, Monitoring Coordinator
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Winter Lake Restoration Project Update
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff and partners from the Coquille Watershed Association, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), The Nature Conservancy, and the Beaver Slough Drainage District will provide an update on the project accomplishments to date at the Winter Lake Restoration Project (Attachment A). This presentation will summarize the restoration actions completed, the water management and tide gate impacts, initial monitoring results, and lessons learned from the combined restoration and monitoring efforts in the Lower Coquille River.

II. Background

The Winter Lake Restoration Project was completed in 2018. Originally a freshwater tidal, forested marsh, Winter Lake was cleared, bermed, and drained for seasonal pasture grazing. China Camp Creek, which runs through Winter Lake, was channelized and tide gate infrastructure was installed, reducing habitat diversity and floodplain connectivity and altering thermal regimes. The project replaced failing tide gate infrastructure and restored over 400 acres of tidal wetlands. The restoration efforts addressed these watershed issues by restoring the 407-acre Winter Lake area owned by ODFW and the China Creek Gun Club, and improving the river floodplain connectivity in the remaining 1,300 acres of privately owned pastures. This project is highly visible and the substantial restoration investment provides a significant increase in juvenile coho rearing habitat.

III. Current Situation

The scale of these restoration efforts created a critical need for monitoring to document results, inform adaptive management, and disseminate lessons learned. OWEB funded an effectiveness monitoring project in April 2018, and monitoring began in earnest in 2019. The monitoring project is collecting data on the changes observed at the restoration site and at a reference location over four years post-implementation. Monitoring parameters include: fish passage, fish habitat quality and quantity, water quality, water level, vegetation, and fish response to habitat enhancement. Project partners have already applied lessons learned to

adaptively manage the tide gate infrastructure at Winter Lake and inform design and implementation of additional tide gate replacement projects in the Lower Coquille River.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. Winter Lake Fact Sheet

conservation that works in oregon

Restoring Wetlands in the Coquille Basin



The Beaver Slough Drainage District, China Creek Gun Club, the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the Coquille Watershed District, The Nature Conservancy and others are collaborating to improve fish passage and restore wetland function and tidal flow in the Coquille Basin.

Project Goals

The partners are committed to preserving the natural resources and communities that make Oregon and Coos County special.

Our goal is to improve fish habitat and water quality in tidal wetlands while simultaneously supporting working lands for ranchers and recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

Interest in this project is so strong that we have held over 500 field tours for interested parties.



The Coquille Basin was once a prime area for salmon, but today's salmon runs are a mere fraction of historic highs. Tidal wetlands – which are critical to the survival of salmon – once covered most of the Coquille Valley. Today, less than 10 percent of these historic wetlands in the Coquille Basin remain.

The partners have been working with local community members since 2008 to find common ground and collaborate on two projects at an area known locally as Winter Lake. The projects aim to make the land more prosperous for both agriculture and salmon.

We replaced old infrastructure with seven new tide gates and related berms and bridges to improve water control on 1,700 acres of land. The new tide gates, installed in 2017, allow the local drainage district to control water levels on individual properties so the landowners can graze cattle and sheep in the summer and then flood their lands in the winter for salmon.

Within these 1,700 acres, we restored 408 acres of tidal wetlands on parcels owned by the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife and the China Creek Gun Club. This restoration improved year-round access to wetland habitat for juvenile salmon. This project also allows for increased recreation including hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing.

Environmental Outcomes

- Improve fish passage by replacing old tide gates and culverts with seven new tide gates and five new bridges to dramatically improve fish passage.
- Reconnect 8.6 miles of historic channels to the Coquille River and replant with native vegetation.
- Reestablish a forested wetland habitat that will benefit salmon, cutthroat trout, birds, amphibians, reptiles and many species of mammals.
- Increase in juvenile Coho survival rates by adding over 200,000 smolts annually to the Coquille River.
- This project is cited as the type of collaborative, win-win project needed to recover salmon in the Final Endangered Species Act Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho.

Agricultural Outcomes

- Install new tide gate systems, berms and bridges to improve fish passage and water control for individual agricultural landowners. The new infrastructure requires less maintenance, resulting in cost savings over time.
- Improve water management resulting in better drainage, enhanced irrigation capability, improved water quality, and ability to flush the system and control sediment.
- Better drainage of the property increases the amount of time cattle can spend on the property in the spring and summer, which results in increased profit potential.
- Local landowners have reported their excitement about "raising cattle in the summer and salmon in the winter."

Economic Outcomes

- The construction projects are projected to generate at least $4.2 million and will support 18-25 jobs. Many local businesses will see new demand in specific industries like nurseries, heavy equipment, rock or gravel and local labor.
- Currently, recreational access in the Coquille Basin is limited due to private land ownership. Improved public access to the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife lands will support an increase in economic activity from wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing activities on the project area.
- Over time, restoration efforts may improve fish numbers and create additional opportunities for the fishing industry.

Working Together

This restoration project is a collaborative effort between many partners, including the Beaver Slough Drainage District, The Nature Conservancy, Coquille Indian Tribe, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, China Creek Gun Club, Coquille Watershed Association, ODOT Mitigation, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, The Turner Foundation, landowners and community members.



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Protecting Coho Salmon

Coho salmon (*oncorhynchus kisutch*) are anadromous fish, meaning that they spawn in freshwater and migrate to the ocean after 1-2 years. Streams and tidal wetlands are crucial habitat for Coho salmon. Analysis has shown that lack of access to floodplain wetlands is the main cause of decreased salmon populations in the Coquille River.

Coho salmon returns, once estimated between 300-400,000 adults, now range from 8,000 to 50,000 over the last decade. Currently, Coho salmon are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The good news is that tidal wetland restoration projects like the ones occurring at Winter Lake can help salmon recover. A study shows that 11-17 adult Coho salmon can be produced per acre of restored wetland.

For More Information

Please Visit:

www.coquilleworkinglandscapes.com

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Agenda Item Q 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
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – Water Acquisition Grant Awards
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the August 2019 Water Acquisition grant offering process and requests board approval of staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Water Acquisitions – August 2019 Offering Background and Summary

A. Background – Water Acquisition Solicitation Schedule

Prior to the 2019 offering, the Water Acquisition grant offering was issued in the fall with applications due in December and board awards made at the April board meeting. Funding decisions made in April coincide with the start of the irrigation season in many parts of the state. Funding uncertainty for irrigators often results in delaying the instream lease or other water use agreement until the following irrigation season. To address this issue, in 2019, staff shifted the solicitation timing with applications now due in August and funding decisions made by the board at the January meeting. Feedback from applicants has been positive; however, fewer applications were received in 2019 than in prior years because of the shorter time between cycles. This is not expected to be an issue going forward.

B. Applications Submitted

Two grant applications were received in the August 2019 Water Acquisition Grant Offering, requesting a total of $156,502. The applications, summarized in Table 1, propose an incentive-based water use agreement program and a permanent water right transaction.

C. Review Process

Application review was completed in coordination with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. Applications were submitted to OWEB through the online application system and reviewed by NFWF's water rights evaluators, legal experts, and technical advisory committee (TAC), which is comprised of fisheries and habitat experts and water transaction specialists. 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 Independent Scientific Review Panel. The TAC provided funding recommendations to OWEB staff.

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
220-9900	4	Mill Creek Water Rights Acquisition	$46,502	$46,502
220-9901	4	2020 Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperatures	$110,000	$110,000
		Total Water Acquisition Applications Submitted	$156,502	
		Total OWEB Funding Recommended		$156,502

Attachments

A. Water Acquisition Project Evaluations

220-9900-17228

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Name: Mill Creek Water Rights Acquisition

Application Description (from the application)

The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) seeks funding to support a permanent instream transfer of 52.8 acres of senior water rights on Mill Creek, a tributary to Ochoco Creek/Ochoco Reservoir in the Crooked River subbasin. This transfer would add up to .66 cfs of instream flow to Mill Creek, an important tributary for redband trout, a sensitive species.

The dominant private land use along Mill Creek is livestock grazing and irrigated forage production. Due in part to irrigation diversions, flows are low or intermittent on Mill Creek during the irrigation season and the creek loses connection to Ochoco Reservoir in late summer months. Lack of adequate streamflow limits fish movement, degrades aquatic habitat, and contributes to increased water temperatures and juvenile fish predation.

Mill Creek supports a viable, but depressed, native redband trout population that have adapted to low streamflow conditions by adopting an adfluvial lifestyle; trout move from Ochoco Reservoir up Mill Creek in the spring to spawn and then return to Ochoco Reservoir. Young fish follow to Ochoco Reservoir later in the season as streamflows drop. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is interested in increasing streamflow in Mill Creek, especially later in the season to help extend connectivity with Ochoco reservoir and further improve instream habitat, complimenting the agency's work in the late 1990s.

If completed, this project would protect up to 211.2 acre-feet and up to .66 cfs of instream flow in Mill Creek. Project partners include the water right holder, Oregon Water Resources Department, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Potential restoration partners include the Crooked River Watershed Council and Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Strengths

- The proposal is clear and the water transaction is viable and likely to achieve at least the minimum proposed flow restoration outcomes.
- The proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity are clearly described.
- Sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be purchased.
- The value proposed is at the low end of the range of permanent water in the basin and is cost-effective in terms of local and regional markets. This value reflects the relatively low reliability of the water (due to natural availability), low crop value, low demand from other buyers (irrigators), and prioritizing fish species present.

- The applicant's plan to add monitoring sites and work with Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) Water Master to monitor in stream flow is sufficient for monitoring compliance.
- The application proposed reach level monitoring by collecting streamflow data that will inform future OWRD regulation of water rights on the creek. This will help DRC to build a flow reliability analysis for Mill Creek and identify future projects to help reach flow targets.
- While the applicant indicates that the reliability of the water is low, in an average year this water provides a significant flow benefit between late June and mid-July/early August by providing up to 23% of the July in stream flow target.
- The proposed project will enhance previously implemented habitat projects on Mill Creek.
- The applicant organization and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's in stream transfer process and incrementally implementing water transactions to meet flow targets. Furthermore, the applicant has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of part water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Concerns

- While the water right is never fully regulated off and some in stream flow benefit remains throughout the season, the extent of that benefit for redband trout or riparian habitat is unclear and likely variable from year to year.

Concluding Analysis

This is a cost-effective project that provides the first permanently protected instream flow to Mill Creek. While the instream benefit to target species is unclear, the monitoring and coordination with OWRD staff are expected to have a positive impact on Mill Creek beyond the specific water right being conserved in stream, including increased local attention to in stream water needs and additional opportunities for water transactions.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund, with conditions.

Review Team Explanation of Conditions

1. In addition to the requirements in Exhibit C, the Project Completion Report shall contain a summary of the flow monitoring data to show how streamflow conditions may have changed before and after the water right transfer.

Staff Follow-up

NA

220-9901-17229

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Name: 2020 Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperatures

Application Description (from the application)

This project serves Fifteenmile Creek in Wasco County, home to ESA listed steelhead. Fifteenmile Creek is subject to chronic high temperatures and low flows in summer, which is exacerbated by irrigation withdrawals. FAST or (Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperatures) is a unique plan that temporarily increases streamflow by having irrigators voluntarily shut off irrigation during temperature spikes.

At the heart of the project is an ODFW-developed model that forecasts stream temperatures for the following week at four sites on Fifteenmile Creek and one site on Eightmile Creek. When temperatures lethal to juvenile steelhead are predicted, the FAST Coordinator issues an alert to participating irrigators. This message prompts irrigators to voluntarily curtail irrigation diversion to increase instream flow and lessen the intensity of predicted stream temperatures and the effects to ESA Listed Middle Columbia Steelhead and other aquatic life.

This project offers compensation to participants to alleviate any potential crop damage during these alerts as well as any inconvenience. The primary benefit to irrigators modifying water use during times of critical low flow is reducing personal liability under the ESA. The FAST Coordinator performs administration and monitoring duties for FAST. This includes engaging irrigators, presenting changes and results at all associated meetings, and providing contracting services.

FAST excels in interagency cooperation and collaboration. The Freshwater Trust (TFT) has been instrumental in implementing the FAST program for the first few years and providing technical assistance. FAST is developed through the Fifteenmile Watershed Council and administered through the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District. Other cooperators include National Marine Fisheries Service, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Water Resources Department.

Strengths

- The applicant has a record of success in implementing this innovative and complex water management program, including making refinements over time to improve outcomes.
- The program is a creative and innovative approach to managing stream flows in an over-allocated watershed.
- The program is effective in reducing the most severe impacts of irrigation withdrawals in Fifteenmile Creek, as evidenced by there being no observed instances of steelhead mortality in the creek since the FAST program was enacted in 2013.
- The Fifteenmile watershed has undergone extensive alteration and damage from its natural state since settlement and is a high-priority area under both state and federal management agency restoration criteria.

Concerns

- While habitat restoration actions and climate change are mentioned, the application does not describe a strategy or prioritization to target reduced diversions in areas that have the greatest potential benefit for habitat projects or to increase climate resiliency.
- FAST was designed as a pilot program to provide a short-term solution to lessen the most severe impacts of irrigation withdrawal during the most extreme conditions. The proposal would benefit from a description of how this successful pilot can transition to longer-term protected instream flow efforts.
- The 7 cfs flow target for Fifteenmile Creek has not yet been met, and it is unclear how the target was decided. The proposal would benefit from further description of the flow target and how it was selected.

Concluding Analysis

The program is expected to continue to be an effective tool to avoid lethally high stream temperatures in Fifteenmile Creek. While short term solutions such as the FAST program are critical, the project partners should develop a plan to transition the program toward more strategic targeting of reliable water rights and longer term mechanisms to achieve legally protected instream flow.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund, with conditions

Review Team Explanation of Conditions

In addition to the requirements in Exhibit C, the Project Completion Report shall contain:

1. The FAST program annual report;
2. A list of the participating water right holders, including water right certificate priority dates, the amount and location of associated water instream, and the points of diversion;
3. A list of non-participating water right holders, including water right certificate priority dates and amount of water associated with each certificate;
4. A plan for transitioning the FAST program toward longer term mechanisms to achieve legally protected instream flow in Fifteenmile Creek.

Staff Follow-up

N/A

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: Leah Tai, Partnerships Coordinator
Lisa Appel, Conservation Outcomes Specialist
Renee Davis, Deputy Director/Technical Services Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item R – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program Monitoring and Progress Tracking
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

At the January board meeting, Robert Warren from BEF will join OWEB staff to provide a presentation about the ongoing Implementation FIP monitoring and progress tracking work, including discussion of the generic ecological theory of change for each board-adopted FIP priority, progress monitoring frameworks for each of the five second cohort of FIP initiatives, and progress tracking reports for the six first cohort of FIP initiatives.

II. Background

Since 2016, OWEB has been working in partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) on OWEB's FIP program development and assessment. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state, achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership. Since April 2016, the board has awarded BEF $439,649 for FIP monitoring, including assistance with the development of tools to enhance FIP program understanding and identify effective ways to measure progress towards outcomes at various scales and timeframes. OWEB staff meet regularly with BEF to coordinate on the use of these monitoring, progress tracking, and adaptive management tools, which communicate FIP progress to partners, the board, and the public. Attachment A provides a schematic to illustrate the unique role of each product.

III. FIP Ecological Priority Theories of Change

The FIP program is premised on partnerships pursuing programmatic restoration initiatives that address one of the seven board-adopted ecological priorities for focused investments. In order to enhance broad understanding of these priorities, BEF worked with OWEB staff to develop diagrams depicting the generic ecological theory of change for each of the seven priorities. These theories of change (Attachment B) illustrate the connections between habitat and/or species limiting factors that are being addressed by the priority, and the conservation

strategies, outputs, and outcomes that may be targeted by FIP partnerships as they implement their initiatives.

IV. Progress Monitoring Framework

BEF worked with each FIP initiative to develop a progress monitoring framework that provides a consistent structure for measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives and predicted ecological results. In 2017, BEF piloted progress monitoring frameworks for the first cohort of FIP initiatives, and presented this information to the board at the October 2017 meeting. In 2019, BEF engaged with the second cohort of FIP initiatives to collaboratively construct their progress monitoring frameworks. In addition to tracking progress, these frameworks inform both monitoring and adaptive management.

The progress monitoring frameworks for each of the second cohort of FIP initiatives are found in Attachment C. The key elements of the progress monitoring frameworks are a results chain and a cross-walk matrix. The results chain is a graphical model of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts. The cross-walk matrix details key objectives of the partnership related to implementation and ecological outcomes, along with associated metrics that can be monitored to measure progress.

As part of the framework development, BEF reviewed and overlaid existing monitoring plans and approaches. This work lays the foundation for subsequent discussions between OWEB and the FIP partners to identify potential monitoring gaps or needs and may lead to refinements in existing monitoring approaches. Identifying and addressing these knowledge gaps helps to strengthen each partnership's ability to describe and communicate their progress.

V. Progress Tracking Reports

Progress tracking reports are a tool to communicate the progress and evolution of each FIP initiative as they proceed with strategic action plan implementation, outcomes monitoring, and adaptive management of the partnership. The reports summarize context of the partnerships' work and synthesize actions to provide a high-level portrait of progress.

Staff coordinated with each partnership to produce the biennium 1 reports for each of the six FIP initiatives awarded in 2016. It is expected that the reporting template will evolve over time as staff, board, and partnerships provide feedback and new content is generated. Future biennium reports for the first cohort, along with subsequent cohorts, will share monitoring results as analysis takes place and near-term outcomes emerge. At the January board meeting, staff will present the progress tracking reports for the first FIP initiative cohort (Attachment D).

VI. Recommendation

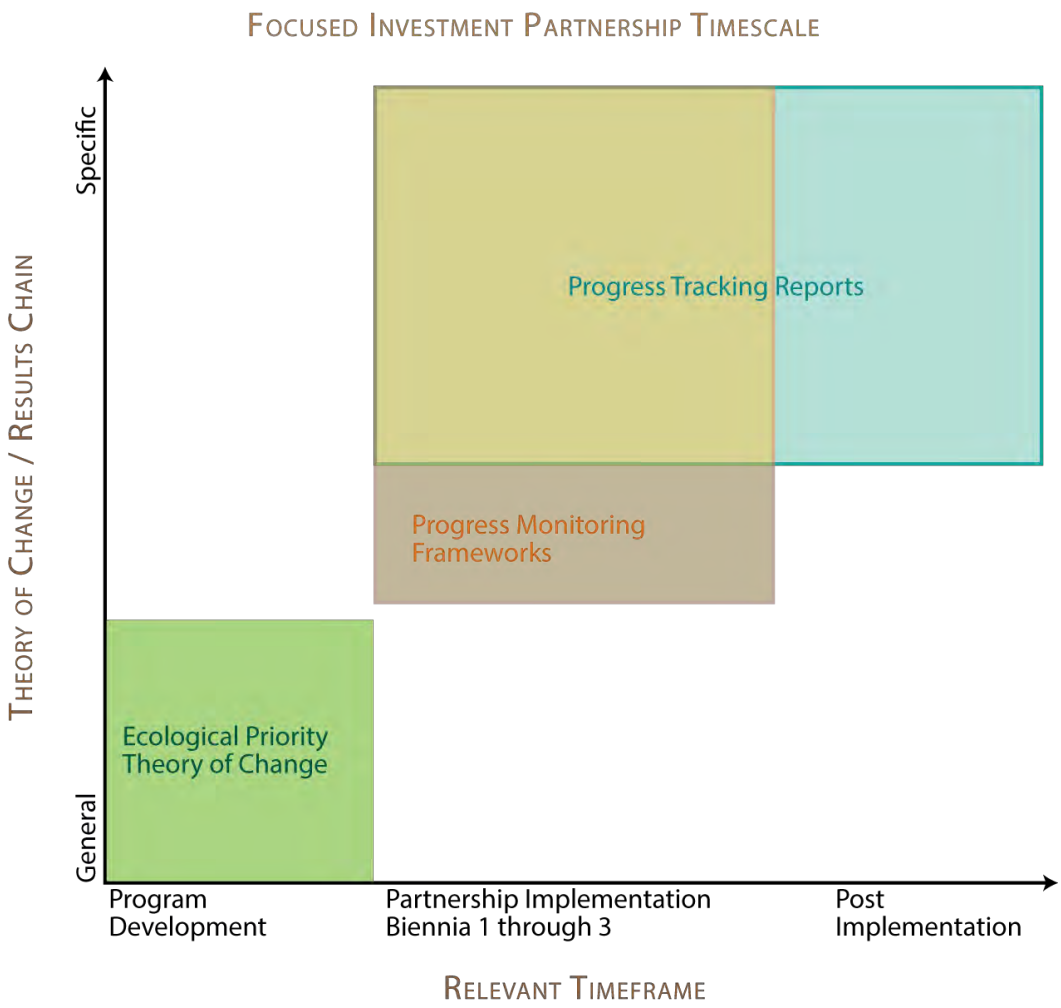
This is an informational item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. Schematic of FIP tools
Attachment B. Ecological Priority Theory of Change for the 7 FIP Board-Adopted Priorities
Attachment C. Progress Monitoring Frameworks for 5 Implementation FIPs awarded in 2019
Attachment D. Progress Tracking Reports for 6 Implementation FIPs awarded in 2016

FIP Program Monitoring and Progress Tracking
Schematic of FIP tools

Attachment A

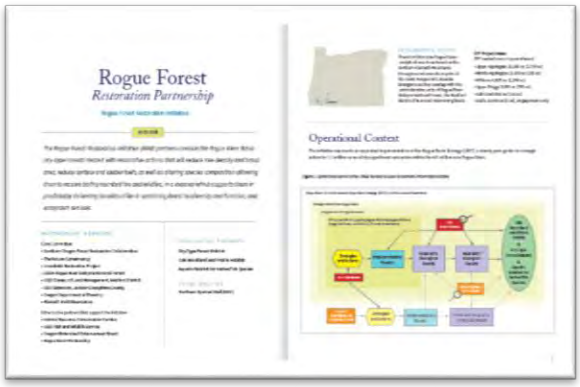


Example thumbnails for each tool:

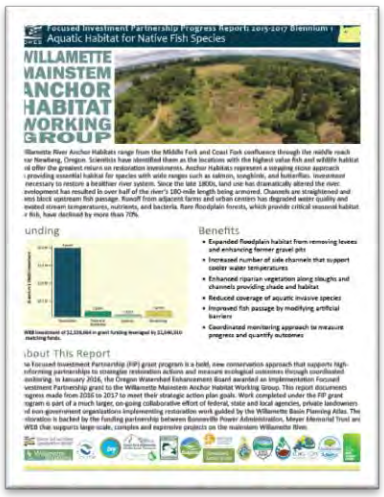
Ecological Priority Theory of Change



Progress Monitoring Framework



Progress Tracking Report



THEORY OF CHANGE

Aquatic Habitat

for Native Fish Species

Steelhead

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Native fish become more abundant

Stream habitat becomes more diverse

Amount of diverse, high-quality aquatic habitat increases

Spatial distribution of native fish increases

Gravel, sand and silt are sorted and deposited

Stream temperature and water quality improve

Juvenile fish mortality from irrigation infrastructure is reduced

Groundwater rises close to the floodplain surface

Stream processes and forms are restored

Mature trees die and fall into the stream

Riparian plant community structure and function is improved

Fish can access more habitat

Stream flow throughout the year becomes more similar to natural conditions

Floodplains are flooded more often and over a greater area

Native riparian forest communities are more diverse

Abundance of invasive plant species is reduced

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

20+ YEARS

10

0 YEARS

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

Stream and floodplain habitat is protected from development and degradation

Land is preserved in priority areas

Stream habitat projects addressing key limiting factors are implemented

Native trees and shrubs are planted on the floodplain

Levees and revetments are removed from floodplain areas

Lateral side-channels are reconnected

Invasive weed treatments are applied

Irrigation systems are modernized

Water rights transactions to keep more water in streams are completed

Artificial structural barriers to fish passage are removed

Fish screens are installed to keep fish out of irrigation diversions

STRATEGIES

1 **Easements & Acquisitions**

2 **Restore Channels**

3 **Riparian Restoration**

4 **Floodplain Reconnection**

5 **Control Invasive Weeds**

6 **Restore Stream Flow**

7 **Barrier Removal**

8 **Install Fish Screens**

9 **Outreach & Engagement**

Stakeholder outreach activities to increase awareness are planned and implemented

Community leaders and stakeholders become informed about watershed health and restoration needs

Community leader and stakeholder engagement increases

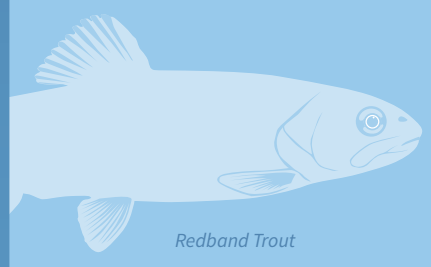
Outreach and engagement foster public values that recognize the importance of healthy streams and enable implementation of restoration strategies.

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, February 2019.

THEORY OF **CHANGE**

Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands





LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Migratory bird populations increase

Native vegetation provides food for migratory bird populations and other wildlife

Flood irrigated wetlands and wet meadows support wetland birds

Diversity and abundance of native wet meadow plant species increases

Native fish density and diversity increases

Native aquatic vegetation and invertebrate populations recover

Water quality including salt and nutrient concentrations supports healthy wetland and wet meadow ecosystems

Wetlands and wet meadow habitat increases

Extent of invasive plant populations is reduced

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Water clarity and other water quality parameters improve

Seasonal water availability increases

The economic viability of ranching improves



IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

- Carp abundance is reduced
- Carp control measures are evaluated and improved
- Wetland habitats are restored and existing wetlands are managed to support migratory wetland birds
- Wetland restoration and management actions are evaluated and improved
- Flood irrigation practices optimize habitat values for migratory water-bird species and forage production.
- Aging and inefficient diversions and irrigation infrastructure are replaced with efficient flood-irrigation systems

STRATEGIES

1. **Control Invasive Carp Populations in Aquatic Systems**
2. **Restore or Manage Wetland Habitats**
3. **Promote Flood Irrigation of Wetlands and Wet Meadows**
4. **Outreach & Engagement**

Community and partner engagement and support for use of carefully managed flood irrigation increases

0 YEARS ..... 10 ..... 20+ YEARS

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, September 2019.

THEORY OF **CHANGE**

Coastal Estuaries of Oregon

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Abundance and diversity of estuary-dependent species increase

Estuary habitat diversity and productivity is improved



Bay Pipefish

Estuary nutrient dynamics and food webs are restored

Food and prey availability improves

Channel elevations and substrate composition are improved

Habitat for forage fish is increased

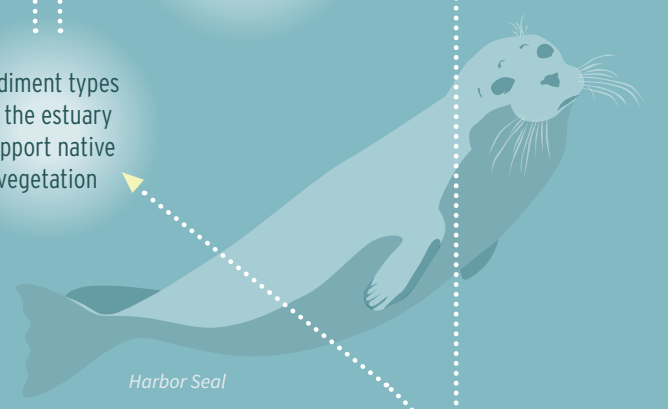
Emergent wetland vegetation communities are restored

Productivity of submerged aquatic vegetation (e.g., eel-grass) is restored

Shoreline habitat structure and productivity is improved

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Sediment types in the estuary support native vegetation



Harbor Seal

Tidal wetland habitat connectivity is restored

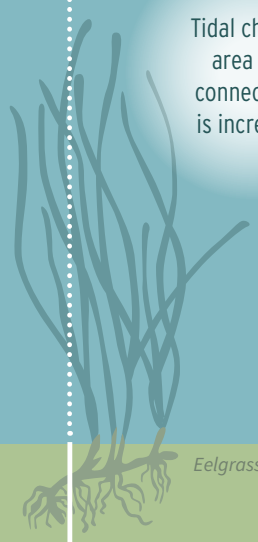
Estuary sediment and nutrient transport and tidal flow dynamics and patterns are restored

Stream flow patterns in the watershed are restored

Sediment supply, storage, and transport processes in the watershed are restored

Tidal channel area and connectivity is increased

Tidal flow and saltwater exchange are restored in historical estuary habitats



Eelgrass

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

Acquisitions, easements, and other transactions are carried out to protect estuary habitat

Actions that re-establish tidal channel connectivity and increase woody structure are implemented

Actions that remove or breach dikes and levees are implemented

Actions that remove, replace, or modify existing tidegates are implemented

Restoration actions in freshwater and terrestial habitats that influence estuary health are implemented

STRATEGIES

1 **Estuary Habitat Protection**

2 **Restoration of Estuarine Habitats lost to Land Conversion**

3 **Dike Breaching and Removal**

4 **Tidegate Removal or Modification**

5 **Watershed Restoration in Freshwater and Uplands**

Outreach & Engagement 6 → Community and partner engagement and support for estuary restoration strategies increases

0 YEARS ..... 10 | 0 ..... 20+ YEARS

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, December 2019.

THEORY OF **CHANGE**

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast of Oregon



LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Coho salmon population performance at freshwater and estuarine life stages improves

Amount and quality of coho spawning and rearing habitat increases

Spatial structure and life history diversity of coho salmon increases

Food diversity and quantity for juvenile coho salmon increases

Marine derived nutrient inputs delivered by returning adult salmon in freshwater increase

Productivity of freshwater systems increases

Aquatic habitat diversity, quantity, and stability increases

Estuarine habitat diversity and productivity improves

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Supply, storage, and transport of sediments is restored to desired levels

Fine sediment levels in spawning gravels is reduced

Productivity of emergent and submerged aquatic vegetation is restored

Tidal wetland habitat area and connectivity is restored and water quality is improved

Stream temperature is reduced and dissolved oxygen levels increase

Flow in stream channels and natural floodplain increases

Sediment storage in floodplains increases

Distribution and abundance of off-channel habitats and cold-water refuges increases

Estuary sediment transport, tidal flow dynamics and patterns, and salinity are restored

Streambank channel stability improves

Streambank shading increases

Floodplain reconnected to stream channel

Wood structure within the channels is increased

Natural sediment dynamics are restored

Tidal flow is restored into historic estuary habitats

Extent of riparian areas increases and composition improves

Stream flow is sufficient to meet the needs of salmon

Water storage in riparian areas increases

Passage and movement of juvenile and/or adult coho salmon improves

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

Projects to reconnect stream channels to floodplains are implemented

Management actions on dams and other diversions to restore natural flow are implemented

Stream habitat restoration projects are implemented

Projects to stormproof or decommission roads are implemented

Native planting and non-native vegetation control actions are implemented in riparian areas

Conversion of old-growth to young, managed forests is reduced

Management actions in young forests that support aquatic ecosystems are implemented

Projects to remediate artificial barriers to fish passage are implemented

Actions that remove/breach dikes, levees, and tidegates are carried out

STRATEGIES

1 Reconnect Floodplains

2 Restore Stream Flow

3 Restore Habitat in Stream Channels

4 Forest Road Repair or Decommission

5 Riparian Restoration

6 Forest Management that Supports to Healthy Aquatic Habitats

7 Remove Fish Passage Barriers

8 Estuary Restoration

9 Outreach & Engagement → Community and partner engagement and support for coho salmon habitat restoration restoration increases

0 YEARS ..... 10 | 0 ..... 20+ YEARS

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, December 2019.

THEORY OF **CHANGE**

Dry-Type Forest Habitat

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Mosaic of diverse dry forest habitats sustains all species, including those dependent on old complex forests

Resilience of dry forest to drought, extreme fire, insects and disease is increased

Forest habitat connectivity and soil productivity is preserved

Water quality and aquatic habitat conditions are maintained

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Mosaic and diversity of habitats is increased

Meadow habitat is restored

Growth of legacy trees accelerates to achieve mature forest characteristics

Risk, frequency, and severity of wildfire shifts toward desired conditions

Sediment input into aquatic environments is reduced

Soil erosion and risk of mass wasting is reduced

Vegetation that crowds oaks and prevents branching is reduced

Overall proportion of open canopy in old forests is increased

Establishment, growth and vigor of fire-resistant species is increased

Severe outbreaks of forest insects and disease are reduced

White-headed woodpecker

Tree and fuels density is reduced

Proportion of invasive species are reduced in forest habitats

Rocky Mountain Elk

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

Existing and potential open forest habitat is identified and thinned

Fuels are reduced on ridges and midslopes where potential for re-storing open old forest habitat and reducing high severity fire is greatest

Prescribed burning treatments are applied in potential open forest habitat sites and native plants are seeded or planted if appropriate

Priority habitats with highest risk of invasive species are treated

STRATEGIES

1 **Protect Existing Complex Forest**

2 **Strategic Thinning**

3 **Prescribed Fire**

4 **Promote Native Understory Vegetation**

5 **Outreach & Engagement**

- Community engagement describing the benefits of ecological thinning and prescribed fire is delivered to stakeholders
- Successful forest restoration outcomes are showcased within the community

Community support for and understanding of ecological thinning and prescribed fires improves

Prescribed fire, thinning and other strategies are used proactively

0 YEARS ..... 10 | 0 ..... 20+ YEARS

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, June 2019.

THEORY OF **CHANGE**

Oak Woodland *and* Prairie Habitat

LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

20+ YEARS

Oak-prairie habitat structure is improved

Oak-prairie connectivity and soil productivity is preserved

Resilience of oak woodland/prairie ecosystems to climate change, extreme fire, insects and disease is increased

Oak woodland/ prairie habitats support stable populations of dependent species

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Rate of oak and prairie habitat loss and fragmentation is reduced

Young oak recruitment increases

Growth and recruitment of large-diameter legacy trees is increased

Frequency and severity of wildfire shifts toward desired range

Vegetation competing with existing and potential future legacy trees is reduced

Shading of oak trees and seedlings is reduced

Open prairie habitat expands

Landscape proportion of open canopy is increased

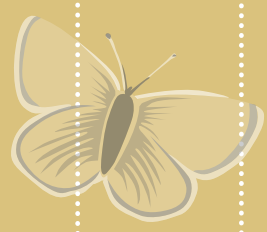
Density of invasive species (prairies), understory trees, and encroaching conifers (oak woodlands) is reduced

Existing dense growth of small shrubby oaks is reduced

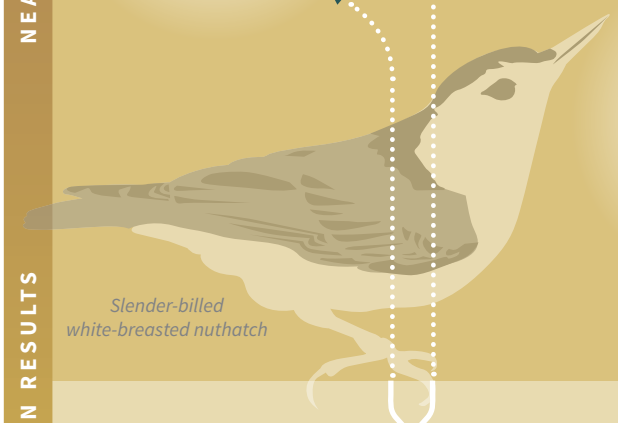
Recruitment and abundance of native, fire-resistant and fire-dependent species is increased

Severe outbreaks of forest insects and disease are reduced

Establishment of invasive species is reduced



Fender's Blue Butterfly



Slender-billed white-breasted nuthatch

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

0 YEARS ····· 10 | 0 ····· 20+ YEARS

Oak woodland habitat is protected from conversion to other uses.

Cooperative incentive programs for private landowners are implemented

Prescribed burning treatments are applied in potential open forest habitat sites

Existing and future legacy trees are identified and protected

Potential open forest habitat sites are identified and thinned and native understory is planted

Restoration sites are managed to reduce establishment of invasive species

1 **Cooperative Incentive Programs**

2 **Prescribed Fire**

3 **Protect and Promote Complex Mature Forest**

4 **Strategic Thinning and Other Fuels Reduction**

5 **Invasive Species Control**

STRATEGIES

Outreach & Engagement 5

Outreach and engagement connects communities to oak-prairie ecosystems to promote understanding of their value and function → Community support for oak-prairie preservation and restoration increases → **Community support for conservation strategies including prescribed fire, thinning and restoration increases**

Information describing incentive programs to protect and improve oak woodland and prairie habitat is provided to land owners → Best practices that support or expand oak woodland and prairie habitats are adopted on private lands. → **Oak woodland and prairie habitat on private working lands increases and is protected**

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, May 2019.

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

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

Mortality of sage-grouse and other native species is reduced

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

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

20+ YEARS

10 YEARS

0 YEARS

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

1 **Control Invasive Grasses & Weeds**

2 **Support Sustainable Grazing Practices**

3 **Remove Juniper**

4 **Reduce Human Influenced Mortality**

STRATEGIES

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.

This graphic was developed by **Bonneville Environmental Foundation** to support **OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships** grant program, February 2019.

Baker Sage-grouse
Local Implementation Team

Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

VISION

The Local Implementation Team (LIT) will work in a collaborative spirit to engage land-owners and managers to enhance sage-grouse habitat within the Baker LIT Planning Area, with the aim to reverse local sage-grouse population declines.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core partners:

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Baker County
- Powder Basin Watershed Council
- Private Landowners

Other active partners that support the Initiative:

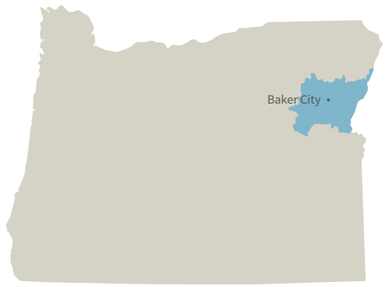
- OSU Extension
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Other LIT members

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Sagebrush / Sage-steppe Habitat

FOCAL SPECIES

Greater sage-grouse



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

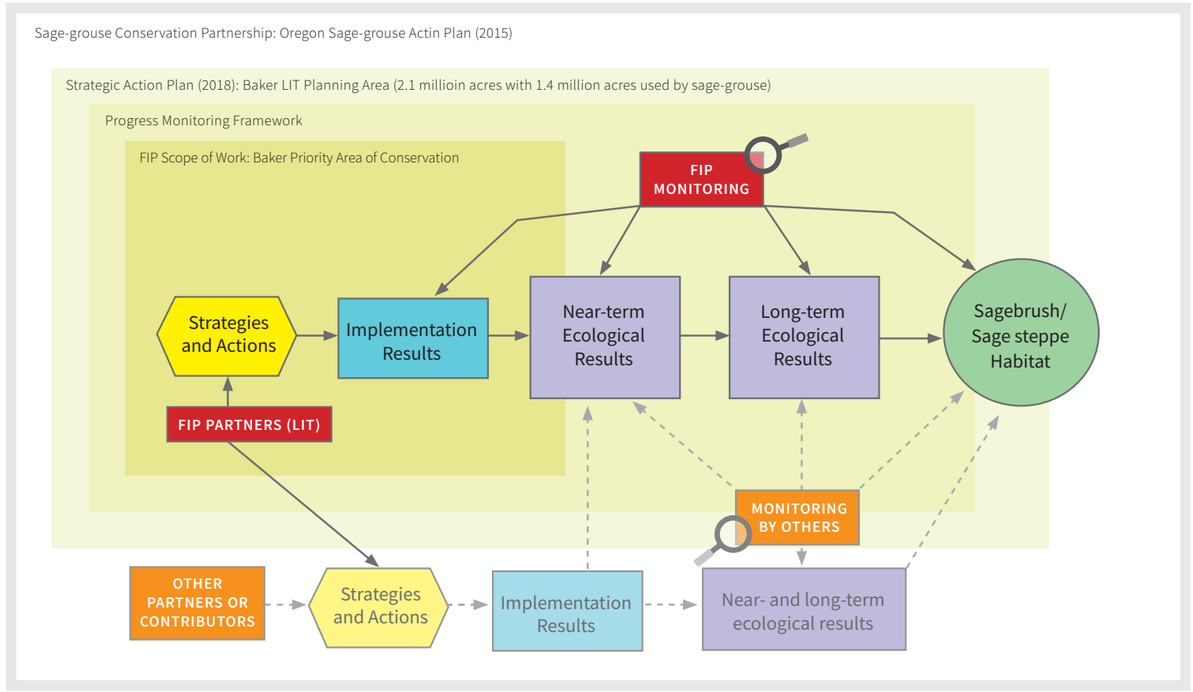
The overall geography of the Initiative is the 2.1 million acres of the Baker Local Implementation Team (LIT) Planning Area (owned by a mix of private, BLM, and USFS). The USFS portion is typically avoided by sage-grouse, bringing the total area of primary interest of the LIT to 1.4 million acres, 73% of which is privately owned.

Within this area the FIP is primarily concerned with the Baker Priority Area of Conservation which is considered to be the most strategically important area for sage-grouse conservation in Baker County. Of secondary importance are sage-grouse habitat corridors and other locations that support thriving leks particularly near Unity, OR. Effort may expand into this area after work is completed in the Baker Priority PAC.

Operational Context

Local Implementation Teams have been established throughout the range of sage-grouse in the state to play a key role in developing local strategic plans and coordinating conservation efforts (per the 2015 Sage-grouse Action Plan). As described above, the Baker LIT's area of interest is the Baker LIT Planning Area and the focus of the FIP scope of work is the sub-area defined as the Baker Priority Area of Conservation.

Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

Sage-grouse populations in Baker County have declined by approximately 75% since 2005 and have not exhibited a recovery similar to what has been observed in populations throughout the remainder of Oregon. Habitat loss is the primary threat to sage-grouse in the state, resulting from three interrelated mechanisms: juniper encroachment, invasive annual grasses, and wildfire.

Threats potentially impacting the Baker sage-grouse include the following:

- Juniper encroachment
- Invasive annual grasses
- Wildfire/altered fire regimes
- Native forbs and grasses
- Sagebrush cover
- Crested wheatgrass seedings
- Development / infrastructure
- Sagebrush elimination / agricultural conversion
- Fragmentation
- Improper grazing management
- Recreation
- Isolated or small population size
- Free-roaming equids
- Drought
- West Nile virus
- Excessive flooding
- Predation
- Hunting
- Insecticides
- Sagebrush defoliator
- Other noxious weeds

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation outputs, and near- and long-term ecological outcomes partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has selected to be part of a progress monitoring approach. Measuring these results over time will allow the partnership to evaluate progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological outcomes, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree to which they will be achieved may be mediated by circumstances outside the FIP's control (e.g. drought, fire, etc.) Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation outputs and ecological outcomes prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

The Strategies contained in the Strategic Action plan are designed to address the major ecological problems and limiting factors identified in the Baker PAC Comprehensive Threat Reduction Plan and the Oregon Sage-grouse Action plan (listed above). The overarching ecological outcome is an increase in the quantity and quality of sage-grouse habitat and ultimately an increasing and stable Baker sage-grouse population. Each of the outcomes, goals, objectives, and conservation actions in the FIP's Strategic Action Plan and Work Plan have been carefully considered as incremental steps toward achieving this ecological outcome. *(See Figure 2. Results chain for the Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative)*

STRATEGIES

1 Promote awareness and enrollment in voluntary habitat conservation programs

This strategy consists of the development and implementation of public outreach activities designed to promote greater public awareness of the status of sage-grouse and factors currently impacting the viability of Baker populations. Outreach is also intended to raise awareness of actions that can contribute to recovery and voluntary/incentive habitat improvement programs available to landowners interested in carrying out conservation actions on private land.

Theory of Change.
The interest and willingness of private landowners to participate in voluntary habitat conservation programs will increase[1] as their understanding about the status of sage-grouse populations and actions they can take to reduce current threats is improved. Landowner participation can be further enhanced as they become aware of financial incentive programs, technical support that is available to plan and implement actions, and success stories of other landowners participating in habitat improvement programs.

2 Prevent, treat, and adaptively manage invasion by invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds

Activities occurring as part of this strategy include a step-wise approach for prioritizing areas where treatments should be applied and the development and implementation of effective techniques for treating invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds[2] in those areas. For all treatment types monitoring will be conducted to determine treatment effectiveness and inform adaptive management.

To prevent continued spread of undesirable vegetation, partners will install an OHV wash station at the Virtue Flat OHV staging area[3], provide public education highlighting the ways weeds can be spread and their impact on native vegetation, and conduct Early Detection and Rapid Response activities including roadside spraying, weed surveys, and spot treatments.

Theory of Change.
Invasive annual grass and noxious weed treatments[2] will reduce the extent and abundance of invasive and noxious weeds[14], promoting recovery and reconnection of lost habitat through establishment of sagebrush/sage-steppe plant communities (including native bunchgrass and forb diversity) that are suitable for providing cover and winter food for sage-grouse[15] and supporting breeding, brood rearing, and all other life history stages of sage-grouse[16]. Reducing the extent and abundance of invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds also reduces the risk of loss of sage-grouse habitat to wildfires.

3 Protect, enhance, and expand extent and connectivity of areas with adequate sagebrush cover

This strategy consists of a number of activities to protect, enhance and expand the extent and connectivity of areas with adequate sagebrush cover. Activities may include the development and implementation of a strategic fuel break plan[4], the development of site-specific plans to restore sagebrush on fire-affected lands[5] and increase native herbaceous diversity[8], the reduction of juniper in priority areas[6], and the development and implementation of grazing plans compatible with sage-grouse[7].

Theory of Change.
Strategic fuel breaks[4] reduce the spread of fire and therefore prevent the loss of sage-grouse habitat to wildfire. Strategic fuel breaks also provide safe staging areas making suppression efforts safer and more effective – thus reducing loss when wildfires occur.

The implementation of site-specific project plans that include herbicide treatments, seeding[8], and grazing management[7] will contribute to reducing habitat loss and fragmentation and therefore to the development of native herbaceous diversity in areas that may have adequate sagebrush cover but lack perennial grasses and sage-grouse preferred forbs.

The longer-term ecological outcome of these results is a sagebrush plant community that has sufficient quantity and quality to support cover and winter food for sage-grouse[15] and all other life history stages including breeding and brood rearing[16].

A reduction of juniper[6] used by predatory ravens will reduce rates of predation on sage-grouse nests, increasing nesting success and therefore the overall productivity and stability of sage-grouse populations. Juniper removal also decreases fire risk, releases understory vegetation, decreases habitat fragmentation, contributes to suitable mesic habitat, and increases water availability.

4 Address key information gaps

This strategy involves the systematic acquisition of data to inform ongoing and future strategies related to West Nile virus, mesic habitat, raven-sage-grouse dynamics and anthropogenic subsidies, and reserve forage opportunities or grass banks.

New information will promote:

- identification of West Nile virus hot spots where voluntary reduction strategies can be focused[9];
- identification of location and quality of mesic habitat where protection, enhancement and maintenance actions can be effectively implemented[10];
- understanding of raven-sage-grouse dynamics and influence of anthropogenic subsidies (e.g. food sources, nesting and perching structures, and water sources) that may be boosting raven populations[11]; and
- assessment of opportunities and barriers to development of a "grass bank" and/or alternative forage sources for livestock[12,13].

Theory of Change.
Developing effective strategies to address these issues will help to minimize sage-grouse mortality from West Nile virus and raven nest predation, support restoration and maintenance of mesic habitat important for late-brood rearing and facilitate treatment success with alternative grazing options when rest from livestock is required.

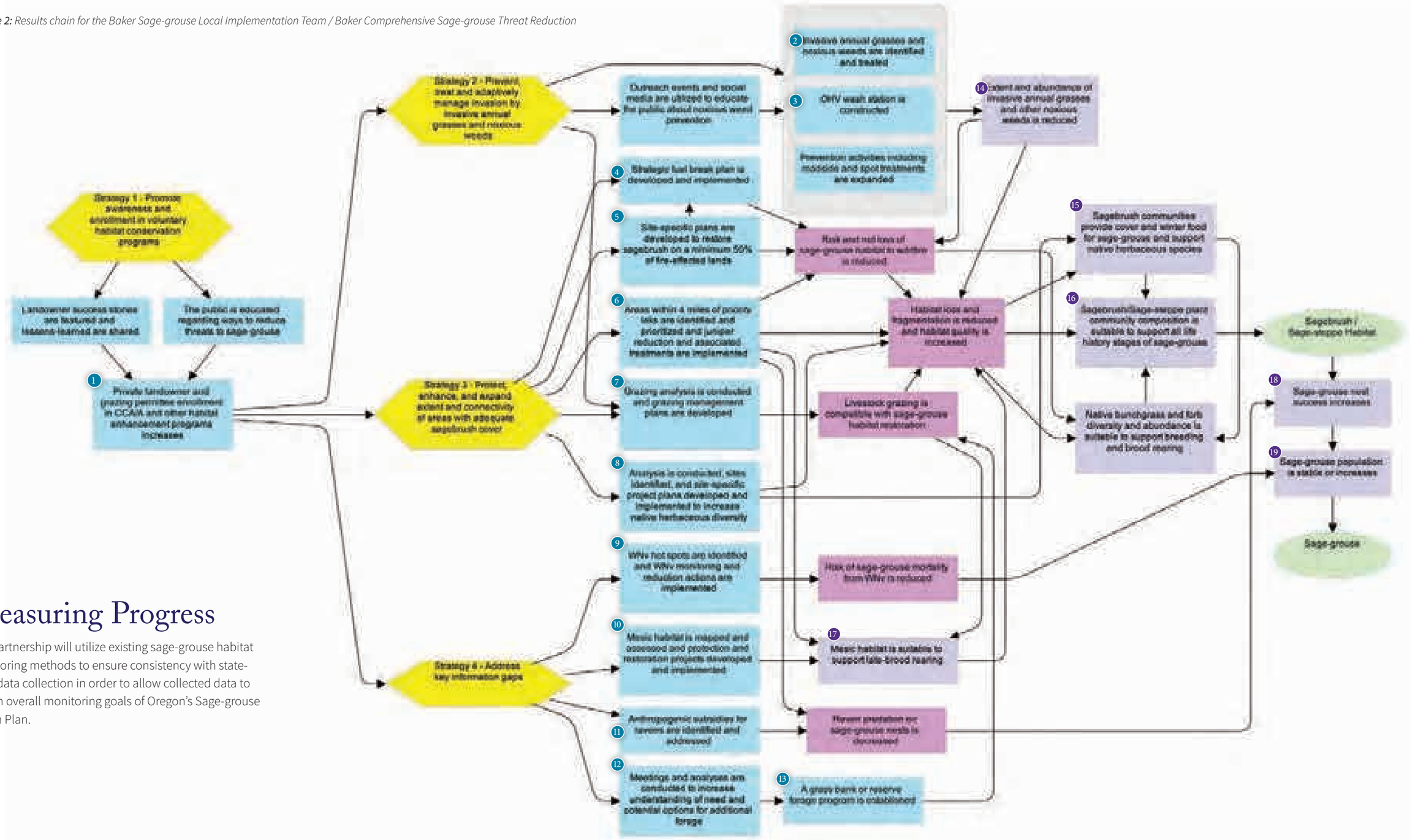
Superscript numbers [1-19] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Progression of the Results Chain.

Strategies & Actions	Implementation Results	Threat Reduced	NEAR TERM	Intermediate Ecological Results	LONG TERM	Desired Ecological Impacts

Figure 2: *Results chain for the Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team / Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction*



Measuring Progress

The partnership will utilize existing sage-grouse habitat monitoring methods to ensure consistency with state-wide data collection in order to allow collected data to inform overall monitoring goals of Oregon's Sage-grouse Action Plan.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1 Private landowner and grazing permittee enrollment in CCA/A and other habitat enhancement programs is increased	**Objective 2-1-1:** By 2025, increase private landowner enrollment in state, federal, and local voluntary/incentivized sage-grouse habitat enhancement programs (e.g. Farm Bill, Tri-County CWMA, Powder Basin Watershed Council, ODFW, Baker County Weed Department) by 25%.	# of landowners enrolled in habitat enhancement programs
	Objective 2-2-1: Annually, complete a minimum of 3 CCAA site specific plans leading to landowner enrollment in the CCAA.	# of CCAA SSPs completed
	Objective 2-2-2: By 2025, complete a minimum of 5 CCA site specific plans leading to permittee enrollment in the CCA.	# of CCAA SSPs completed
2 Invasive annual grasses and noxious weeds are controlled	**Objective 3-1-1:** Implement invasive annual grass treatments and use monitoring techniques to determine required adaptive management actions on 25,000 acres in the Baker LIT Planning Area.	Acres of land treated
	Objective 3-1-2: Implement other noxious weed treatments and use monitoring techniques to determine required adaptive management actions on 25,000 acres in the Baker LIT Planning Area.	Acres of land treated
3 OHV wash station is constructed	**Objective 3-2-1:** Develop an OHV wash station facility at the Virtue Flat staging area by 2025.	OHV wash station facility completed
4 Strategic fuel break plan is developed and implemented	**Objective 3-3-1:** Increase awareness of the effect of wildfire on sage-grouse habitat, as well as wildfire prevention and initial response techniques by holding a special issue Baker LIT meeting by December 2019.	# of meetings held
5 Site-specific plans are developed to restore sagebrush on a minimum 50% of fire-affected lands	**Objective 3-3-2:** If wildfire reduces existing sagebrush cover, develop post-fire restoration plans that include sagebrush restoration (e.g. planting of sagebrush plugs) on a minimum of 50% of fire-affected lands.	% or fire-affected lands with pots-fire restoration plans
	Objective 3-3-3: Implement Goal 2-2 to increase enrollment in CCAA and CCA within the Baker LIT Planning Area which requires enrollees to agree prevent further habitat loss or fragmentation of enrolled acres.	# of landowners enrolled in CCA and CCAA
6 Juniper reduction and associated treatments are implemented on prioritized areas	**Objective 3-4-1:** Reduce all encroaching juniper within 4 miles of priority leks within the Baker LIT Planning Area to <2% canopy cover by 2025.	Acres of land within 4 miles of priority leks treated
7 Grazing analysis is conducted and grazing management plans compatible with sage grouse are developed for new CCAA and FIP project properties	**Objective 3-5-1:** All new CCAA enrolled properties will undergo a grazing analysis to assess compatibility with sage-grouse habitat requirements.	# of enrolled properties completed grazing analysis
	Objective 3-5-2: All properties on which FIP funded projects will be implemented will undergo a grazing analysis to assess compatibility with sage-grouse habitat requirements.	# of enrolled properties completed grazing analysis
8 Analysis is conducted, sites identified, and site-specific project plans developed and implemented to increase native herbaceous diversity	**Objective 3-6-1:** By 2020, identify areas within the Baker LIT Planning Area that have adequate sagebrush cover, are not dominated by invasive weeds, but are without herbaceous diversity consisting of sage-grouse preferred bunchgrasses and forbs.	Acres identified lacking herbaceous diversity
	Objective 3-6-2: By 2025, implement projects on 5% of areas identified in Objective 3-6-1.	Acres identified lacking herbaceous diversity
9 WNv hot spots are identified and WNv monitoring and reduction strategies are implemented	**Objective 4-1-1:** By 2020, add additional mosquito sampling sites so that WNv surveillance occurs in an evenly distributed manner across the PAC and the Baker LIT Planning Area.	# of mosquito sampling sites added
	Objective 4-1-2: By 2021, map any detected WNv "hot spots" within the Baker LIT Planning Area.	Completion of maps identifying WNv hot spots
	Objective 4-1-3: By 2022, implement best practice WNv reduction strategies in all identified "hot spots".	# of identified WNv hotspots where best practices are implemented
10 Mesic habitat is mapped, habitat assessments conducted, mesic habitats protected, and restoration projects developed and implemented	**Objective 4-2-1:** By 2020, develop a map displaying the location and quality of mesic habitat within the Baker LIT Planning Area.	Development of map displaying location and quality of mesic habitat
	Objective 4-2-2: By 2021, update the Baker TRP to include mesic habitat protection and restoration projects (e.g. fencing, off-spring water developments, floodplain reconnection, elevation of water table, enhanced beaver habitat, beaver dam analogs).	Baker TRP updated to include mesic habitat protection and restoration projects
	Objective 4-2-3: By 2025, protect 70% of functioning mesic areas prioritized in Objective 4-2-2.	% of prioritized mesic habitat protected
	Objective 4-2-4: By 2025, implement projects to improve function of 15% of mesic resources within critical or potential sage-grouse summer habitat.	% of priority mesic resources where projects have been implemented
11 Anthropogenic raven food sources, nesting and perching structures, and water sources are identified and removed	**Objective 4-3-1:** By 2020, identify 100% of raven subsidies (e.g. food sources, nesting and perching structures, water sources) within the Baker LIT Planning Area.	% of raven subsidies identified
	Objective 4-3-2: By 2025, reduce 25% of anthropogenic subsidies identified in Objective 4-3-1.	% of raven subsidies identified
	Objective 4-3-3: Support sage-grouse nest success and population trend monitoring to evaluate effectiveness of subsidy removal.	Monitoring actions implemented
12 Meetings are held and analyses conducted to increase understanding of need and potential options for additional forage	**Objective 4-4-1:** By 2021, increase the Baker LIT's understanding of the issue and potential options to address the need for alternative forage.	Completion of assessment regarding alternative forage options
13 A grass bank is established	**Objective 4-4-2:** By 2025, provide at least one alterative grazing option that is supported by local stakeholders and will allow landscape level treatment of threats to sage-grouse in the Baker LIT Planning Area.	Selection of one or more alternative grazing options

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes. Objectives in this table are italicized to reflect that they may be refined in the future.

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	WORKING OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
14 Extent and abundance of invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds is reduced	*By 2025, address invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds on 25,000 acres Baker LIT Planning Area in accordance with the priority geographies outlined within the LIT Governance Document. (Goal 3-1)*	Baseline and post-treatment data collected per Oregon State Action Plan and CCA/AA and/or BLM nested frequency and AIM methods
15 Sagebrush/Sage-steppe plant communities provide cover and winter food for sage-grouse and support native herbaceous species		
16 Sagebrush/sage steppe plant communities including native bunchgrass and forb diversity and abundance are suitable to support all life history stages of sage-grouse	*By 2025, improve herbaceous diversity in 5% of identified depleted sagebrush habitats by increasing perennial grass and sage-grouse preferred forb abundance (Goal 3-6)*	Baseline and post-treatment data collected per Oregon State Action Plan and CCA/AA and/or BLM nested frequency and AIM methods
17 Mesic habitat is suitable to support late-brood rearing	*By 2025, identify, maintain, and enhance mesic habitat within the Baker LIT Planning Area which is an important late brood-rearing habitat component for sage-grouse (Goal 4-2)*	Baseline and post-treatment data collected per Oregon State Action Plan and CCA/AA and/or BLM nested frequency and AIM methods
18 Sage-grouse nest success increases	*By 2025, increase sage-grouse nest success and population trend within the Baker LIT Planning Area by reducing nest depredation from ravens through a 25% reduction in raven subsidies (Goal 4-3)*	Sage-grouse nest success
19 Sage-grouse population is stable or increases		Lek surveys (population trends)

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES	
Sagebrush / Sage-Steppe Habitat Greater Sage-grouse	Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Clackamas Partnership

Restoration for Native Fish Recovery

VISION & MISSION

Vision: *The Clackamas Partnership envisions healthy watersheds that sustain native fish and wildlife populations, diverse habitats, and thriving human communities.*

Mission: *The Clackamas Partnership collaborates on coordinated aquatic, riparian and floodplain restoration, conservation, and habitat protection actions to enhance watershed health, support the recovery and sustainability of native fish populations, and contribute to the region's economic and social vitality.*

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core Partners:

- Clackamas River Basin Council
- Greater Oregon City Watershed Council
- North Clackamas 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
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Supporting Partners:

- Clackamas County Water Environment Services
- Clackamas River Water Providers
- Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Dept.
- Portland General Electric

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Chum salmon

Coho salmon

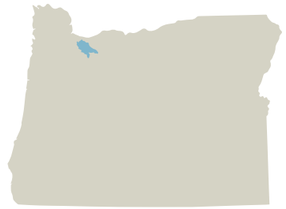
Fall Chinook salmon

Spring Chinook salmon

Steelhead

Bull trout

Pacific lamprey



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

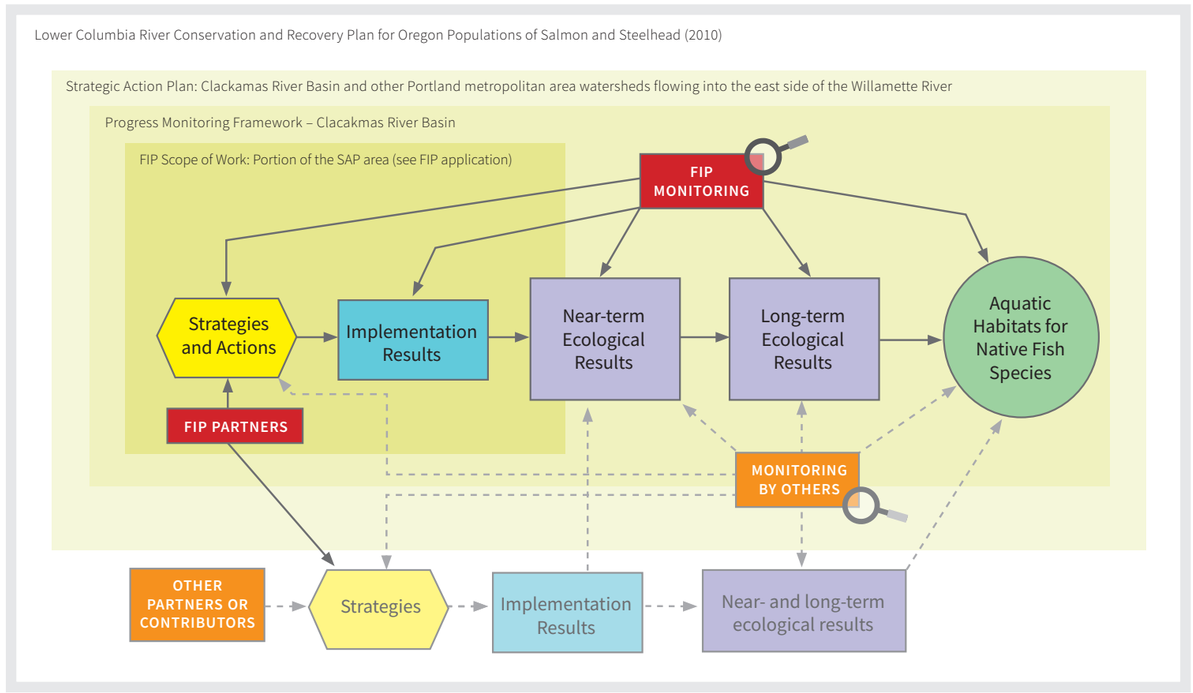
The Clackamas Partnership's FIP Initiative's geography, or Geographic Area, covers a portion the Partnership's Strategic Plan Area. The Geographic Area encompasses the Willamette and Clackamas River reaches; lower Clackamas River tributaries (e.g., Clear, Deep, and Eagle Creek Watersheds); and Willamette River tributaries (Abernethy, Kellogg-Mt. Scott, Johnson Creek and other urban tributaries). The Geographic Area includes three Clackamas River reaches and one Willamette River reach:

- **Upper Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach** – Clackamas River headwaters downstream to Oak Grove Fork *(31.7 miles)*
- **Middle Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach** – Confluence of Oak Grove Fork downstream to River Mill dam *(29.3 miles)*
- **Lower Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach** – River Mill Dam downstream to the confluence of the Willamette River *(23.3 miles)*
- **Lower Willamette River and Floodplain Reach** – Willamette Falls downstream to and including the confluence of Johnson Creek *(9.2 miles)*

Operational Context

The Clackamas Partnership's Restoration for Native Fish initiative is built on the content and actions outlined in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010) and contributes to the goals and objectives associated with the Clackamas Population area. Work included in the FIP Scope of Work extends through 2025 and is limited to one specific set of actions (Strategy 1: Habitat Restoration) and to the area described above in the Geographic Scope. Members of the Partnership and others carry out actions in areas outside the scope of the FIP that also contribute to desired ecological outcomes within the larger Clackamas River basin. For example, limiting factors related to harvest, hatcheries, and hydropower are not directly tied to the Partnership's activities because they are addressed through PGE's FERC licensing obligations or State fish management objectives.

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

The Clackamas River basin's streams, floodplains, and riparian vegetation have been significantly degraded by a variety of land use activities, including timber harvest, urban and rural development, clearing for agriculture, construction of dams, channelization, and flood control levees, and removal of wood in stream and river channels. Historical and current land uses have impaired aquatic habitat diversity, complexity, and connectivity, and therefore the function of aquatic, floodplain, and riparian habitats within the Plan Area.

Factors limiting the productivity of native fish populations included in the Strategic Action Plan include:

- Habitat access (impaired upstream passage) imposed by small dams and diversions
- Hydrograph/water quantity (altered hydrology) due to upslope land uses, impervious surfaces, including stormwater, flashy flows, and altered groundwater recharge
- Physical habitat quality (impaired gravel recruitment) due to large dams impacting gravel movement and spawning habitat downstream
- Physical habitat quality (impaired habitat complexity and diversity, including access to off channel habitat) including:
    - Degraded riparian areas and large wood recruitment
    - Isolated side channels and off-channel habitats
    - Degraded channel structure and complexity, including lack of large wood
    - Degraded floodplain connectivity and function
    - Channelization and hardening of streambanks and channels
    - Invasive species (riparian / terrestrial)
- Water quality (elevated water temperature) from large reservoirs
- Water quality (toxins) from urban and industrial practices, including stormwater

APPROACH

The results chain ***(Figure 2)*** articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results (outputs), and near- and long-term ecological results (outcomes) partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to achieving goals associated with the partnership's ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has selected to be part of a progress monitoring approach. Measuring these results over time will allow the partnership to evaluate progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results, or where and to what extent externalities beyond the scope of this partnership (i.e., ocean conditions impact on target species, weather patterns, land-use decisions, etc.) impact the linkage between outputs and longer-term outcomes.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological outcomes, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation outputs and ecological outcomes prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indicated by superscript to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

Strategies in the Clackamas Partnership's Restoration for Native Fish Recovery Strategic Action Plan seek to:

- **address the limiting factors and threats** for the Clackamas salmon, steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and bull trout populations;
- **prioritize habitat restoration and protection** using current science and information contained in regional and local plans; and
- **demonstrate project outcomes** by tracking habitat performance measures tied to the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010) and monitoring and evaluating habitat and fish response.

The Partnership's actions fall within three main integrated strategic programs including:

Strategy 1- Habitat Restoration,
Strategy 2 – Habitat Protection, and
Strategy 3 – Promoting Land Use and Landowner BMPs.

In addition, the Partnership has developed an approach and program for Landowner and Stakeholder Outreach and for Monitoring and Evaluation. The work included in the FIP Scope of Work and therefore the theory of change elements below is focused only on Strategy 1 – Habitat Restoration.

1 Habitat Restoration

Partners work collaboratively and with landowners to implement habitat restoration projects including: removal or remediation of barriers to fish passage[1]; placement of large wood[2]; enhancement and connection of confluence habitats; restoration and reconnection of side- and off-channel habitats[3] including alcoves, wetlands and floodplains[4]; and removal of invasive species[5]. Where appropriate, streambanks will be revegetated, regraded, or otherwise improved in conjunction with the actions listed above.

Theory of Change.
Generally, habitat restoration projects are designed to increase connectivity, quantity, and quality of stream, floodplain and riparian habitats[13]. In combination, the outcomes of these projects are expected to meet all freshwater life history requirements of viable and resilient populations of native fish species and other aquatic species and reduce the Clackamas Population limiting factors as described in the situation section above.

Barrier removal projects[1] will increase access to the full range of habitats[6] required by native fish including cold-water tributaries, floodplains, side channels, and off-channel wetlands. With access to previously disconnected habitats the spatial distribution of spawning adults and rearing juveniles will expand, individual survival and fitness will improve, and population scale life history diversity and productivity will improve.

Barrier removals[1] and actions to improve or restore side channel habitat and access[3] will also increase hydrologic connectivity[8] promoting floodwater inundation in some areas and hence floodplain function[11]. Enhanced connectivity of side channel and floodplain habitats to rivers and streams will expand available juvenile fish rearing opportunities. Restored floodwaters recharge groundwater and permit slower discharge of cooler water[10] during low flow periods.

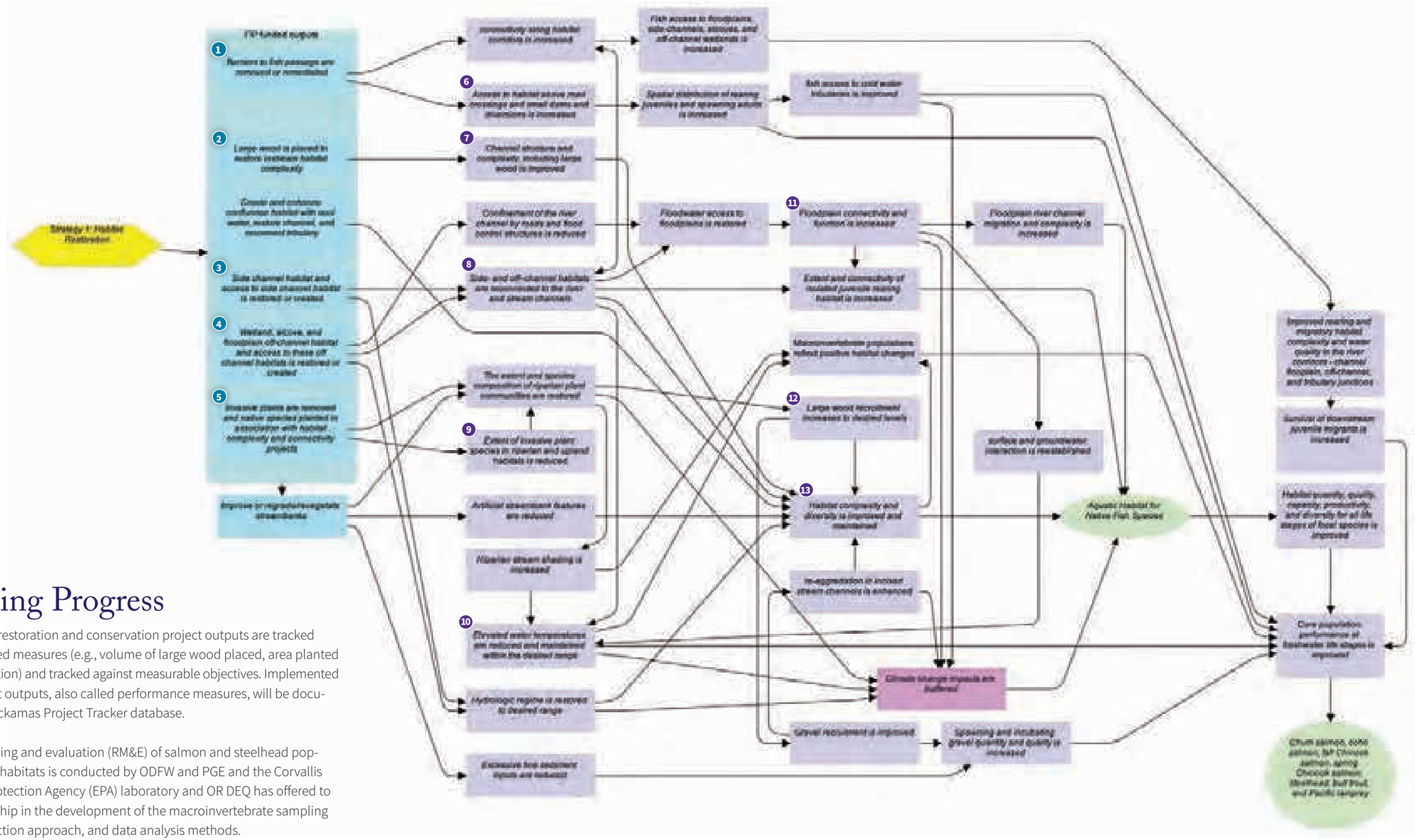
Removal of invasive plans and reestablishment of native riparian vegetation[5] increases stream shade, keeping water temperatures cool.

Large wood placed instream[2] promote sediment deposition and provides cover, building new, complex habitats for fish and aquatic organisms including macroinvertebrates. Over longer timeframes restored riparian areas become a natural source for large woody material[12].

Superscript numbers [1-21] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Clackamas Partnership / Restoration for Native Fish Recovery



Measuring Progress

The Partnership's restoration and conservation project outputs are tracked through established measures (e.g., volume of large wood placed, area planted with native vegetation) and tracked against measurable objectives. Implemented restoration project outputs, also called performance measures, will be documented in the Clackamas Project Tracker database.

Research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E) of salmon and steelhead populations and their habitats is conducted by ODFW and PGE and the Corvallis Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) laboratory and OR DEQ has offered to assist the Partnership in the development of the macroinvertebrate sampling design, data collection approach, and data analysis methods.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS (OUTPUT)	OBJECTIVES	OUTPUTS/ PERFORMANCE METRICS
1 Barriers to fish passage are removed or remediated	***By 2021:*** **Obj. 6.1.** Remove a passage barrier and increase fish access in Kelly Creek, an important cold-water tributary, by 1.8 miles ***By 2023:*** **Obj. 6.2.** Remove a passage barrier and increase fish access in Mitchell Creek, an important cold-water tributary, by 1.4 miles ***By 2025:*** **Obj. 6.3.** Identify and address additional fish passage barriers	Miles of stream channel habitat made accessible to fish species by barrier removal or remediation
2 Large wood is placed to restore instream habitat complexity	***By 2021:*** **Obj 1.1.** Place large wood within 1.24 miles of off-channel habitat **Obj. 2.1.** Place large wood within 400 feet of off-channel or floodplain habitat **Obj. 3.1.** Place large wood in 600 feet of N.F. Deep Creek channel **Obj. 3.4.** Place large wood in 4,000 feet of Richardson Creek channel and floodplain **Obj. 4.1.** Place large wood in 1,500 feet of Middle Reach river channel **Obj. 5.1.** Place large wood in 5,574 feet of Newell and Abernethy Creek channels **Obj. 5.2.** Place large wood in 1,000 feet of lower Johnson Creek channel **Obj. 5.3.** Place large wood in 3,500 feet of upper Johnson Creek channel or floodplain? **Obj. 5.6.** Place large wood in 3,000 feet of Mt. Scott Creek channel or floodplain ***By 2023:*** **Obj. 1.4.** Place large wood within 3.2 miles of off-channel habitat **Obj. 1.5.** Place large wood within 0.9 miles of floodplain habitat **Obj. 3.7.** Place large wood in 17,500 feet of Clear Creek channel and floodplain **Obj. 3.9.** Place large wood in 5,000 feet of N.F. Deep Creek channel **Obj. 4.3.** Place large wood in 5,500 feet of the Middle Reach river channel habitat **Obj. 5.10.** Place large wood in 300 feet of upper Johnson Creek channel and floodplain ***By 2025:*** **Obj. 1.9.** Place large wood within 2 miles of off-channel habitat **Obj. 3.10.** Place large wood in 3,500 feet of tributary channels and floodplain **Obj. 3.12.** Place large wood in 3,000 feet of tributary channels **Obj. 4.6.** Place large wood in 5,500 feet of the Middle or Upper Reach river channel habitat **Obj. 5.12.** Place large wood in 500 feet of tributary channel and floodplain ***By TBD:*** **Obj. 2.3.** Place large wood within off-channel or floodplain habitats	Linear feet of stream with large wood placement, categorized by: 1) placement location: in channel (at or below OHW) or floodplain (above OHW); and 2) volume of wood (yd3) placed per length of stream.
3 Side channel habitat and access to side channel habitat is restored or created	***By 2021:*** **Obj. 1.3.** Multiple projects: Increase side channel access in 2,000 feet of channel **Obj. 3.3.** Increase N.F. Deep Creek side channel access in 150 feet of channel ***By 2023:*** **Obj. 1.7.** Multiple projects: Increase side channel access in 2.0 miles of channel **Obj. 4.5.** Increase side channel access in 0.6 miles of Upper Reach channel ***By 2025:*** **Obj. 1.11.** Multiple projects: Increase side channel access in 2,000 feet of channel	Linear feet of side channel created or re-connected
4 Wetland, alcove, and flood-plain off-channel habitat and access to these off-channel habitats is restored or created	***By 2021:*** **Obj. 3.6.** Increase off-channel wetland area and access by 2.3 acres along Richardson Creek **Obj. 5.5.** Increase off-channel wetland area by 7.0 acres along upper Johnson Creek **Obj. 5.8**. Increase off-channel wetland area by 7.6 acres along Mt. Scott Creek ***By 2023:*** **Obj. 1.8.** Increase off-channel wetland area and access by 1.0 acres along the Clackamas River **Obj. 3.8.** Increase off-channel wetland area and access by 1.4 acres along Clear Creek ***By 2025:*** **Obj. 1.12.** Increase off-channel wetland area and access by 1.0 acres along the Clackamas River **Obj. 3.11.** Increase off-channel wetland area and access by 2 acres along tributary channels	Area in acres of off-channel wetland habitat
5 Invasive plants are removed and native species planted as an element of habitat complexity and connectivity projects	***By 2021:*** **Obj. 1.2.** Multiple projects: Control invasives and plant native floodplain vegetation on 25.5 acres **Obj. 3.2.** Control invasives and plant native riparian vegetation on 3 acres along N.F. Deep Creek **Obj. 3.5.** Control invasives and plant native riparian vegetation on 30 acres along Richardson Creek **Obj. 4.2.** Plant native riparian vegetation for 500 feet along the Middle Reach river channel **Obj. 5.4.** Plant 7 acres of native riparian vegetation along upper Johnson Creek **Obj. 5.7.** Plant 7.6 acres of native riparian vegetation along Mt. Scott Creek ***By 2023:*** **Obj. 1.6.** Multiple projects: Control invasives and plant native floodplain vegetation on 12.0 acres **Obj. 4.4.** Control invasives and plant native floodplain vegetation on 40 acres along the upper Clackamas River Reach **Obj. 5.9.** Control invasives and plant native riparian vegetation on 0.7 acres along upper Johnson Creek ***By 2025:*** **Obj. 1.10.** Multiple projects: Control invasives and plant native floodplain vegetation on 25.0 acres **Obj. 5.11.** Control invasives and plant native riparian vegetation on 3 acres of tributaries	Acres of streamside / floodplain invasive species removal Linear feet of streamside / floodplain invasive species removal Acres of riparian / flood-plain planted with natives Linear feet streamside / floodplain planted with natives

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

Table 2. Ecological results, potential objectives, and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change. Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes. Objectives in this table are italicized to reflect that they may be refined in the future. (Items in parentheses are monitoring activities that are not included in current monitoring grant application. Partners are applying for additional funds to cover these metrics.)

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	WORKING OBJECTIVE	POTENTIAL METRIC
6 Access to habitat above road crossings and small dams and diversions is increased	*Removing barriers and increasing access will increase spatial distribution of rearing juveniles and spawning adults.*	Fish use as indicated by environmental DNA
7 Channel structure and complexity, including large wood is improved	*Projects will improve habitat characteristics and processes, and fish habitat capacity. Restoration will Increase channel complexity to make progress toward LCR Plan delisting goal of 62.5 miles of large wood placement at 20m3 of large wood per 100m of stream in 7 miles of target areas; benthic conditions produce less sediment-tolerant and therefore more sediment-sensitive macroinvertebrate communities*	Fish use and density at installed habitat structures; Macroinvertebrate IBI or other metric as determined in consultation with ODEQ; ODFW benchmarks for channel structure and complexity (AQI)
8 Side- and off channel habitats are reconnected to the river and stream channels	*Improving and re-connecting off-channel habitat to river and stream channels will improve fish access and habitat capacity, increasing juvenile rearing and adult spawning.*	Fish presence and density; Length of side and off-channel habitats reconnected
9 Extent of invasive plant species in riparian and upland habitats is reduced	*Invasive plant species are replaced with natives on targeted riparian and upland habitat acres, increasing shade and improving habitat complexity.*	60% (or 1200 or more stems per acre) of native plant species established on 100 or more acres
10 Elevated water temperatures are reduced and maintained within the desired range	*Restoration projects will contribute to water temperatures reaching desired temperatures for aquatic species and human use and minimally maintain temperatures through 2030*	Macroinvertebrate temperature optima (Monitor stream thermal profile via UAS (drones))
11 Floodplain, wetland and alcove connectivity is increased	*Access to increased habitat and capacity will result from restoration projects. An increase in floodplain and wetland connectivity and function will improve fish productivity and restore natural processes.*	(Increase in floodplain / wetland connectivity, when & if funding is available to monitor) (Increased frequency of inundation when & if funding is available to monitor)
12 Large wood recruitment increases to desired levels	*Projects will improve instream habitat and habitat complexity for all life stages and increase productivity.*	Macroinvertebrate sampling results (TBD in consultation with ODEQ metric); ODFW AQI
13 Habitat complexity and diversity is improved and maintained	*Off-channel habitat complexity supports objectives of the Lower Columbia River Plan e.g., increase in miles of side channel and increased acreage of off-channel wetland for use by ESA-listed species and other native aquatic species.*	Macroinvertebrate sampling results (TBD in consultation with ODEQ metric); ODFW AQI Evidence of fish presence and use from ODFW AQI monitoring of juvenile fish presence

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Aquatic Habitat for Native Species

Native salmonid species:

Chum salmon
Coho salmon
Fall Chinook salmon
Spring Chinook salmon
Steelhead
Bull trout
Pacific lamprey

Status & Trends

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

John Day Basin *Partnership*

John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative

VISION

A John Day Basin with clean water and healthy watersheds sufficient to provide for the sustainable ecological, economic, and cultural well-being of the basin.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Steering Committee

Soil and Water Conservation Districts:
- Gilliam Co. SWCD

Watershed Councils:
- South Fork John Day Watershed Council

Conservation Groups:
- The Freshwater Trust

Tribal Entities:
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

State and Federal Agencies:
- Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Umatilla National Forest
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Partner Organizations

Blue Mountain Forest Partners
Blue Mountain Land Trust
Bonneville Power Administration
Burns Paiute Tribe
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
Gilliam County Soil & Water Conservation District
Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council
Grant Soil & Water Conservation District
Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council
Monument Soil & Water Conservation District
North Fork John Day Watershed Council
Oregon Department of Agriculture
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
Oregon Department of Parks & Recreation
Ritter Land Management Team
Sherman County Soil & Water Conservation District
South Fork John Day Watershed Council
The Freshwater Trust
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Malheur National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Wallow-Whitman National Forest
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service
Wheeler County Soil & Water Conservation District

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Middle Columbia summer steelhead

Middle Columbia Bull trout

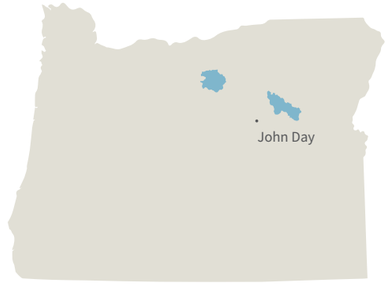
Middle Columbia River spring Chinook salmon

Pacific lamprey

Western brook lamprey

Westslope cutthroat trout

Redband trout



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The John Day Basin Partnership's geography encompasses the entire John Day River Basin. The John Day River Basin spans 8,100 sq. mi. and with ~284 undammed miles, the John Day is the longest, free-flowing river in Oregon.

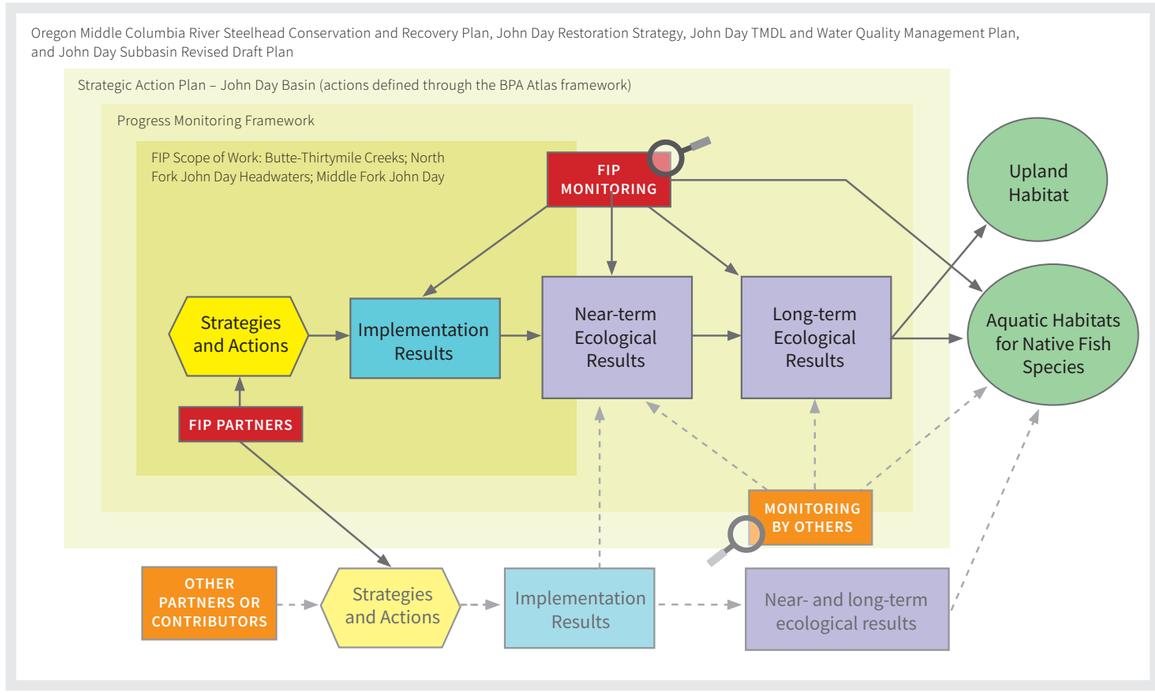
The Partnership's Initiative Geography includes ***three priority focus areas*** (Initiative watersheds) within the basin:

1 Butte-Thirtymile Creeks in the Lower Mainstem John Day;
2 North Fork John Day Headwaters; and
3 the mid-upper Middle Fork John Day.

Operational Context

The John Day Native Fish Habitat Initiative is nested within a larger regional recovery effort described in the Oregon Middle Columbia River Steelhead Conservation and Recovery Plan (ODFW; NMFS), Recovery Plan for the Coterminous United States Population of Bull Trout (USFWS), the John Day River Restoration Strategy (CTWSRO), the John Day TMDL and Water Quality Management Plan (ODEQ), and the John Day Subbasin Revised Draft Plan (NWPCC). While the geographic scope of the Strategic Action Plan encompasses the entire John Day Basin, actions occurring in the 6-year FIP scope of work are focused in three subwatersheds – Butte-Thirtymile Creeks; North Fork John Day Headwaters; and Middle Fork John Day. Projects in these watersheds as well as the larger basin have been identified by the BPA Atlas framework (Figure 1).

Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*



Theory of Change

SITUATION

The John Day River Basin is a highly valued and unique region rich in natural resources, wild fisheries, small communities, native cultures, and unmatched viewsheds. It is the third longest free-flowing river in the continental US and its native fish populations are relatively free from hatchery influences.

A broad array of historical and present-day land and water use practices (e.g. mining, logging, livestock grazing, fire suppression, river channel and riparian modifications, irrigation water withdrawals, and invasive species introductions) and a changing climate have altered the condition and function of the aquatic and upland ecosystems of the John Day River Basin. An important result has been a substantial reduction in the productivity and status of native fish populations and the subsequent listing of many species under state and/or federal protections (e.g. Federal Endangered Species Act, Oregon sensitive-critical species). This situation has motivated landowners, tribes, communities, resource agencies, and conservation organizations to come together and collaboratively take action to improve land use practices and plan, design, and implement projects that address the following key limiting factors:

- Altered hydrology *(low instream flows)*
- Degraded water quality *(elevated temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, sedimentation, biological criteria)*
- Degraded floodplain and channel structure *(pools, connectivity, diversity)*
- Degraded riparian communities
- Impaired fish passage
- Altered sediment routing
- Altered condition of upland habitats

APPROACH

The results chain (Figure 2) articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results (outputs), and near- and long-term ecological results (outcomes) partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to achieving goals associated with the partnership's ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in Figure 2 are those the partnership has selected to be part of a progress monitoring approach. Measuring these results over time will allow the partnership to evaluate progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan (Tables 1 and 2). For intermediate ecological outcomes, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation outputs and ecological outcomes prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain (Figure 2) and measuring progress tables (Tables 1 and 2).

STRATEGIES

1 Dedicate land and water to restoration and preservation of stream habitat

Partners will work with willing landowners to enter into contractual agreements such as conservation easements on working lands or flow agreements to protect core fish habitat[1].

Theory of Change.
Land acquisitions and conservation easements[1] promote land and water use practices that protect high-quality upland and aquatic habitat from degradation. Acquisition (lease or purchase) of water rights reduces the volume of water diverted for out of stream uses thereby increasing stream flow. Increased flow improves habitat connectivity and provides fish access to thermal refugia, buffering impacts of climate change.

2 Reconnect floodplains

This strategy consists of actions that seek to reactivate floodplains including breaching, removing, or setting back existing levees or projects to construct floodplain topography by excavating floodplain benches in new or existing channels[2].

Theory of Change.
Removing levees or other infrastructure[2] that has disconnected floodplains from river and stream channels will promote the reactivation of floodplain habitat, restore a functional hyporheic zone, and encourage reestablishment of floodplain and riparian vegetation. Increasing the connectivity and quantity of floodplain habitat (and associated seasonal wetlands and off- and side-channels) accessible to summer rearing and overwintering juvenile salmonids[8] will improve their survival throughout the year and increase the abundance of emigrating smolts and therefore the overall productivity of fish populations. Active floodplains also contribute to improving water quality by promoting the settling of fine sediments and improving surface/ground water interactions.

3 Riparian restoration and management

Riparian restoration actions will include removal of non-native plant species and revegetation of riparian areas with native plant species to establish adequate stream buffer strips[3]. This strategy also will support the design and implementation of grazing practices including installation and maintenance of livestock exclusion fencing[3] and off-stream watering systems.

Theory of Change.
Reestablishing native plant communities[3] in riparian areas (and removal of non-native plants) will promote the production of terrestrial food organisms and the input of organic material into aquatic systems that then support aquatic macroinvertebrate populations. An increase in the production of terrestrial and aquatic food resources will improve growth and survival of rearing native fish.

Functional riparian areas also aid in nutrient mediation and increase bank stability. These improved functions will reduce the input of nutrients and reduce erosion rates that deliver fine-grained sediments into streams. A reduction of sediments will reduce gravel embeddedness improving spawning gravel quality and therefore improve spawning success and egg to fry survival. Sediment mediation in riparian zones also contributes to improved sediment dynamics and composition necessary for the overall quality of diverse and complex aquatic habitats[10].

Over time, restored riparian areas also become sources for large-sized woody material that become key elements for the creation and maintenance of stream habitat. Large-sized wood complexes help sort sediment and trap organic material – also necessary functions to maintain diverse and complex habitats[10] for fish and the macroinvertebrates that provide their primary food source. Shading from restored healthy riparian zones[7] reduce direct solar radiation in streams and therefore play a role in lowering stream temperatures[9]. Finally, improved riparian areas contribute to supporting upland functions and processes and the upland species that depend on them.

Superscript numbers [1-17] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

4 Channel modifications and side-channel/ off-channel restoration

This strategy is focused primarily on beaver restoration management[4] in areas where they are currently absent but historically present and active reconstruction of physical habitat in stream channels and associated side- and off-channel areas. These projects will create pools and riffles and restore desired stream channel configurations by reconnecting meanders where streams have been channelized and straightened.

Theory of Change.

The reintroduction of beavers[4] in appropriate locations will promote their recolonization and lead to an increase in the quantity of deep pools and reactivate side and braided channel networks. The cumulative long-term outcome of all these actions and near and medium-term results is an improvement in the diversity, complexity, and structure of aquatic habitats[10] – supporting all freshwater life history stages of native fish and the overall productivity of their populations.

Targeted pool and riffle construction will restore a more desirable distribution of these habitat types and increase summer rearing opportunities for native fish[8]. The reconstruction of stream channels and reconnection of meanders to historical configurations will reactivate side and braided channel networks and also contribute to the development of a desired distribution of riffles and pools.

5 Install large woody debris structures and rock weirs

This strategy consists of the installation of large woody debris or rock weir structures where appropriate[4].

Theory of Change.

Large woody debris complexes and rock weirs[4] will promote evolution of deep pools and riffles, increasing the quantity and distribution of these habitat features. These outcomes provide increased summer rearing habitat for fish and ultimately contribute to the increased creation and maintenance of diverse and complex aquatic habitats[10].

6 Fish passage restoration

The implementation of this strategy consists of removal or remediation of artificial barriers to fish passage[5]. Barriers include structures such as dams (including seasonal push-up dams), culverts, and irrigation diversions – where fish screens and associated bypass systems will be installed to reduce the entrainment of juvenile fish.

Theory of Change.

Removal of artificial barriers[5] to fish will improve the migratory or seasonal movement of fish and therefore increase habitat connectivity, access to thermal refugia, and the spatial distribution of native fish[8], buffering impacts of climate change.

Installation of fish screens at points of diversion will reduced entrainment and overall rates of mortality of juvenile fish – increasing the overall productivity of fish populations.

7 Water quality and water quantity impacts

This strategy consists of a variety of actions to improve water quality and water quantity. To improve water quantity, partners will negotiate and complete flow transactions with water users (through lease or purchase)[6] and collaborate with agricultural producers to design and implement irrigation efficiency projects[12]. To address water quality, the partnership will implement projects that reduce or eliminate point source (e.g. heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides, sedimentation, or other contaminants) and nonpoint source pollution (road caused sedimentation).

Theory of Change.

Flow transactions[6] and irrigation efficiency projects will increase surface flow[11] in targeted streams and contribute to restoring a more desirable hydrograph (one that more closely approaches natural conditions) and improve conditions for all life history stages for native fish. A restored hydrograph will help restore the stream temperature[9] regime thereby improving the quality of summer rearing habitat[8], including increased dissolved oxygen levels. It will also reduce the frequency and severity of scouring flows and help to maintain quality of aquatic habitats.

Road decommissioning and removal will increase floodplain connectivity and floodplain habitat which supports overwintering fish, as well as reduce road related erosion and sedimentation and the quantity of fine-grained sediments entering stream. As a result of reduced sedimentation, gravel embeddedness is reduced and the quality of spawning gravel is improved – leading to more successful spawning and greater egg to fry survival. A reduction in fine sediments will also decrease nutrient loading from agricultural runoff.

8 Implement upland restoration actions

Upland restoration actions are a critical strategy in the Partnership's ridgetop to ridgetop restoration approach. However, implementation objectives will not be defined until after upland and terrestrial scoping, mapping, and prioritization is completed. This process is planned for Fall 2019.

Partners (including agency staff) will work with private and public landowners to implement actions to restore healthy upland crop, range, and forest lands that benefit ecological and human communities. These actions include: fuels management (including thinning, prescribed fire, and fuel breaks); use of conservation tillage and cover crop practices; management to control non-native plants and juniper; and implementation of grazing and livestock Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as fencing, establishing off-stream water, and installing and maintaining riparian buffers on fish bearing streams.

Theory of Change.

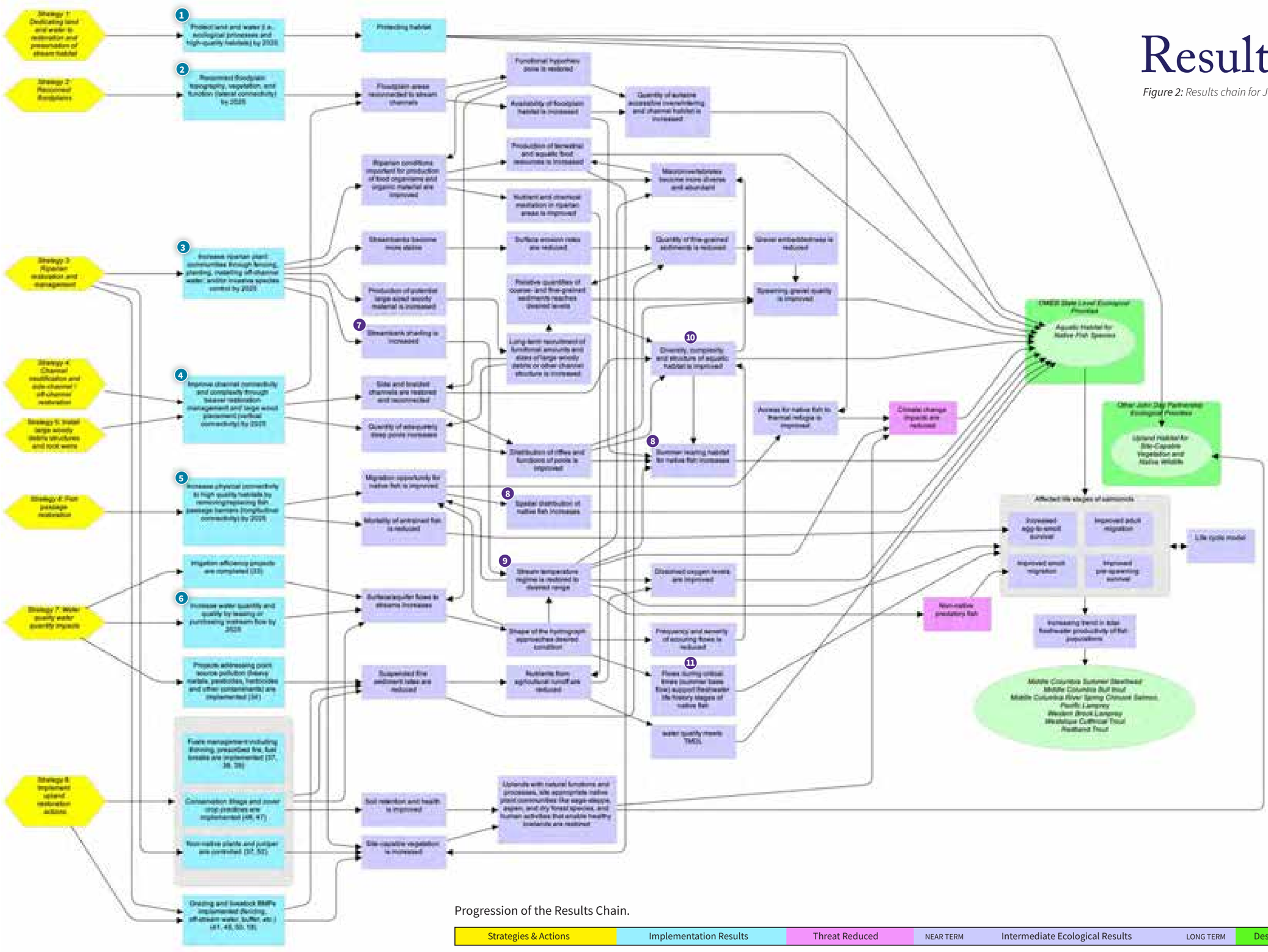
Conservation tillage and cover crop practices improve soil retention and health; controlling non-native plants and juniper allows diverse native plant communities (site-capable vegetation) to become re-established; and grazing and livestock BMPs protect and promote site-capable vegetation. Healthy, intact soil and diverse, native plant communities enable natural upland functions and processes, ultimately providing upland habitat for site-capable vegetation and native wildlife, supporting land uses compatible with healthy, functioning lowlands, and buffering impacts of climate change.

When implemented together, fuels management, conservation tillage and cover crop practices, non-native and juniper control, and grazing and livestock BMPs increase surface and aquifer flows to streams and reduce suspended fine sediment in streams.

Superscript numbers [1-11] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for John Day Native Fish Habitat Initiative



Progression of the Results Chain.

Strategies & Actions	Implementation Results	Threat Reduced	NEAR TERM	Intermediate Ecological Results	LONG TERM	Desired Ecological Impacts

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change. Numbers in parenthesis indicate actions defined in the John Day Atlas.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES **BY 2025**	METRICS
1 Protect land and water (i.e., ecological processes and high-quality habitats) by 2025. (1)	**Butte-Thirtymile Creeks:** water, land, and protection projects are completed **North Fork John Day Headwaters:** water, land, and protection projects are completed **Upper Middle Fork John Day:** water, land, and protection projects are completed	# or easements / acquisitions Acres protected Cfs protected Linear stream miles protected Protection timeframe
2 Reconnect floodplain topography, vegetation, and function (lateral connectivity) by 2025. (7, 8, 9,10)	**Butte-Thirtymile Creeks:** 15 miles of floodplain reconnected **North Fork John Day Headwaters:** 15 miles of floodplain reconnected **Upper Middle Fork John Day:** 15 miles of floodplain reconnected	Acres treated Linear miles of stream treated
3 Increase riparian plant communities through fencing, planting, installing off-channel water, and/or invasive species control by 2025. (17, 18, 19, 20, 21)	**Butte-Thirtymile Creeks:** 12 miles of stream treated, 30 developments/off-channel water sources **North Fork John Day Headwaters:** 15 miles of stream treated **Upper Middle Fork John Day:** 12 miles of stream treated	Linear miles of stream treated # of streambanks treated Buffer width
4 Improve channel connectivity and complexity through channel modification and side channel restoration, beaver restoration management, and large wood placement (vertical connectivity) by 2025. (3, 4, 5, 16, 28)	**Butte-Thirtymile Creeks:** 15 miles of stream treated **North Fork John Day Headwaters:** 12 miles of stream treated and 36 structures installed **Upper Middle Fork John Day:** 15 miles of stream treated and 36 structures installed	# of structures installed Linear stream miles treated # of pools and riffles created
5 Increase physical connectivity to high quality habitats by removing/ replacing fish passage barriers (longitudinal connectivity) by 2025. (22, 23, 24, 25)	**Butte-Thirtymile Creeks:** 4 barriers removed or replaced **North Fork John Day Headwaters:** 5 barriers removed or replaced **Upper Middle Fork John Day:** 5 barriers removed or replaced	# of barriers removed / replaced / screened Total stream miles made accessible to the next upstream barrier or likely limit of habitable range
6 Increase water quantity and quality by leasing or purchasing instream flow by 2025. (31)	**Butte-Thirtymile Creeks:** flow transactions completed **North Fork John Day Headwaters:** flow transactions completed **Upper Middle Fork John Day:** flow transactions completed	cfs transferred instream Total linear miles of improved for flow as measured from point of diversion to next downstream diversion or river confluence *(whichever comes first)*

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change. Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

** Contributing Ecological Objectives are direct measures of the highest priority primary factors limiting summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity in the basin.*

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
7 Streambank shading is increased	*Increase in woody species density and stream shade potential*	Percent riparian vegetation over 6ft within 60ft buffer of treatment areas (LiDAR/UAV Surveys) Percent solar access at random transects in Thirtymile Creek, Desolation Creek, Middle Fork John Day. Density of woody stems <1m and >1m tall between treatment and control locations.
8 Spatial distribution of native fish increases **8** Summer rearing for native fish increases	*Increasing trend in linear miles of juvenile summer steelhead and spring Chinook summer rearing habitat by 2025**	Linear extent (km) of the mainstem Middle Fork John Day occupied by Chinook parr during August snorkel surveys. Linear extent (km) of Thirtymile Creek occupied by juvenile steelhead during end of summer surveys. Linear extent (km) of the Desolation Creek occupied by Chinook spawning surveys during the fall and steelhead spawning surveys in Spring
9 Stream temperature regime is restored to desired range	*Decreasing trend in summer instream water temperature by 2025**	Seven-day average daily maximum temperature at long-term monitoring sites in each of the Mainstem Middle Fork John Day, Desolation Creek, Thirtymile Creek.
10 Diversity, complexity, and structure of aquatic habitat is improved	*Create an aquatic-riparian system sufficient to provide necessary stream shading, and organic material for in-stream structural and metabolic processes.* *"Increase geomorphically and seasonally appropriate sinuosity, floodplain and pool/riffle habitat, and structure to maintain habitat and provide fish cover."*	Habitat diversity index used in all three of the focal FIP geographies.
11 Flows during critical times (summer base flow) support freshwater life history stages of native fish	*Increasing trend in summer instream flow by 2025**	MFJD: July-August mean and minimum discharge at the Ritter USGS gauging station. Thirtymile Creek: percent of total stream length downstream from Hwy. 19 with surface water during July-August base flow. Desolation Creek: CTUIR installed gauging station near mouth of Desolation, pressure transducer

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES	GOALS
Aquatic Habitat for Native Species	**1** Increasing trend in summer steelhead freshwater productivity in Butte-Thirtymile Creeks by 2025. **2** Increasing trend in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity in the North Fork John Day Headwaters by 2025. **3** Increasing trend in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity in the Upper Middle Fork John Day by 2025.

Rogue Forest
Restoration Partnership

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

VISION

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative (RFRI) partners envision the Rogue River Basin Dry-Type Forests treated with restorative actions that will reduce tree density and basal area, reduce surface and ladder fuels, as well as altering species composition allowing them to receive both prescribed fire and wildfire, in a manner which supports them in predictably delivering benefits of fire in sustaining forest biodiversity and function, and ecosystem services.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core Committee:

- Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative
- The Nature Conservancy
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- USDA Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
- USDI Bureau of Land Management, Medford District
- OSU Extension, Jackson/Josephine County
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Klamath Bird Observatory

Other active partners that support the Initiative:

- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Rogue Basin Partnership

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

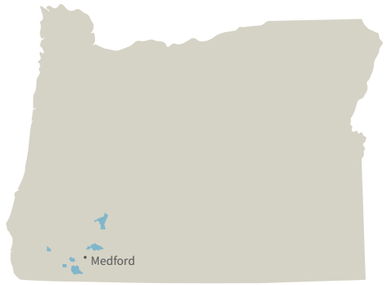
Dry-Type Forest Habitat

Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Northern Spotted Owl (NSO)



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The 4.6 million acre Rogue Basin analytical area is centered on the northern Klamath Mountains Ecoregion and extends to parts of the Coast Range and Cascades bioregions as they overlap with the administrative units of Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Medford district of BLM and intervening lands.

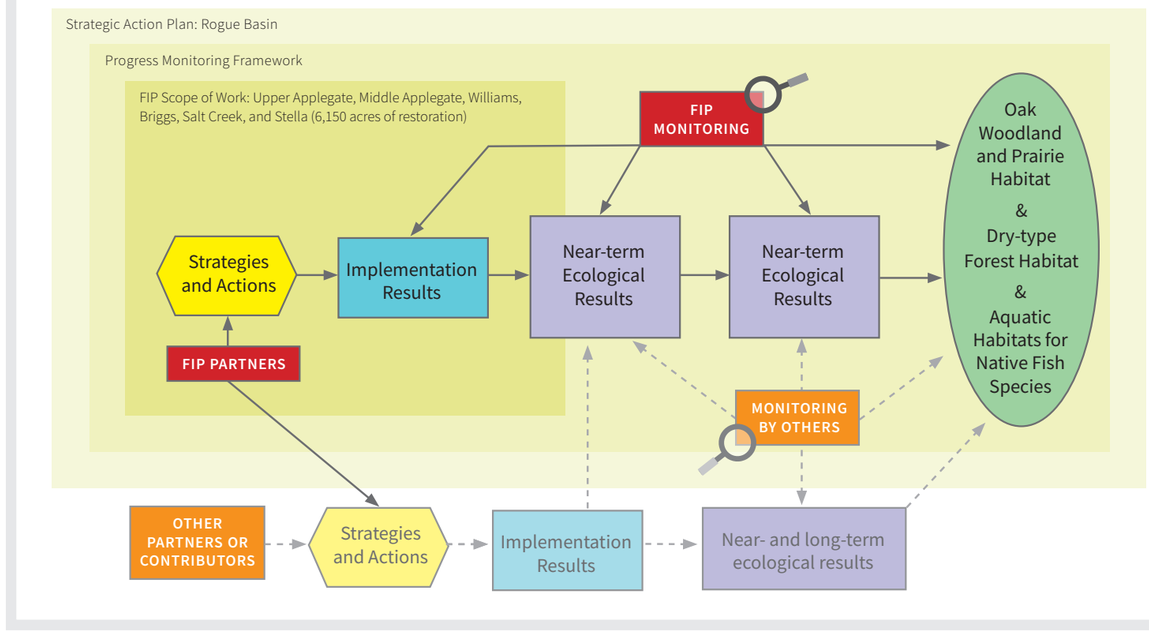
FIP Project Areas
(FIP treated areas in parentheses):

- Upper Applegate 20,000 ac (3,700 ac)
- Middle Applegate 10,000 ac (200 ac)
- Williams 6,625 ac (1,190 ac)
- Upper Briggs 3,000 ac (350 ac)
- Salt Creek 800 ac (710 ac)
- Stella 20,000 ac (0 ac), engagement only

Operational Context

The initiative represents an expanded implementation of the Rogue Basin Strategy (2017), a twenty-year guide for strategic action for 1.1 million acres of dry-type forest restoration within the 4.6 million acre Rogue Basin.

Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

Widespread dry-season, lightning-ignited fire is an intrinsic part of the Dry-Type Forests of Oregon, and since time immemorial indigenous peoples' have augmented the fire pattern for a variety of desired stewardship outcomes. The discovery of gold brought settlers to the Rogue Valley during the 1850's but agriculture became the main draw during the late 19th century. The need for irrigated water to supplement rainfall for orchards and farmland shaped the landscape of the Rogue Valley as much oak savannah and woodlands were converted to agriculture. In the Rogue River Basin, the need for water control and a vibrant timber industry impacted the river systems and forests substantially.

Past clearcut timber harvest, fire suppression, and recent severe wildfires have resulted in an overabundance of young dense forests and a reduction of quality spotted owl habitat. The Rogue Basin has experienced significantly disrupted fire regimes over the last 100-150 years including lowland and mixed conifer riparian forests. Combined with extensive even-aged forest stand management and land conversion, the dry forest type and remaining oak woodland habitats in each of the sub-basins are at high risk from wildfire, insects and disease and these conditions are being exacerbated by climate change.

Strategies of the initiative endeavor to address the following limiting factors:

- Insufficient late seral forest, especially open late seral
- Insufficient public support
- Insufficient and at-risk legacy trees and snags
- Reduced Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) habitat that is at high risk from wildfire
- Insufficient private land engagement and treatment
- Upland effects on aquatic habitat
- Risk of high severity fire at spatial scales and proportions outside of natural variations
- Riparian vegetation lacks diversity
- Conifer encroachment into meadows
- Impacts from nonnative species
- Oak habitat loss and degradation

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results (outputs), and near- and long-term ecological results (outcomes) partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to achieving goals associated with the partnership's ecological and social priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has selected to be part of a progress monitoring approach. Measuring these results over time will allow the partnership to evaluate progress toward objectives and goals in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify areas that would benefit from future research.

Each numbered implementation result or ecological outcome is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1-3)*.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation outputs and ecological outcomes prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1-3)*.

STRATEGIES

1 Apply forest treatments

This strategy involves the identification of appropriate sites, design, and application of stand level treatments to improve stand to landscape resiliency to climate and fire. Treatments include removal of dense vegetation to protect legacy trees, strategic ecological thinning and fuels reduction, and application of prescribed fire. Nonnative species will be mitigated with early detection and native seeding. In addition, this strategy also contains actions to manage riparian vegetation to reduce invasive plant species.

Theory of Change.
Strategic thinning of priority sites[1] will increase the overall proportion of open canopy forest at the landscape scale, increase the recruitment and vigor of fire-adapted and fire-dependent species[12], and increase the resilience of forest ecosystems to drought, extreme fire, insects and disease. Forest thinning[2, 3] will accelerate growth of retained trees into legacy trees[14], large wood, and development of late seral characteristics[13, 20]. Thinning and burning will expand or improve meadow[17] and oak habitat[16]. Restoring open forest will transition seral structural states toward the Natural Range of Variability (NRV)[20]. The long-term ecological outcome is improved landscape resiliency, protection of complex forest habitat, and restoration of late-seral closed and open forest habitat that supports dependent wildlife including NSO.

Targeted thinning and controlled burning treatments[4] will reduce wildfire intensity and subsequent fire effects, as well as climate effects, for forest habitat, NSO habitat, aquatic and riparian resources, and human communities[18, 19]. Treatments that reduce burn intensity will provide safe and effective options for fire suppression[21]. The long-term ecological outcome will be a reduced risk of disturbances outside the historic natural range of variation to dry-type forest, downstream aquatic habitats and to local communities at risk of wildfire.
Focused treatment of highest risk nonnative species and replanting with desired native species15 will reduce the impact of nonnatives on the forest ecosystem. Where planned, nonnative removal followed by native planting in riparian areas will increase riparian vegetation diversity and help promote aquatic substrate inputs more in-line with the historic range of variability while maintaining water quality and aquatic habitat conditions.

Long-term outcomes of all forest treatments will shift the frequency and severity of fire toward an acceptable range of variation, reducing the threat of abrupt forest change and connectivity caused by climate change. Additionally, a restored forest structure and function decreases risk of sediment input into aquatic systems that are beyond the natural range of variation in these physical processes.

2 Foster development of engaged citizenry

Partners will guide tours, deliver youth education programs, host workshops, maintain a social media presence, and coordinate media coverage of successful restoration efforts[5].

Theory of Change.
Outreach guided by a strategic engagement plan will educate interested citizens, establish an understanding of the ecological rationale and foundation of the partnership's strategies, and promote face-to-face opportunities to ask and answer questions[6]. The desired outcome is an increase in support for forest restoration and reintroduction of beneficial fire10 including use of prescribed fire[3, 4].

3 Deepen the partnerships among public and private land managers, tribes, local governments, and communities

Work with federal and non-industrial private landowners and engaged citizens to implement the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative.

Theory of Change.
Working with broad partner groups including state, county, local municipalities, and tribes to implement and evaluate the RFRI will build understanding and support at multiple scales. Projects that use established restoration approaches provide opportunities to develop relationships and operationalize methods for implementing and monitoring forest restoration. Resource specialists can then apply best practices developed collaboratively on established projects to plan and implement advanced projects (e.g. Upper Applegate), leveraging experience, relationships, and approaches to increase the pace, scale, and effectiveness of restoration across the Rogue Basin[8]. The long-term desired outcome is an improvement in the capacity for collaborative partners to plan and implement forest restoration projects consistent with the Rogue Basin Strategy (RBS) and Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan (RVIFP).

4 Improve socioeconomic conditions and workforce capacity

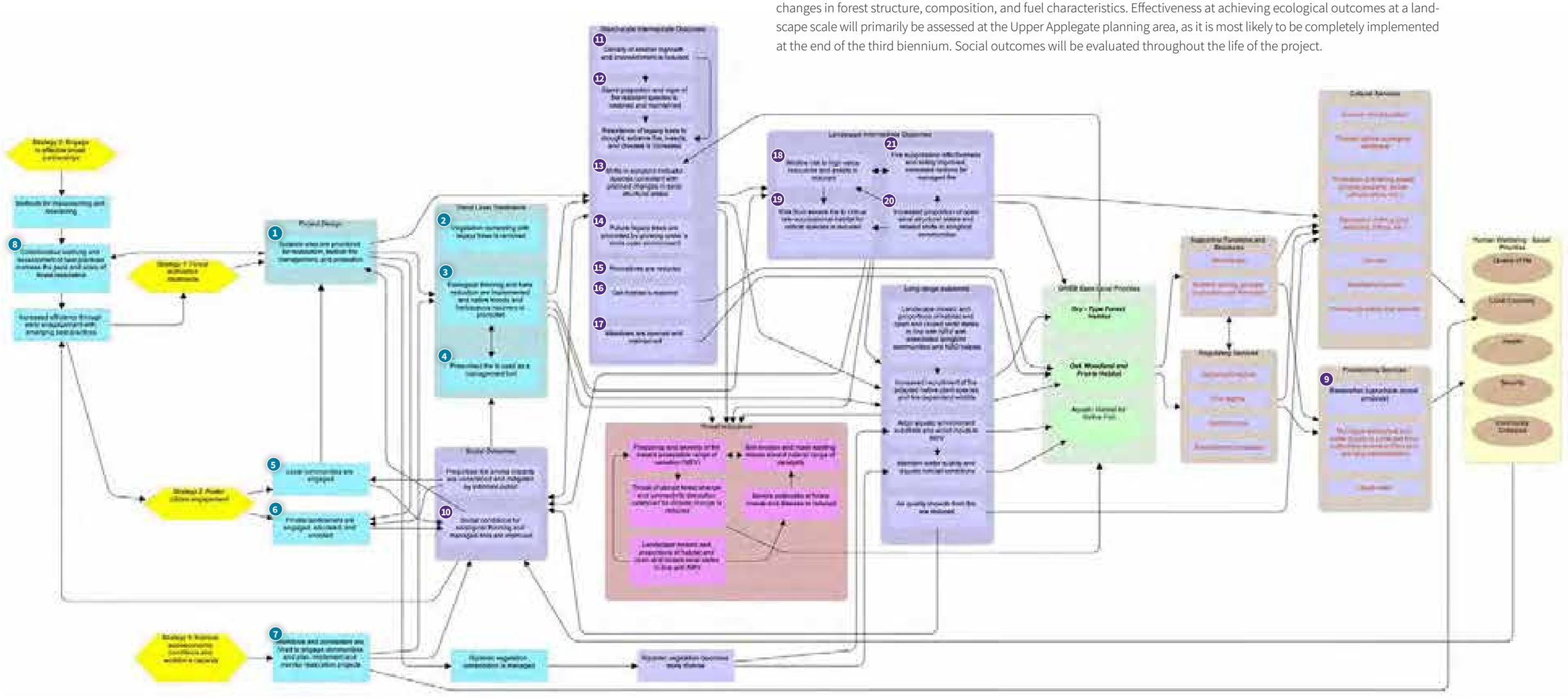
RFRI partners will hire and supervise a workforce and contractors to complete community engagement, restoration project planning, layout, implementation, monitoring, and reporting[7].

Theory of Change.
Resilient landscapes and fire-resilient communities require a knowledgeable, capable workforce and strong community support. Investments in restoration jobs will translate into economic activity, measurable by full time equivalent positions supported by the RFRI and regional multipliers. The long-term impact will be an improvement in socioeconomic conditions and workforce capacity in the Rogue Basin by generating jobs and economic activity. Sale of restoration byproduct timber produced through ecological thinning will support the local economy and generate funds for future work[9].

Superscript numbers [1-21] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative



Progression of the Results Chain.

Strategies & Actions	Implementation Results	Threat Reduced	NEAR TERM	Intermediate Ecological Results	LONG TERM	Desired Ecological Impacts	Ecosystem Services	Human Wellbeing

Measuring Progress

Progress toward achieving ecological and social outcomes will be determined by evaluating progress toward shorter-term goals and objectives. Treatment effects will be quantified in OWEB funded units where partners will collect data to quantify changes in forest structure, composition, and fuel characteristics. Effectiveness at achieving ecological outcomes at a landscape scale will primarily be assessed at the Upper Applegate planning area, as it is most likely to be completely implemented at the end of the third biennium. Social outcomes will be evaluated throughout the life of the project.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS (OUTPUT)	OBJECTIVE(S)	METRICS
1	Suitable federal and non-federal dry forest sites are prioritized for restoration, tactical fire management and protection to optimize benefits identified in the RBS	**Objective 1.1a:** Identify complex suitable forest habitat in the UAWRP by working with agency specialists and community members	Acres of suitable forest habitat identified in project planning
2	Vegetation competing with legacy trees is removed and yarding systems protect legacy trees	**Objective 1.1d:** Protect legacy trees and future legacy trees by thinning encroaching smaller trees and competing vegetation to reduce fuel accumulations to a less volatile fuel model, increase legacy tree vigor, and reduce vulnerability to drought, insects, and disease.	Competitive environment of legacy trees in plots
3	Ecological thinning and fuels reduction are implemented, and treated sites are managed to promote native woody and herbaceous recovery	**Objective 1.1b:** Promote development of new late-successional habitat in appropriate bio-physical settings	Acres of thinning in mid-seral stands in high relative habitat suitability settings
		Objective 1.1c: Restore open mixed conifer/hardwood forest and oak woodland in appropriate landscape settings	Acres of restored mixed conifer/hardwood forest and woodland
4	Prescribed fire is used as a management tool	**Objective 1.1f:** Following treatments, apply appropriate planting and native understory restoration, especially mitigating areas more prone to spread of non-native or noxious species	Acres of prescribed burning Acres of treated areas planted
		Objective 2.1b: Increase the potential for using low severity fire with treatments that achieve a low intensity fuel model and propensity for crown fire on 50% of the landscape	Flame length, fire suppression effectiveness, surface fire spread, torching index, crowning index
5	Local communities, partners and tribes are engaged through neighborhood meetings, field trips, workshops, direct marketing, and social media.	**Objective 3.1a, 3.2a:** Engage and educate private landowners through direct marketing, neighborhood meetings, field trips, workshops, and social media. Increase public awareness of benefits of ongoing treatment.	Number and breadth of contacts through meetings, direct marketing, & social media
6	Private landowners are engaged, educated, and enrolled	**Objective 3.1b:** 10 percent of private landowners contacted through MSOW or other RFRP effort begin to reduce fuels and stand density on their property	Landowner interest; enrollment success; percentage of contacted landowners with signed agreements
7	Hire and supervise a workforce and contractors to complete community engagement, restoration project planning, layout, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.	**Objective 5.1a:** Hire and supervise a workforce and contractors to complete community engagement, restoration project planning, layout, implementation, monitoring, and reporting.	Employed full time equivalent positions, Participants in workforce development, timber volume

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS (OUTPUT)	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
8	Resource specialists are co-learning, developing best practices, and more effectively planning to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in support of the RBS.	**Objective 4.1a:** Resource specialists are co-learning, developing best practices, and more effectively planning to increase the pace and scale of forest restoration in support of the RBS.	Rate of restoration from MOU mapping project
9	Restoration byproducts (wood products)	**Objective 5.1b:** Support the local economy and generate funds for future work through sale of restoration byproduct timber	Volume of restoration timber harvested

OUTCOMES

Social Progress

Table 2. Social outcomes proposed objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

	SOCIAL OUTCOME	OBJECTIVE(S)	METRIC
10	Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires are improved	**Objective 3.1a, 3.2a:** Engage and educate private landowners through direct marketing, neighborhood meetings, field trips, workshops, and social media. Increase public awareness of benefits of ongoing treatment.	Rogue Basin poll results
		Objective 3.2b: Tactical fire management options resulting from OWEB funded treatments increase support for managed fire that benefits resources and promotes safe and effective fire suppression response	Rogue Basin poll results

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

Table 3. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

	ECOLOGICAL OUTCOME	OBJECTIVE(S)	METRIC
11	Density of smaller ingrowth and encroachment is reduced	**Objective 1.1c:** Restore open mixed conifer/hardwood forest and oak woodland in appropriate landscape settings	Tree density relative to desired future condition
12	Stand proportion and vigor of fire-resistant species is restored and maintained	**Objective 1.1c:** Restore open mixed conifer/hardwood forest and oak woodland in appropriate landscape settings	Proportion of fire-resistant species
13	Shifts in songbird indicator species consistent with the planned changes in seral structural states	**Objective 1.1e:** Achieve desired conditions for wildlife habitat as measured by community shifts in the songbird indicator species associated with open forest, oak woodland, and/or a trajectory toward complex closed late seral habitat.	Field measured and modeled shifts in songbird community composition

	ECOLOGICAL OUTCOME	OBJECTIVE(S)	METRIC
14	Future legacy trees are promoted by growing under more open environment	**Objective 1.1d:** Protect legacy trees and future legacy trees by thinning encroaching smaller trees and competing vegetation to reduce fuel accumulations to a less volatile fuel model, increase legacy tree vigor, and reduce vulnerability to drought, insects, and disease.	Competitive environment of legacy trees in plots
15	Nonnatives are reduced	**Objective 1.1f:** Following treatments, apply appropriate planting and native understory restoration, especially mitigating areas more prone to spread of non-native or noxious species	Acres of non-native species mapped and controlled; acres of native species planted
16	Oak habitat is restored	**Objective 1.1c:** Restore open mixed conifer/hardwood forest and oak woodland in appropriate landscape settings	Acres of oak habitat restored
17	Meadows are opened and maintained	**Objective 1.1c:** Restore open mixed conifer/hardwood forest and oak woodland in appropriate landscape settings	Acres of meadow restored
18	Wildfire risk to high value resources and assets is reduced	**Objective 2.1a:** Reduce the predicted proportion of high severity wildfire and associated negative impacts to habitat (emphasizing complex forest habitat), water quality, and communities in the initiative landscapes.	Expected net value change for high value resources and assets Fire modeling outputs demonstrate a reduction in high severity wildfire at treatment unit and landscape scales
19	Risk from severe fire to critical late-successional habitat for critical species is reduced	**Objective 2.1a:** Reduce the predicted proportion of high severity wildfire and associated negative impacts to habitat (emphasizing complex forest habitat), water quality, and communities in the initiative landscapes.	Expected net value change for high quality complex habitat
20	Increased proportion of open seral structural states	**Objective 1.1c:** Restore open mixed conifer/hardwood forest and oak woodland in appropriate landscape settings	Proportions of seral structural states Landscape-scale shifts in songbird communities
21	Fire suppression effectiveness and safety improved, increased options for managed fire	**Objective 2.1c:** Increase tactical fire management options that allow for managed fire that benefits resources, protects residential areas, and facilitates safe and effective fire suppression	Change in suppression difficulty at the unit scale

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Dry-Type Forest Habitat

Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Aquatic Habitat for Native Species

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Warner Basin

Aquatic Habitat Partnership

Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

VISION

Streams and lakes in the Warner Basin will provide a connected watershed that provides access to the high-quality spawning, rearing, and adult holding habitats that are necessary for Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout to complete their diverse life-history strategies. Addressing existing limiting factors will require a collaborative effort among WBAHP members, the local community, landowners, and water users. Recovery of Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout will preserve and ensure the continued existence of the valued fish community that is unique to the Warner Basin.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core Partners:

- Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council
- Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Bureau of Land Management
- US Forest Service
- River Design Group

Supporting Partners:

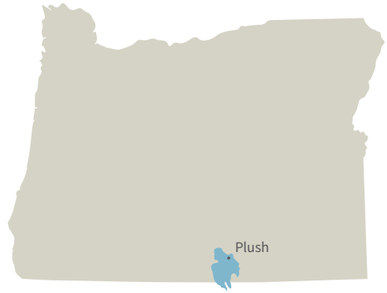
- Honey Creek Irrigators
- Adel Water Improvement District

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

- Warner sucker
- Warner redband trout



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

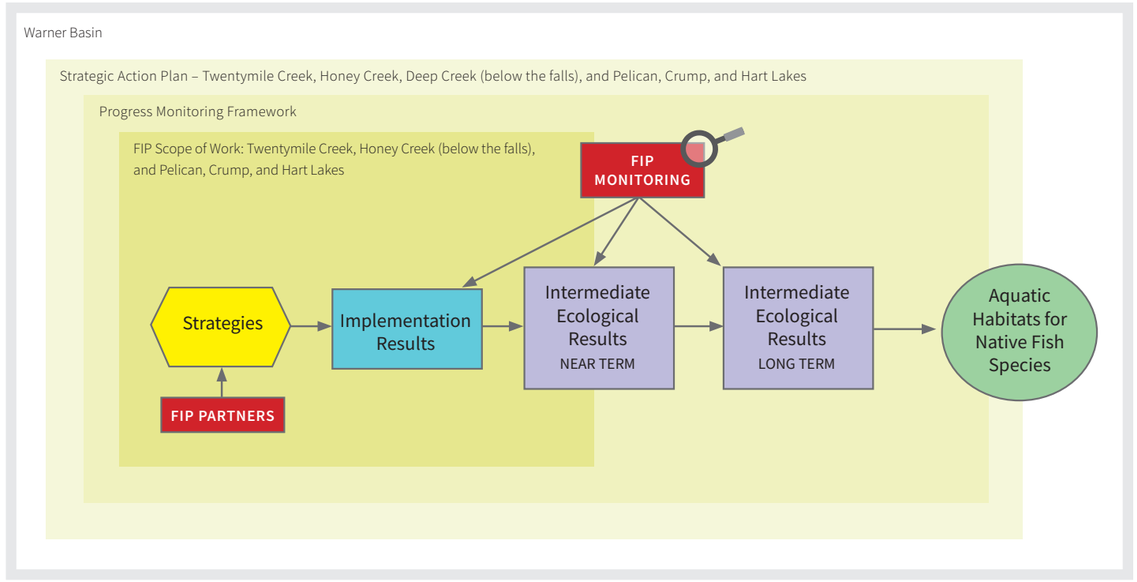
The WBAHP FIP Initiative is focused on the three main tributaries (Twentymile Creek, Deep Creek, and Honey Creek) that support Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout, as well as Pelican, Crump, and Hart Lakes. The three tributaries represent over 45 miles of Warner sucker designated critical habitat and the primary stream habitat for the two species. The three lakes are the primary lakes that provide habitat for Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout. The FIP Initiative geographic scope is identical to the Strategic Action Plan geographic scope.

Operational Context

The Strategic Action Plan and FIP scope of work is focused in a subarea within the larger Warner Valley including Twentymile Creek, Honey Creek, Deep Creek (below the falls), and Pelican, Crump, and Hart lakes (Figure 1.)

The initiative is also operating within the context of the Recovery Plan for the Threatened and Rare Native Fishes of the Warner Basin and Alkali Subbasin (USFWS 1998)

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change

SITUATION

In the late 1800s settlers altered stream networks to facilitate land draining and flood irrigation. Prior to modification, Twentymile Creek and Deep Creek drained to expansive wetlands that were likely characterized by distributary channel networks, ephemeral and perennial waterbodies, and diverse vegetation communities. To improve agricultural efficiency, the mainstem channels in the lower valleys were straightened and dredged. Irrigation diversion structures were installed to divert water from the mainstem channels into diversion channel networks in order to irrigate pasture, hay, and other livestock feed. Irrigation infrastructure is the primary modification to the historical stream network.

This history of alterations to stream networks and flow reduced connectivity among the lakes and along with habitat degradation and non-native fish interactions reduced historically abundant and widely distributed native fish populations leading to the listing of Warner sucker as threated under the Federal Endangered Species Act in 1985 and by the State of Oregon. These factors reduce or preclude the potential for a naturally functioning and resilient native fish metapopulation.

Key limiting factors or pressures that strategies are intended to address include:

- Human induced stream channel and watershed degradation
- Irrigation diversion practices
- Predation and competition from introduced fishes

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

The Warner Basin Strategic Action Plan includes strategies that are intended to pursue fish passage, screening, and habitat enhancement projects that will lead to the recovery and conservation of native fish populations in the Warner Basin. These strategies are designed to address limiting factors that are based on a long record of scientific investigations completed by ODFW, USFWS, and other organizations over the past 40+ years (listed above). Recent efforts to develop collaborative relationships with landowners and irrigators have provided the Partnership with the opportunity to implement projects that will address the long-recognized issues that affect native fish in the basin.

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

1 Restore fish passage

This strategy consists of remediating irrigation diversion structures that are partial or complete barriers to fish passage. Riparian habitat enhancement will occur at passage project sites as opportunities arise.

Theory of Change.
Implementation of fish passage projects[1] will expand connectivity of fish habitat[6] across the initiative geography. Native fish will then have the opportunity to access higher quality spawning and rearing habitat and find refuge from predation by non-native species in the lower stream reaches and lakes. Use of higher quality habitat will increase spawning success and juvenile survival and therefore contribute to healthy distribution of age classes[8] and higher numbers of native fish within individual populations[9]. Improved productivity and connectivity of individual populations promotes genetic exchange (and greater genetic diversity) and therefore improved sustainability of the metapopulation.

Enhancement of riparian areas[2] will contribute to the development and maintenance of complex and resilient instream and riparian habitats.

2 Screen unscreen diversions

This strategy focuses on the installation of fish screens at diversion structures where feasible based on evaluated conditions at each project location. As with , riparian habitat enhancement will occur at project sites as opportunities arise.

Theory of Change.
The installation of fish screens[3] will reduce or eliminate entrainment of fish into irrigation diversion systems. Reducing entrainment will improve survival rates of native fish and increase the productivity, abundance, and sustainability of individual populations and the metapopulation.

3 Increase water availability

The partnership will work with water users[4] to explore approaches to improve water availability for fish conservation[8], irrigation, and agricultural production. These approaches may include water conservation actions and efforts to increase the efficiency of irrigation systems.

Theory of Change.
An increase in water availability[9] will increase or maintain habitat connectivity and allow juvenile fish to access and rear in upper tributary reaches where non-native fish predation or competition is less likely. These outcomes will support increasing abundance and sustainability of native fish populations.

Improvements to irrigation infrastructure to improve efficiency will also improve assurances for water users to be able to exercise their water rights and will therefore support the viability of the ranching economy.

4 Reduce non-native fish populations

The partners will support the development of a non-native fish management plan that outlines approaches for reducing the impacts to native fish[5]. In addition, the partners will develop a fishery outreach and education program focused on recreational anglers[5].

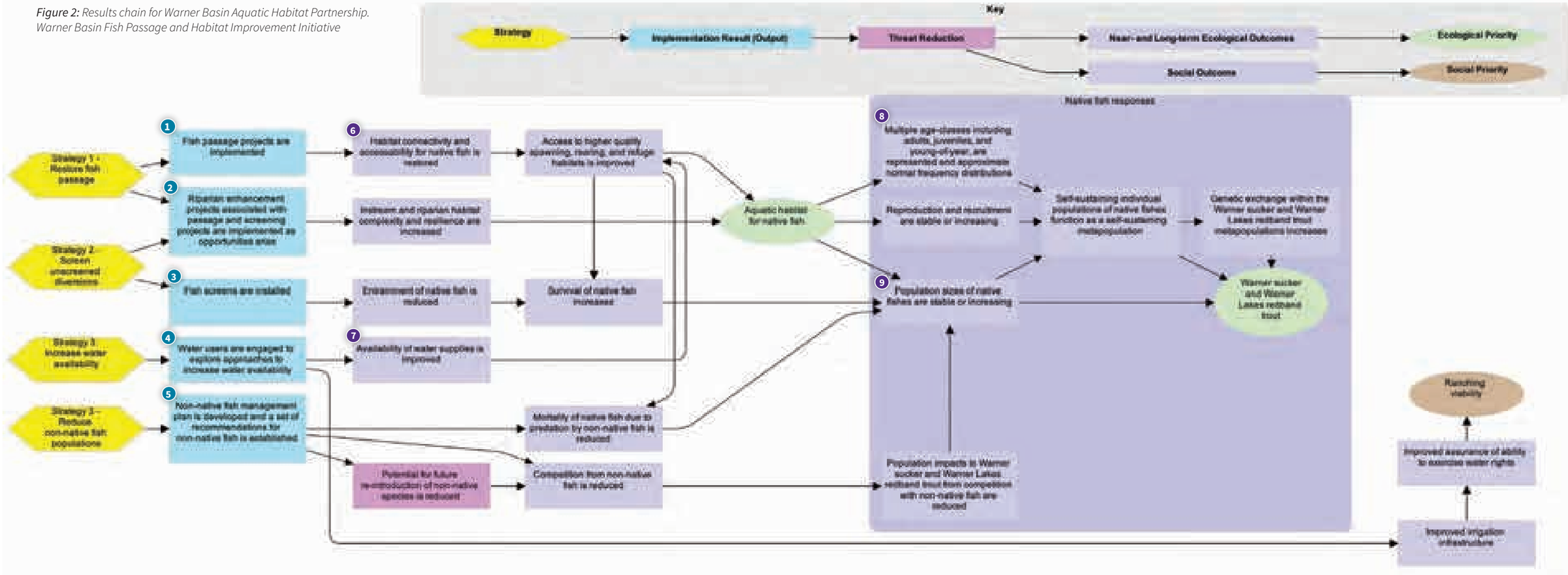
Theory of Change.
Public outreach and education efforts make information explaining the impacts of non-native fish on native fish populations available and therefore increases public understanding and interest in avoiding actions that lead to the introduction or expansion of non-native fish beyond their current range in the Warner Basin. Precluding an increase of non-native species abundance or expansion of their range will reduce potential mortality of native fish due to predation, reduce potential competition from non-native fish, and allow the gains associated with native species conservation actions to be maintained.

Superscript numbers [1-11] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership. Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

Progression of the Results Chain.



Measuring Progress

Plan success will be evaluated annual at the project level and biennially at the Plan level. Long-term monitoring will be completed at 3-yr and 5-yr post-project periods to ensure longer-term project success. Long-term monitoring to be completed beyond the life of the FIP will be funded by the partnership's member organizations.

Project-level monitoring may consist of:

1) as-built survey and project completion documentation to ensure the project was built as designed,

2) out-year monitoring including site visits and repeated photo points to see how the project site has changed, and

3) biological monitoring to be coordinated with ODFW, which may include documentation of fish passage.

Plan-level monitoring will include tracking of project progress and overall success. Plan-level monitoring will be led by LCUWC and LSWCD. Biennial monitoring reports will include a summary of goals and objectives, actions completed to-date, project and monitoring status, and future work in the subsequent biennium. Plan-level monitoring will serve as a check on the WBAHP members to ensure program accountability.

Long-term monitoring would leverage monitoring networks and studies typically administered by USFWS, BLM, and ODFW. The long-term monitoring would be used to assess how Plan goals and objectives are being met and if native fish recovery and conservation is on-track.

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Fish passage projects are implemented	By 2021, WBAHP will complete fish passage projects at 4 diversions *(Lower Deep Creek Relict Diversion, Starve-out Diversion, Taylor Diversion and Town Diversion on Honey Creek)* (Objective 1A)	# of fish passage projects completed
		By 2025, WBAHP will complete fish passage projects at 10 diversions and 3 road crossings *(Greaser Reservoir Outlet Channel on Twentymile Creek, at O'Keefe and Middle Diversion on Deep Creek, and at JJ Diversion, Hidden Diversion, Hatchery Diversion, and East Field Diversion on Honey Creek; three road crossing fish passage concerns in the Honey Creek drainage)* (Objective 2A)	# of fish passage projects completed
2	Riparian enhancement projects associated with passage and screening projects are implemented as opportunities arise	By 2025, WBAHP will implement riparian enhancement projects in cases where opportunities emerge.	# of riparian projects completed where opportunities emerge
3	Fish screens are installed	By 2025, WBAHP will complete screening projects where feasible	# of fish screening projects completed
4	Water users are engaged to explore approaches to increase water availability	By 2025, WBAHP will meet with water users to discuss potential strategies to improve water availability (Objective 4A).	# of meetings with local community and irrigators Irrigation infrastructure review completed
5	Non-native fish management plan is developed and a set of recommendations for non-native fish is established	By 2025, WBAHP will develop a list of recommendations to address non-native fish.	Plan completion with recommendations

Table 2. Ecological results, potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change. Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
6	Habitat connectivity and accessibility for native fish is restored	By 2025, WBAHP will develop a list of recommendations to address non-native fish.	Passage frequency and rate of PIT tagged fish
7	Water use efficiency and availability is increased	By 2025, water use efficiency and availability is increased through improvements to irrigation infrastructure	cfs in affected streams
8	Multiple age-classes including adults, juveniles, and young of the year, are represented and approximate normal frequency distributions	By 2025, population age class composition approaches normal frequency distributions	Population structure
9	Population sizes of native fishes are stable or increasing	By 2025, population sizes of native fish are observed to be stable or increasing	Population estimates

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Aquatic Habitat for Native Species

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

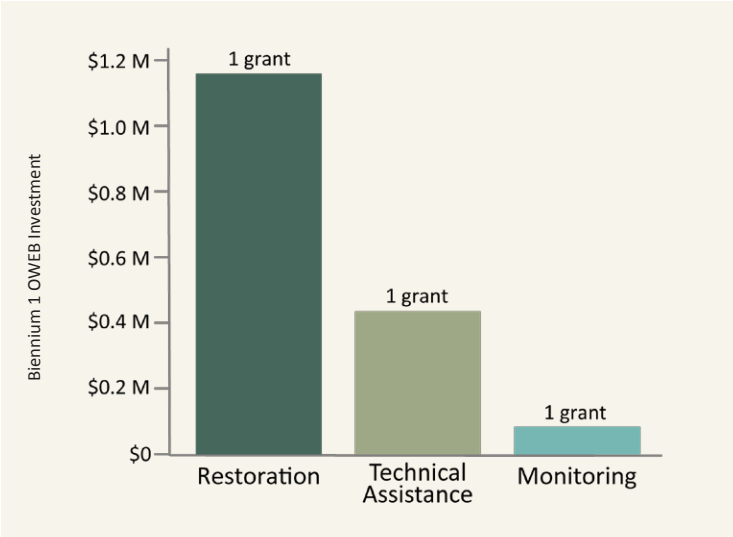
Focused Investment Partnership Progress Report: 2015-2017 Biennium 1
Dry-Type Forest Habitat

ASHLAND FOREST ALL-LANDS RESTORATION



The Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership focuses on Dry-Type Forest Habitat outside the City of Ashland, Oregon. It encompasses 58,000 acres centered on Ashland Creek, including the City's municipal water supply. Over a century of fire exclusion and large-tree timber harvest has caused forests to become dense and less diverse. The landscape has become more prone to intense wildfires, elevating the risk to the community's water supply and wildlife habitat.

Funding



OWEB awarded $1,999,998 in funding that leveraged $1,815,459 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Reduced risk of damaging wildfires and better options to suppress them
- Improved Dry-Type forest health with old-growth trees and open areas
- Increased controlled burn acres with minimized smoke impacts
- Protected, clean and abundant drinking water and healthy streams
- Improved habitat for sensitive species, including the Pacific fisher and the Northern Spotted Owl
- Sustained local, living-wage jobs and regional workforce training
- Engaged the community and private landowners in a local, collaborative solution

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership. This report documents progress made in their first biennium of funding (2015 to 2017) to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Ashland area.

Goal

Healthy forest landscape with a mosaic of complex old-growth, open forest, and oak woodlands restoring diverse habitats and increased resilience to fire, insects and disease

Strategies

- Ecological thinning, fuels reduction, and controlled fire
- Foster development of an engaged citizenry

Implementation Actions (2016-17)

Restoration

980 ACRES
ecological thinning and pile burning

20 ACRES
invasive plant removal

90 ACRES
controlled burns

1,102 ACRES
monitored for effectiveness and adaptive management

Planning

1,102 ACRES
identified for treatment

19 PLANS
for forest restoration for enrolled landowners

Outreach & Engagement

100 LANDOWNERS
contacted for forest management

60 EVENTS
Workshops and tours to increase awareness

13,000 POSTCARDS
mailed on controlled burning education and alerts

400 SUBSCRIBERS
to text message alerts

1,000+ FOLLOWERS
on social media

Near-Term Outcomes (0-10+ Years)

Stand-scale

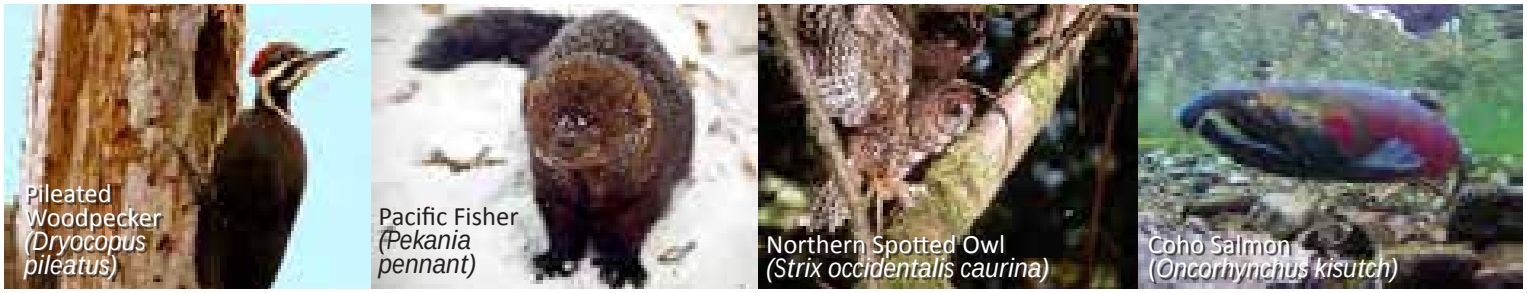
- Small tree density and fuel loads reduced, predicted fired behavior is less intense
- Prescribed fire is increasingly used as a management tool

Landscape Scale

- Wildfire risk to high-value resources and assets is reduced
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety is improved

Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- Open and closed habitats support wildlife dependent on complex forests and oak woodlands
- Maintain water quality and aquatic habitat conditions



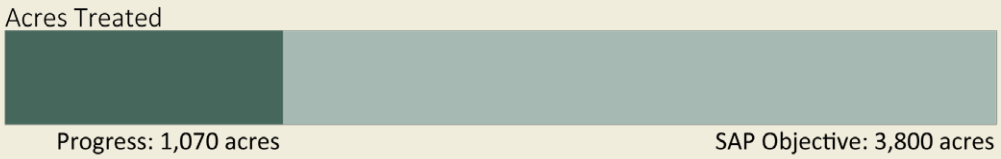
Dry-forest supports over 800 species. Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative Partnership's work provides important habitat for species at risk. *Photos courtesy of U.S Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey.*

Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1

Attachment D

Strategies

Treat land with ecological thinning, fuels reduction, and controlled burns to restore open forest



Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

- Maps where treatments occur and tracks changes in habitats and species over time
- Collects pre- and post-treatment data for monitoring the effectiveness of restoring open habitats while protecting old growth
- Uses changes in fuel loads and tree canopy base height in fire behavior models to monitor effectiveness in reducing potential wildfire spread and intensity

Restoration treatments reduce forest wildfire hazard.

Ecological thinning and pile burning reduced flame length by 50%.



Ecological Thin and Pile Burn



Underburn Following Thinning

Monitoring shows that ecological thinning and subsequent underburn treatments reduce wildfire hazard. These treatments raise the canopy base height and decrease fuels to shorten the predicted flames. Shorter flame lengths are easier to control. Analysis showed a 50% reduction in flame length from thinning and pile burning, which changed the predicted wildfire behavior under dry and windy conditions from uncontrollable to controllable using bulldozers and heavy equipment. In units that were selected for underburning, flame length was reduced by an additional 55%. These much shorter flame lengths allow for direct control by firefighters.



Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration		Monitoring	Engagement	
Challenges	Controlled burning and smoke concerns are weather-dependent. Inflexible schedules don't accommodate needs.	State air quality regulations and administration often constrain opportunities for controlled burning.	Locations of photo point monitoring are often inexact. Early monitoring showed that treatments were thinning and reducing fuels less than expected.	Partners considered but could not resolve how to integrate commercial tree removal in State-subsidized fuel reduction projects on private lands.	The decreasing average parcel sizes of newly-recruited properties require more outreach capacity to treat less acreage.
Lessons Learned	Public outreach on burn days reduces calls and community smoke exposure.	Landscape-level shifts in wildfire risk are meaningfully assessed after project completion.	Accurate photo-point locations and high-quality pre-treatment photos are key. Discussing monitoring results drives adaptive change.	Landowners were not comfortable covering treatment costs with commercial sale of a portion of the excess trees.	Neighboring properties are often similar enough to be grouped together as larger units.
Adaptations	Strong collaborative partnerships were essential to identify constraints, build flexibility, and leverage strengths across partnerships and other projects.	More resources were budgeted for monitoring fuels and fire-effect to support adaptive management.	Restoration thinning became more thorough and comprehensive in treated units. Effort to pile background fuels along with fuels from thinning work increased.	Greater investment in regional workforce training and development helped meet increased demand for services.	Small properties were grouped together to create more efficient design and implementation.





Ecological fuels reduction on private lands is the key additive strategy of the all-lands project, which had previously only worked on federal land. Before brush removal and thinning, dense fuels in the understory created a fire hazard. After treatment, the ground layer is open for native species and wildfire hazard is reduced.

For More Information

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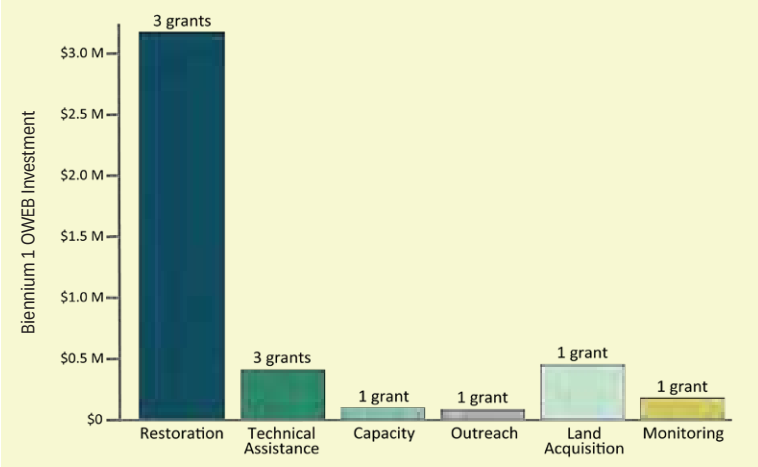
HABITAT RESTORATION for RESIDENT and ANADROMOUS FISH in the DESCHUTES



The Deschutes Partnership is focusing on restoring habitat conditions to support the successful reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into the Whychus Creek, Metolius River, and lower Crooked River systems. Since the late 1800s, diversion of streamflow for irrigation, construction, and maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, and changes to floodplain areas and bankside vegetation have reduced the amount of habitat available to fish.

Funding



OWEB awarded $4,397,794 in funding that leveraged $11,785,301 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Protected critical spawning and rearing habitat
- Restored stream habitat
- Increased streamflow
- Eliminated fish passage barriers, allowing for greater habitat access
- Increased awareness and support for restoration through community engagement
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to The Deschutes Partnership. This report documents progress made from 2016 to 2017 to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, partners, and non-governmental organizations to restore native fish habitat in the Deschutes Basin.

Crooked River Watershed Council · Deschutes River Conservancy · The Deschutes Partnership · Upper Deschutes Watershed Council · Deschutes Land Trust

Goal

Restore stream conditions to support the successful reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into the Upper Deschutes subbasin

Strategies

- Protect spawning and rearing habitat through land conservation easements and fee purchases
- Restore stream habitat conditions necessary for successful spawning and rearing
- Restore streamflow sufficient to support successful spawning and rearing
- Restore volitional fish passage
- Reduce or eliminate risk of entrainment in irrigation infrastructure
- Engage local communities to increase awareness about and support for reintroduction efforts



Summer steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)



Spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

Photos by NOAA Fisheries

Implementation Actions (2016-17)

Restoration

120 MILES

of improved access to habitat in the Crooked River

2.5 CUBIC FEET per SECOND

of added stream flow from an irriation canal piping project

Planning

3 DESIGNS

for stream channel and floodplain project, pump station and pipeline, and diversion fish screening projects

Land Protection

1 STREAM MILE

protected by inclusion in the 130-acre Willow Springs Preserve

Outreach

900 COMMUNITY MEMBERS & 300 STUDENTS

took part in watershed outreach activities

Near-Term Outcomes (0-10+ Years)

- Increased access to aquatic habitats
- Floodplain is reconnected to stream system
- Riparian vegetation improved
- Increased instream complexity
- Sediment is reduced, improving water quality
- Increased streamflow

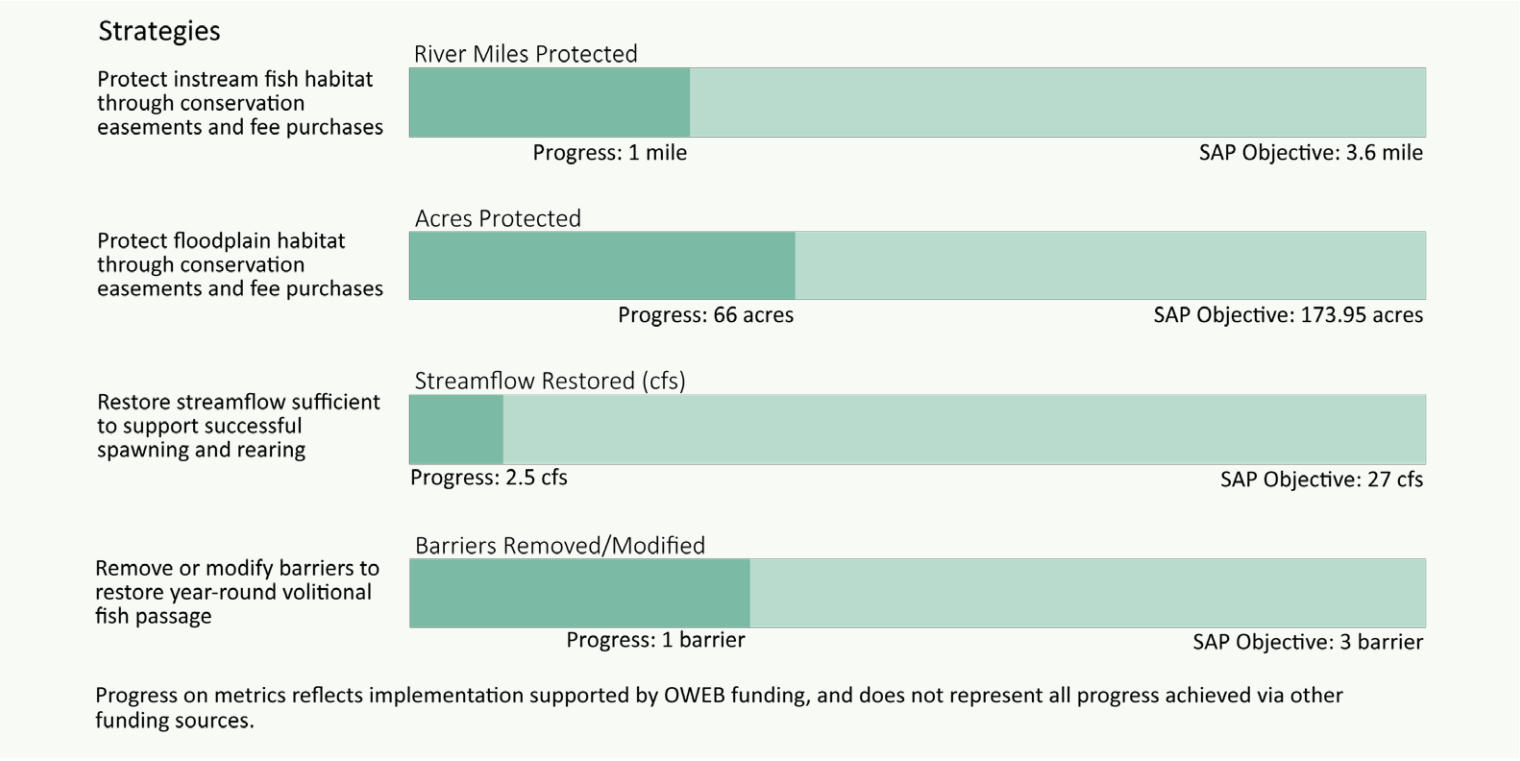
Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- Quantity and quality of available fish habitat increases
- Fish distribution increases
- Fish mortality in irrigation infrastructure decreases
- Fish population characteristics improve



Opal Springs Dam Fish Passage Project eliminates a barrier to fish migrating up the Crooked River, opening 120 miles of river to Chinook salmon, Middle Columbia River steelhead, and other fish.

Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1



Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

- Focuses on the core monitoring required to document progress of investments in achieving restoration outcomes at individual project sites
- Identifies indicators in response to hypotheses about the ecological outcomes of each restoration action, including stream habitat restoration, streamflow restoration, and fish passage and screening projects
- Assesses change over time through baseline and post-project data collection and analyses to determine if ecological outcomes linked to restoration actions are being achieved



Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration		Monitoring		Engagement
Challenges	Funding availability, local support, and project readiness all play a role in project prioritization. These factors can be challenging to balance.	The role of Technical Review Teams in selecting and evaluating FIP projects was not clear at the program's inception.	Linking biological responses to changing physical conditions from stream restoration projects is difficult given the inherent uncertainties in ecological systems.	Adding capacity to collect, analyze, and report data for a robust monitoring program is a challenge.	Undergoing leadership transitions at partnership organizations creates uncertainty among partners.
Lessons Learned	The accelerated timeline for the Opal Springs Dam fish passage project allowed for habitat restoration to occur 3 years ahead of schedule in the Crooked River.	It is important to clarify the roles of reviewers and applicants in the FIP project review process.	Watersheds with unique characteristics require more specialized results chains that more accurately model their system.	There is an opportunity to advance the practice of monitoring in complex stream habitat restoration projects.	A strong commitment to the FIP and effective governance guidance contributed to a smooth transition in FIP leadership.
Adaptations	The scope of the Strategic Action Plan was changed to include Crooked River habitat restoration for Biennium 2 project funding.	Collaboration with OWEB's FIP staff helped refine the Technical Review Team process to match the unique funding model of the FIP program.	Local experts were engaged to develop a results chain for McKay Creek, an intermittent stream, and helped select appropriate outcomes to that system.	Methods to efficiently measure biological and hydrological conditions were identified through stakeholder engagement and leveraging funding outside the FIP program.	The monitoring strategy was presented at three conferences to contribute to a growing body of knowledge on emerging methods to monitor large, multi-faceted restoration projects.





The Three Sisters Irrigation District Main Canal Piping Project began in 2010 prior to the FIP, conserving 13.3 cfs to Whychus Creek. FIP funding enabled the partnership to complete later phases, returning an additional 2.5 cfs more to the creek.

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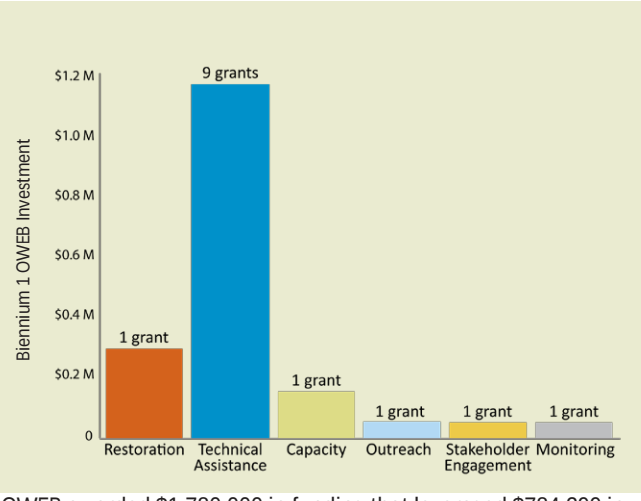
HARNEY BASIN WETLANDS INITIATIVE



The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative focus area encompasses Malheur Lake and surrounding wetlands, including the floodplain wetlands of the Silvies River, Donner und Blitzen River, Silver Creek, and other tributaries. In total, the geographic scope encompasses 513,000 wetland acres, including the 187,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. These wetlands provide critical habitat for Pacific and Central Flyway migratory birds. In recent decades, the expanding invasive common carp population and dynamic physical conditions have changed the Malheur shallow lake ecosystem from a clear lake with abundant aquatic plants and invertebrates to a muddy water body. The high turbidity results in a lake with nearly no submergent vegetation and fewer associated insects. As a result, the use of Malheur Lake by resident and migratory waterbirds, Redband Trout, and other native fish has declined dramatically.

Funding



OWEB awarded $1,780,000 in funding that leveraged $784,299 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Improved understanding of the distribution and behavior of invasive carp and evaluated methods to control them
- Developed model to understand unique interactions among physical environment, invasive carp, and the shallow lake ecosystem
- Enhanced understanding of water table and plant community dynamics in wet meadows
- Improved irrigation infrastructure to better manage flood-irrigated wet meadows for wildlife and agriculture
- Protected privately-owned wet meadows to maintain habitat values for migratory birds
- Engaged landowners, community groups, and partners to increase interest in and support for local conservation
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners. This report documents progress made from 2016 to 2017 to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger, on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners and non-government organizations.

Goal

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.

Strategies

- Control carp populations in Malheur Lake and surrounding aquatic ecosystems
- Manage wetlands/flood irrigated wet meadows on refuge and private lands
- Conduct community and partner outreach and communications

Implementation Actions

Planning

3 DESIGNS for flood irrigation infrastructure

5 LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS to support projects

Scientific Investigation

1 BASELINE SURVEY of basin-wide aquatic health

15,000 ACRES ASSESSED water table and plant community relationships

1 AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM MODEL to understand carp, wind, light, and lake dynamics related to water clarity

1 LIDAR SURVEY 42,474-acre Silver Creek watershed

Outreach & Engagement

5 SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

39 OUTREACH EVENTS

1 COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

14 VOLUNTEER DOCENTS trained

1 WEBSITE & E-NEWSLETTER

15 INTERVIEWS with private landowners

2 VIDEOS & 5 PRINTED PRODUCTS

Near-Term Outcomes (0-10+ Years)

- Improved water clarity and quality
- Water table dynamics support emergent wetland plant communities
- Extent of reed canary grass is reduced
- Aquatic vegetation in the lake is more abundant and diverse
- Invertebrate fauna recovers
- Increased abundance of breeding and migratory birds

Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- Native wet meadow communities are enhanced
- Native fish density and diversity improves
- Increased survival and reproductive success of waterbirds
- Waterbird populations increase and become more stable

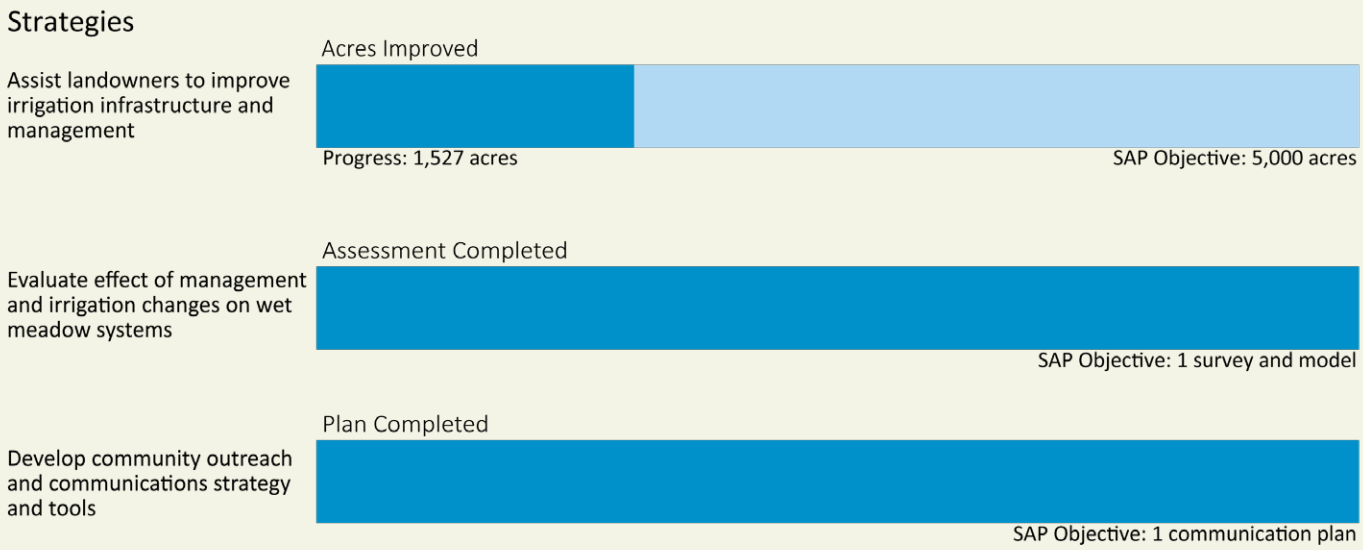


Northern Pintail ducks *(Anas acuta)*



Sandhill cranes *(Antigone canadensis tabida)* among cattle
Photo by Jeremy Hill

Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1



Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

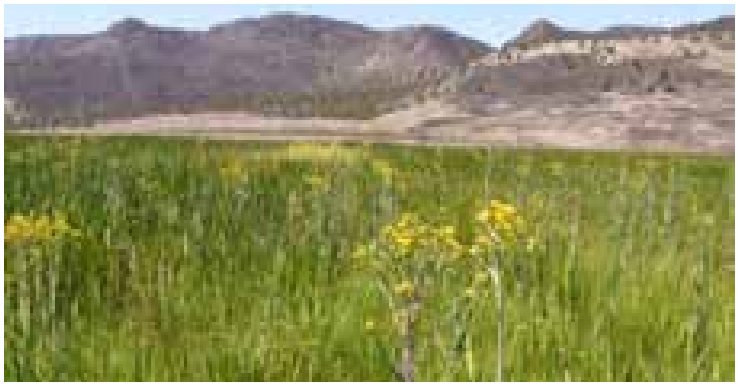
- Collect basin-wide baseline data on water quality conditions, fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and submerged aquatic vegetation cover to monitor changes over time
- Develop a model to determine the restoration strategies that will most effectively improve water clarity and quality
- Increase understanding of flood-irrigated wet meadow communities to determine the management approach that will increase habitat values, suppress invasive species and optimize agricultural production



Partners are taking a system-wide approach to modeling that helps explains how hydrology, carp control, sunlight penetration, and wind and sediment dynamics affect aquatic health. The model will integrate the results from a variety of partner investigations. U.S. Geological Survey scientists are developing a wind dynamics model to investigate how environmental variables, such as wind speed and direction, wind fetch length, and water depth relate to sediment suspension in the lake. This information is critical to identify the causes of the turbidity problem and evaluate all restoration alternatives that could mitigate it.

Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration		Monitoring	Engagement	
Challenges	Determining water rights and meeting fish passage requirements caused project delays and increased costs, which created potential barriers to landowner participation.	Unique shallow lake wetland ecosystem of Malheur Lake Basin requires further study for development of effective restoration strategies.	Staff turnover created challenges for data access and project coordination.	Engaging the local community and diverse stakeholders is time-consuming and requires consistent messaging and dedication.	Local community may not be familiar with benefits of conservation to agriculture and the local economy.
Lessons Learned	Have well-informed conversations with all stakeholders at the onset of project development.	Dynamics of wind, sediment, and invasive carp impact the lake's turbidity. Controlling carp alone may not lead to desired outcomes.	Capacity funding has been critical; engage as many people as possible (including partners) to help with project logistics, coordination, and internal communication.	Events focused on migratory bird education, which attract Oregonians and out-of-state visitors, contribute to a positive public perception of restoration work.	Both landowners and the conservation community value a healthy landscape.
Adaptations	Despite water rights complexities, implementers advanced projects through a planning process and engaged with state-level regulators to develop solutions to meet regulatory requirements.	Partners conducted additional scientific investigations to better understand variables that impact water quality, including lake-level fluctuations and sediment dynamics.	Aquatic Health Coordinator was hired to ensure on-the-ground projects were tracked, and has played an instrumental role in field coordination and support.	Stories, scientific findings, and project results were shared with partners and Harney County residents; diverse stakeholders were engaged with tours and events.	Interviews with private landowners were conducted to better understand concerns and overlapping conservation and agricultural values.





To understand the relationship between hydrology and plant community type, The Wetlands Conservancy and Oregon State University's Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center conducted wet meadow plant surveys on public and private lands through the Silvies River Floodplain and Vegetation Project. This work included installing water wells and piezometers to measure and track variations in groundwater pressure or depth. Results will inform irrigation management decisions to achieve the desired mix of plant species. The state-and-transition model developed from data collected will illustrate the multiple pathways of plant succession, providing a toolbox for restoration, conservation, and management actions that will support the conservation of wet meadows and continued flood irrigation in the basin.

For More Information

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highdesertpartnership.org/our-initiatives/harney-basin-wetlands-initiative

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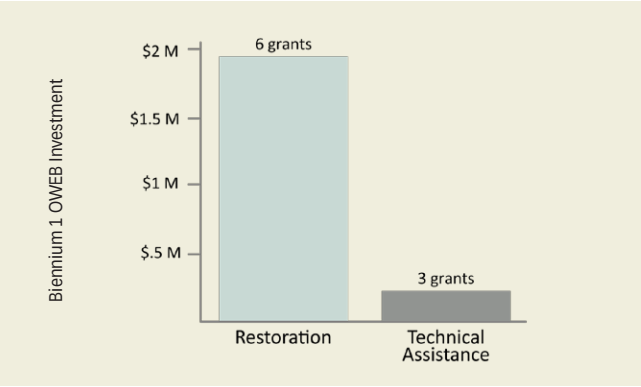
OREGON MODEL TO PROTECT SAGE-GROUSE, ALL COUNTIES



The Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee is focusing on privately-owned priority habitats for Sage-Grouse occurring within Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties. Conservation measures support the design and execution of Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) in partnership with private landowners through the development of Site Specific Plans (SSP) by soil and water conservation districts. The CCAA is an agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), soil and water conservation districts, and non-federal landowners, in which the landowner agrees to reduce or eliminate threats to a candidate species on lands they manage in exchange for assurances from USFWS that they will no longer face further regulatory requirements should the species become listed in the future.

Funding



OWEB awarded $2,342,727 in funding that leveraged $1,902,961,759 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Restored diverse plant communities that support all-life stages of Sage-Grouse
- Reduced risk of frequent, damaging wildfires
- Created small business opportunities for juniper removal and rangeland treatment
- Engaged private landowners in a local, collaborative solution to improve Sage-Grouse and rangeland health
- Provided technical and financial support to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation measures

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee. This report documents progress made in their first biennium of funding (2015 to 2017) to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners and non-governmental organizations to meet Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan goals.

Goal

Restore Oregon's private rangelands and sustain abundant populations of Sage-Grouse, where threats of wildfire, exotic annual grasses, juniper invasion, and detrimental grazing practices are minimized in a way that supports and promotes local economic and social needs

Strategies

- Execute Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances for private lands.

Implementation Actions (2016-17)

Restoration

м9
ESCAPE RAMPS
for Sage-Grouse

с,р8ф
ACRES
exotic annual grass treatments

1н,млс
ACRES
juniper treatment

ол.лу
MILES
marked fence

Planning

1ус,онр
ACRES
in site-specific plans for private land

1ус,онр
ACRES
in managed grazing plans

Near-Term Outcomes (0-5+ Years)

- Decrease of woodland-type conifer communities
- Invasion of exotic annual grasses is reduced

Intermediate-Term Outcomes (5-20+ Years)

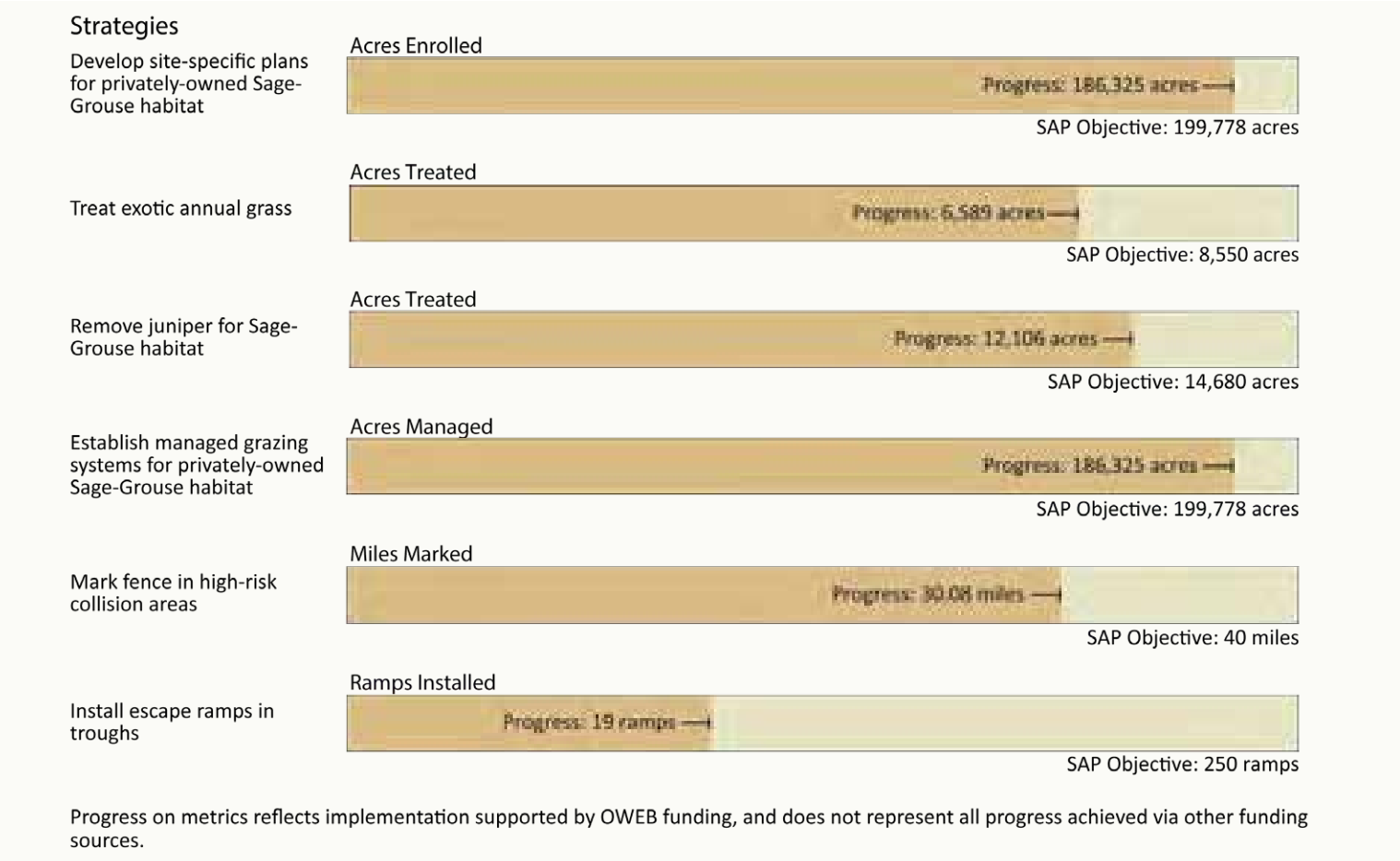
- Desired plant cover of sagebrush, perennial bunch grasses, and wildflowers increases
- Less predation of Sage-Grouse by raptors perched on junipers

Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- Connectivity of habitats increases and is maintained
- Sage-Grouse population size and spatial extent increases



Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1



Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

- Completes required monitoring for CCAA on private lands, including annual monitoring
- Collects baseline ecological data
- Tracks improvements in Sage-Grouse habitat over time, including upland and riparian ecosystems, habitat expansion, and rangeland improvements
- Monitors the effectiveness of weed spraying, juniper cutting, rangeland seeding, and grazing management practices



Greater Sage-Grouse *(Centrocercus urophasianus)* are upland bird species completely dependent on sagebrush.

Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration				Engagement
Challenges	Unpredictable weather conditions caused project delays.	The abbreviated timeframe of the first biennium created challenges for planning and contracting.	Grant budgets had to be adjusted because of inaccurate assumptions about contractor costs, creating an extra step in the project management process.	It was difficult to balance staff workloads to meet the diverse needs of stakeholders.	It was challenging to find enough time for multiple landowner meetings and site visits to work out project details.
Lessons Learned	Be prepared for any scenario during fieldwork. Poor weather and equipment failure can happen.	Completed SSPs ensured shovel-ready projects. New interest was generated as landowners became aware of the FIP's ability to provide technical and financial assistance.	It is optimal to perform bid tours and receive bids prior to building the project budget.	Landowners are not all the same. Take time to work with them in a customized way. Discuss timelines and requirements during the project development phase.	Communication between implementers and landowners is vital during and after the project to enable appropriate maintenance and management.
Adaptations	The flexibility of FIP budgets was helpful when it became necessary to adjust timelines because of poor weather conditions.	Additional staff were hired to increase capacity to implement and monitor projects.	A streamlined process was established to solicit qualified contractors, run a bid tour, evaluate and award contracts, and follow through to final inspection and certification.	Cross-jurisdictional relationships supported fluidity of funds across county lines for project implementation and design.	Clear and frequent communications helped staff align project objectives and landowner needs. Where possible, one staff person was assigned to a landowner from project inception to completion.





Removing encroaching junipers increases the amount of quality sagebrush habitat available. Harney Soil and Water Conservation District works with private landowners to voluntarily conserve Sage-Grouse habitat on their property. At this site, western juniper was cut from over 500 acres to improve conditions.

For More Information

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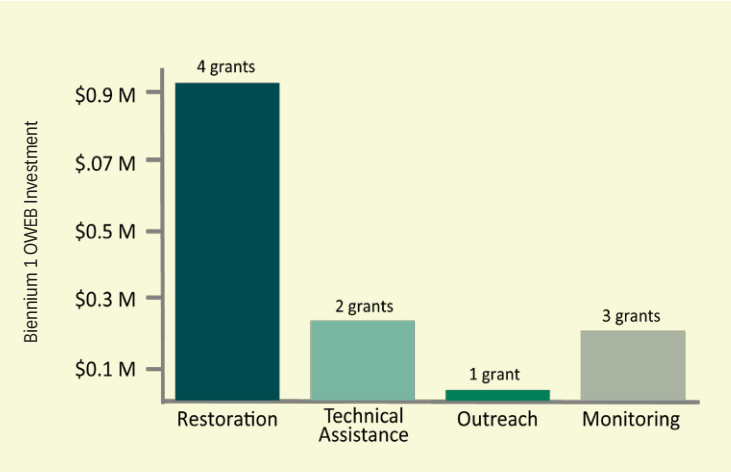
Focused Investment Partnership Progress Report: 2015-2017 Biennium 1
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

UPPER GRANDE RONDE INITIATIVE



The Upper Grande Ronde Partnership is focusing restoration on 11 prioritized reaches of the upper Grande Ronde sub-basin, which includes sections of the Grande Ronde River, Catherine Creek, and several tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Wallowa River. Since the late 1800s, poorly-managed logging and grazing, road and railroad construction, urbanization, and irrigation withdrawals degraded streams and reduced fish habitat. There are lower late-season flows and stream temperatures are warmer. These conditions threaten native fish species, including steelhead and salmon.

Funding



OWEB awarded $1,431,723 in funding that leveraged $2,753,272 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Improved understanding of how restoration actions impact steelhead and salmon in northeastern Oregon
- Organized approach among diverse partners to develop complex engineering designs
- Enhanced fish habitat through instream and floodplain projects
- Improved passage at diversion dams and culvert replacement that expands or improves access to habitats
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes
- Engaged landowners, students and civic groups on the actions needed to restore habitat for native fish

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant to the Upper Grande Ronde Partnership. This report documents progress made from 2016 to 2017 to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger, on-going collaborative effort of Bonneville Power Administration, federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations.

Goal

Increased habitat quantity, quality, and diversity for all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species in Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde River

Strategies

- Remove barriers and create additional aquatic habitat
- Restore flow during critical periods
- Restore natural habitat complexity and processes
- Conduct monitoring studies to fill knowledge gaps on juvenile salmon mortality and riparian restoration effectiveness
- Inform, educate, and engage relevant landowners and residents

Implementation Actions (2016-17)

Restoration

- **174** POOLS — placed over 6.25 miles
- **30** MILES of FENCE — repaired
- **3** CULVERTS — replaced
- **3.5** MILES of NEW CHANNEL
- **5** MILES of NEW FENCE — installed
- **450** LARGE WOODY DEBRIS STRUCTURES — placed over 6.25 miles
- **123** ACRES — new or activated floodplain

Scientific Investigation

- **11** RIVER MILES — monitored over 2 years for habitat quantity & quality, stream temperature, and flow
- **3** SCIENTIFIC PAPERS — evaluating deterrent options to protect plantings from elk and deer browse
- **1** INVESTIGATION — into effect of fish carcass additions to steelhead growth during summer rearing
- **2** PIT* TAG ARRAYS — installed to track fish movements and survival

*passive integrated transponder

Outreach & Engagement

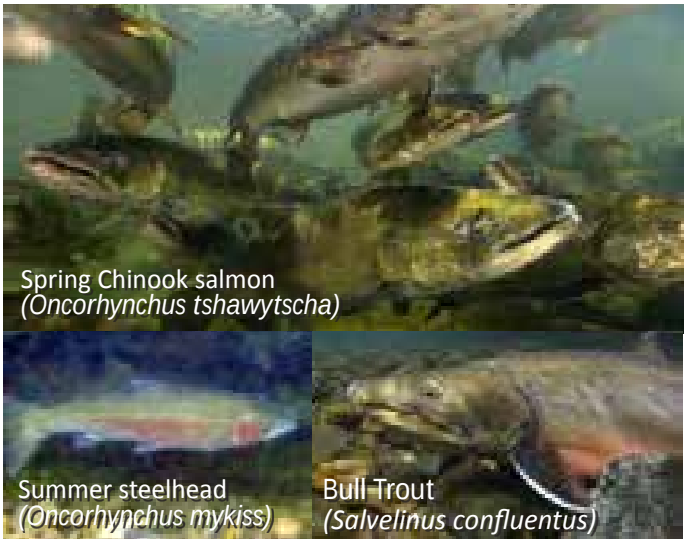
- **14** LANDOWNERS — engaged resulting in 4 projects and 2 easements
- **22** PRESENTATIONS — to provide technical assistance and training to increase awareness

Near-Term Outcomes (0-10+ Years)

- Access to aquatic habitats is increased
- Floodplain is reconnected to stream system
- Increased instream complexity
- Late season flow is increased

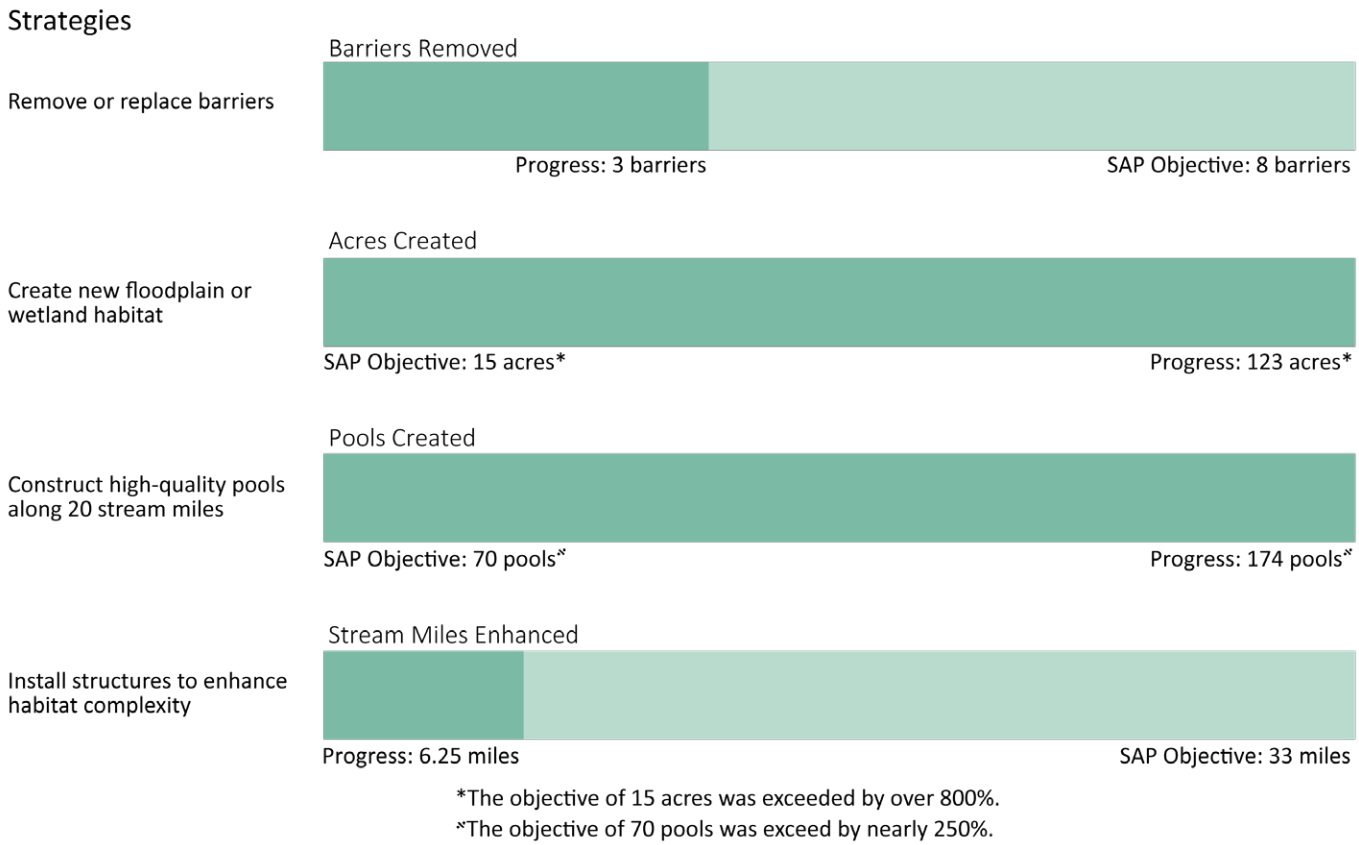
Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- Distribution of salmon increases in watershed
- Improved channel structure and processes to maintain habitat
- Spawning habitat and streamside plantings improve
- Summer stream temperatures decrease
- Productivity of salmonid species improves



The upper Grande Ronde River supports populations of Endangered Species Act-listed fish species. Photos by ODFW and USFWS.

Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1



*The objective of 15 acres was exceeded by over 800%.

^The objective of 70 pools was exceed by nearly 250%.

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

- Evaluates restoration techniques to make future projects more effective through adaptive management
- Improves knowledge of factors affecting salmon survival rates to prioritize projects
- Collects data on a consistent set of ecological metrics paired with snorkel surveys to measure restoration outcomes



Grande Ronde Model Watershed staff measure streamflow on Limber Jim Creek. Monitoring investigates how streamflow timing and quantity may change as a result of large wood additions aimed at reconnecting the floodplain.

Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration		Monitoring		Engagement
Challenges	Meeting National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 requirements may require an additional 1-2 years of planning.	There was an initial lack of capacity to fund technical engineering designs, which caused delays.	Finding capacity to analyze monitoring data and ensure information is properly shared and incorporated into future planning is a challenge.	There is uncertainty around securing funding to do repeat habitat and snorkel surveys.	Partners within a FIP are dynamic. Changes have occurred in core partners as well as the larger implementation partnership.
Lessons Learned	Cultural resource surveys require frequent or consistent coordination to proceed in a timely manner.	The flexibility of the FIP program enabled the partnership to direct funds where they are most needed.	There is a need to better coordinate monitoring efforts among partners.	Life Cycle Models could be useful for planning restoration with maximum impact for salmon.	When planning projects, budget time to discuss them and align focus among new funders and partners.
Adaptations	Partners were supported with training and funding for cultural resource surveys to keep projects moving forward.	Partners worked together to leverage Technical Assistance (TA) matching grants in Biennium 1. A plan is in place for additional TA in the next biennium.	The timeline and budget were increased for the Catherine Creek Hall Ranch Project to expand project scope and fish benefit.	A monitoring coordinator was hired to assist the partnership in working as a team and minimize redundancies in monitoring efforts.	Developing clear project goals and objectives through communication and trusting relationships supported project prioritization.





Before restoration at Dry Creek, the stream banks were incised and the floodplain was less than one acre. The Union Soil and Water Conservation District worked with a private landowner to restore the creek's sinuosity and floodplain, doubling it in size. The stream habitat was further enhanced by placing 280 large trees and 600 pieces of wood and planting more than 5,000 native plants.

For More Information

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www.oregon.gov/oweb

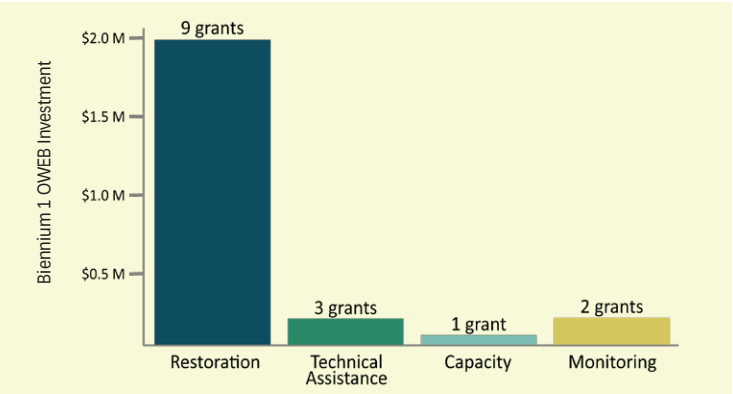
Focused Investment Partnership Progress Report: 2015-2017 Biennium 1
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

UPPER and MIDDLE WILLAMETTE MAINSTEM ANCHOR HABITATS



Willamette River Anchor Habitats range from the Middle Fork and Coast Fork confluence to habitats above Willamette Falls. Scientists have identified them as the locations with the highest value fish and wildlife habitat and offer the greatest return on restoration investments. Anchor Habitats represent a stepping stone approach to providing essential habitat for species with wide ranges such as salmon, songbirds, and butterflies. Since the late 1800s, land use has dramatically altered the river. Development has resulted in over half of the river's 180-mile length being armored. Channels are straightened and dams block upstream fish passage. Runoff from adjacent farms and urban centers has degraded water quality and elevated stream temperatures, nutrients, and bacteria. Rare floodplain forests, which provide critical seasonal habitat for fish, have declined by more than 70%.

Funding



OWEB awarded $2,539,664 in funding that leveraged $2,640,910 in matching funds.

Benefits

- Expanded floodplain habitat from removing levees and enhancing former gravel pits
- Increased number of side channels that support cooler water temperatures
- Enhanced riparian vegetation along sloughs and channels providing shade and habitat
- Reduced coverage of aquatic invasive species
- Improved fish passage by modifying artificial barriers
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes

About This Report

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to strategize restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group. This report documents progress made from 2016 to 2017 to meet their strategic action plan goals. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger, on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners and non-governmental organizations implementing restoration work guided by the Willamette Basin Planning Atlas. The restoration is backed by the funding partnership between Bonneville Power Administration, Meyer Memorial Trust and OWEB that supports large-scale and complex projects on the mainstem Willamette River.

Goal

Sustain and enhance seasonally important resources for native fish through increasing habitat complexity and quantity, improving floodplain connectivity, and restoring floodplain forests in the Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

Strategies

- Remove revetments and levees in reaches likely to experience channel changes
- Construct lateral channels in areas with high likelihood of hyporheic flow
- Plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels
- Control aquatic invasive weeds
- Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities
- Modify floodplain topography to increase the extent and duration of floodplain inundation
- Modify artificial barriers to aid fish passage and increase extent and duration of floodplain inundation
- Enhance former gravel pits by re-connecting pits, re-grading boundaries and filling ponds

Biennium 1 Implementation Results (2016-17)

Restoration

- 804 ACRES floodplain forest restored
- 4 MILES off-channel fish habitat
- 3 BARRIERS MODIFIED for floodplain connectivity
- 96 ACRES aquatic invasive species treated

Scientific Investigation

- 1 BASELINE ASSESSMENT of instream components
- 1 STUDY of cold water refugia for fish in the mainstem

Outreach & Engagement

- 1 OUTREACH PLAN
- 1 WORKSHOP on outreach to Latino communities
- 23 TOURS
- 550 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Near-Term Outcomes (0-10+ Years)

- River channel is re-connected to its historical floodplain
- Length of secondary channels is increased
- Native fish accessibility to the floodplain is increased
- Native riparian forest is enhanced
- Extent of invasive plant species is reduced



Pacific Lamprey
(Entosphenus tridentatus)

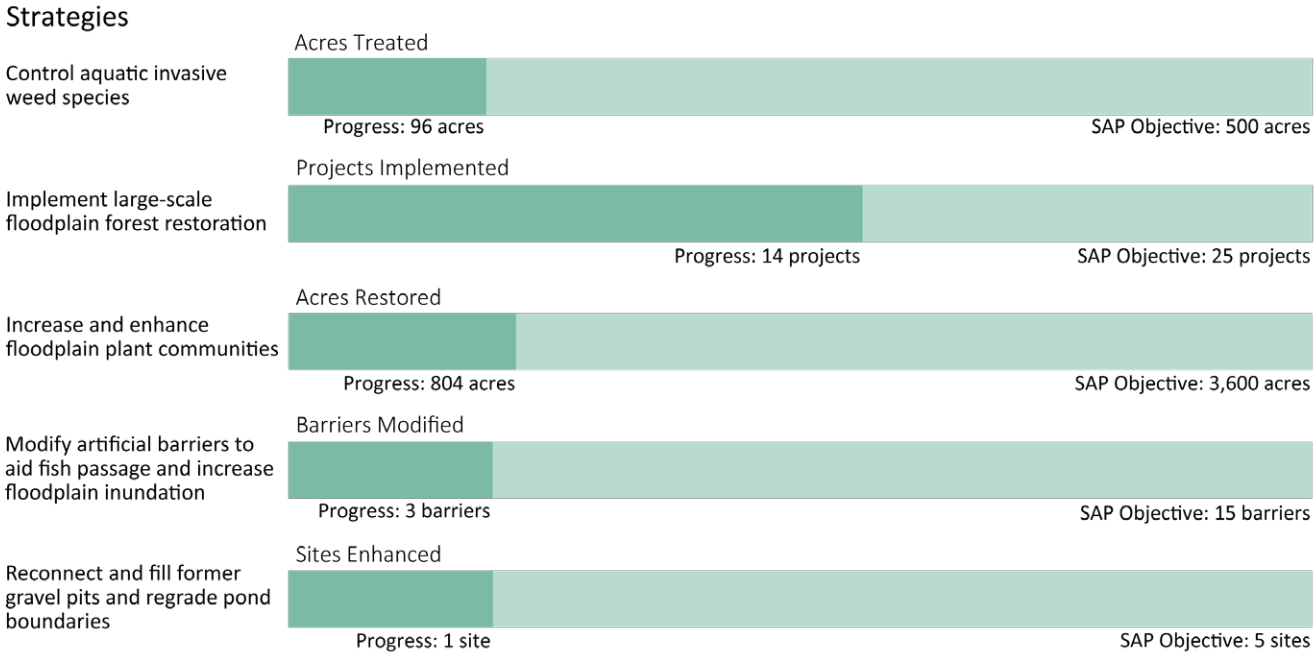


Winter steelhead
(Oncorhynchus mykiss)

Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- Channel migration and sinuosity increases
- Canopy cover and near-bank shading increases
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions improve
- Habitat connectivity and complexity increases
- Seasonally-important habitat resources for native fish increase

Strategic Action Plan (SAP) Progress, Biennium 1



Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

Monitoring Approach

- Builds a framework to assess implementation and effectiveness of restoration projects
- Collects data to monitor changing water levels and river features that native fish need at different times of year
- Evaluates the impact of aquatic invasive species on water quality
- Tracks changes in vegetation and ecological responses to reforestation
- Conducts fish sampling to assess native fish habitat use





Willamette Riverkeeper and Benton SWCD partnered with Portland State University and U.S.Geological Service to assess the invasive plant *Ludwigia hexapetala* infestation and water quality at Mission Lake/ Windsor Island Slough prior to restoration. *Ludwigia* traps sediment and reduces open-water habitats. It also negatively affects water quality by reducing dissolved oxygen from rapid seasonal growth and decay. These data provides a baseline for comparison for effectiveness monitoring to occur after future removal.

Adaptive Management in the FIP

	Restoration	Monitoring	Engagement		
Challenges	Permitting to do earthwork for floodplain reconnection and side channel projects is a major hurdle, resulting in construction delays.	A long timescale is required for floodplain forests to be established and for the ecological benefits of re-vegetation to be realized.	Cultivating relationships with landowners for private lands restoration along the mainstem is a long-term process that requires an investment of time and energy.	The large scale of the geographic scope, number of stakeholders, and diversity of issues in the FIP has resulted in overlapping goals and geography with other initiatives.	Transitions in leadership mean that new staff need time to get up-to-speed on complex partnerships and projects.
Lessons Learned	High-level permitting agreements among key federal agencies, state agencies, and counties could accelerate earthwork projects.	Most projects are taking place on public or otherwise protected lands. The uncertainty surrounding future funding affects landowner participation.	The results chain model has supported creative thinking on how to use indicators to efficiently assess effectiveness of actions.	Linkages between limiting factors in the results chain and anticipated impacts have been helpful to scale expectations among stakeholder groups and to plan monitoring efforts.	The partnership has exceeded anticipated progress toward outreach targets, is on track for volunteer targets, and will revisit outreach targets for salience to key audiences.
Adaptations	Opportunities to coordinate permitting among agencies are being explored.	The partnership is developing new approaches to assess changes in vegetation and ecological responses to meet shorter-term monitoring needs.	The partnership is exploring ways to engage with private landowners that continue to build trust and illuminate the value of restoration now and into the future.	The partnership has honed its focus to maintain an emphasis on mainstem-specific issues, science, and projects.	The partnership is working to become more resilient to change by building leadership capacity across organizations.





Through the Willamette Confluence Middle Fork Restoration Project, The Nature Conservancy restored 330 acres of natural floodplain and in-channel habitat. This included removing levees separating old gravel extraction ponds. The pits are now seasonally connected to the river and offer new backwater fish habitat.

For More Information

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Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item S 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 S – Open Solicitation Calendar Change
January 22-23, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides information for the board regarding a proposal to work with grantees to adjust the open solicitation grant offering schedule.

II. Background

OWEB offers open solicitation every six months for restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement applications, and annually for monitoring applications. Applications are accepted and board awards are made in April and October. The six-month application cycle includes technical review of approximately 150 applications by 90 technical experts and staff, site visits, six regional review team meetings, and detailed evaluations for each application. The competitive nature of open solicitation requires that the application and evaluation process be fair, transparent, and consistent. Staff engage in continuous process improvement to meet these standards. In recent years, several complicating factors have led staff to consider altering the open solicitation grant cycle to improve participation and increase safety and consistency for applicants, reviewers, and staff.

III. Safety and Consistency

The October application deadline necessitates potentially hazardous travel for applicants, reviewers, and staff to site visits in December and January, and for reviewers and staff to review team meetings in January and February. When winter travel causes site visit cancellations and reduces reviewer participation in review team meetings, review consistency suffers.

Site visits and review team meetings for the April application deadline occur in May, June, and July. Many applicants and reviewers are working on field projects during those months, which are permitted in-water work windows in many parts of the state. Summer is also a busy time for some reviewers and applicants who help fight wildfires. The end of the school year and 4th of July week are common times for vacation. These conflicts have affected the availability of both applicants and reviewers to participate consistently in the open solicitation process.

IV. Proposed Schedule Changes and Spending Plan Impacts

As shown in Attachment A, staff propose working with grantees to evaluate shifting the application and award dates by three months to better align both application development and application review with applicant and reviewer availability. Site visits and review team meetings would avoid winter travel and wildfire fighting periods and application development will be less likely to occur during in-water work windows.

Implementing the proposed shift in schedule would result in an additional three months between offerings when implemented. This results in one biennium having three awards rather than four. To smooth the impact, which results in increased funds available during the transition period, it is recommended that the transition occur in the 2021-2023 biennium, with awards in January 2022, July 2022, and January 2023. This will allow an even distribution of funds across three offerings. Attachment B provides a breakdown of proposed grant offerings assuming a static amount of funds each biennium. Starting in the 2023-2025 biennium and continuing into the future, OWEB would offer four solicitations per biennium, each January and July.

V. Grantee Engagement

Another benefit to delaying implementation to the 2021-2023 biennium is that it provides ample time for engagement with grantees to help prepare for the new calendar and to determine whether there may be unintended consequences. Staff will prepare outreach materials and survey grantees to help make this determination.

VI. Next Steps

Staff plan to work with grantees and reviewers to determine whether there may be unanticipated impacts caused by the proposed schedule change, and if so, whether those impacts can be addressed.

Attachments

A. Proposed Award Calendar
B. Proposed Spending Plan Amounts

Preferred Grant Offering Schedule

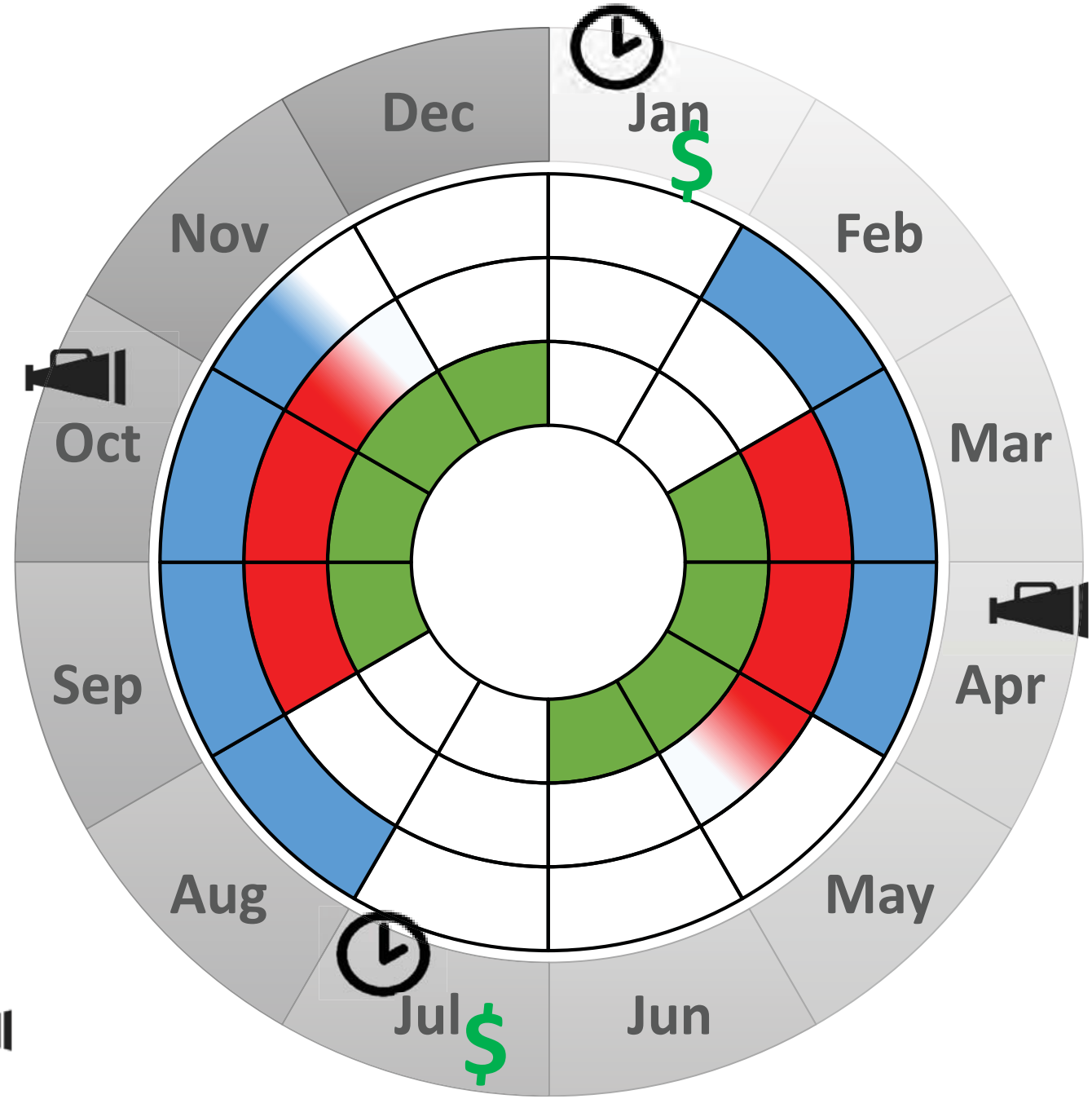
ATTACHMENT A

Color Legend

Blue- Site Visits

Red- RRT Meeting

Green- Evaluations



Symbols

Board Award $

Announcement

Deadline

Open Solicitation Transition to Jan/July Board Awards

assuming spending plan amounts consistent with 2019-21 biennium



Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item T 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 T – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update
January 22-23, 2020 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 Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima to the commission.

II. Commission Reappointments

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 Chad Allen of Tillamook represents agricultural interests on the commission and is recommended by the Board of Agriculture. Commissioner Sam Angima represents OSU Extension Service on the commission and is recommended by the Director of the Extension Service. Both commissioners' terms expire in January 2020. Both are interested in serving a new four-year term on the commission, and both have been recommended by their respective organizations (Board of Agriculture and OSU Extension Service).

III. Program Update

At the October 2019 board meeting, staff reported that the commission accepted a report prepared by Highland Economics assessing the feasibility of developing a methodology to value the public benefits of implementing conservation management plans (CMP). The commission is authorized to provide grants for both development and implementation of CMPs; having a valuation methodology is necessary to develop a CMP implementation grant program. Staff have been investigating potential funding sources and partners to develop the valuation methodology, and will come back to the board with a proposal at the April board meeting.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board reappoint Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 22, 2020 Board Meeting

Jacksonville Community Center
110 E Main Street
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Audio time stamps reference recording at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHFkk_nNIj8&t=16688s

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
McComb, Brenda
Reeves, Meg

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Appel, Lisa
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Prather, Nicki
Shaff, Courtney
Tia, Leah
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Coordes, Regan
Lee, Jan
Knight, Kris
Harm, Audrey
Dombi, Cathy
Goode, Scott
Talbert, Kevin
Nichols, Clint
Beamer, Kelley
Mackhorter, Rob
Jones, Bob
Brandt, Tracey
O'Brien, Kevin
Mooney, Erica
Stabach, Greg
Becker, Geoff

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:15)
Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:54:25)
The minutes of the October 15-16, 2019 meeting in Condon were presented for approval.

> Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the October 15-16, 2019 meeting in Condon. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:54:55)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 55:09)
Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates on subcommittee topics to the full board.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 1:03:36 a.m.)
Jan Lee with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Vanessa Green with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and Kelley Beamer with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) gave the board an update on the group's combined activities. Kevin Talbert with COLT and the president of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy welcomed the board to the region.

E. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 1:20:20)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided a report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation.

F. OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (Audio = 1:29:37)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein led the board in a discussion on a committee structure for the board. Deputy Director Renee Davis, Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams joined the discussion to provide a staff perspective. Standing committees would be for Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Water and Land Acquisitions. Ad-hoc committees would be for Climate Change; Water; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Strategic Plan Implementation. The board co-chairs and chairs of each committee will make up an Executive Committee.

> Bruce Buckmaster moved the board adopt the committee structure as discussed today, with staff to provide details. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:17:10)

Once the structure is in place, staff will follow up asking the board for their preferences for committee membership. Based on the level of interest the board members have expressed, the co-chairs will determine final membership. Once the committees are developed, staff will work with members on logistics for each committee meeting including meeting in person verses teleconference, meeting times and frequency.

G. Land Acquisition Conveyance (Audio = 2:17:44)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board approve the transfer of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement from the Deschutes Land Trust to the McKenzie River Trust.

> Mark Labhart moved the board approve the assignment of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement (OWEB Grant # 206-106) from Deschutes Land Trust to McKenzie River Trust, conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:31:38)

H. Receive Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Funding and Recaptured Funds for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance (Audio = 2:31:45)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy requested the board accept $200,000 from the NRCS, and add $37,771 of recaptured funds for the CREP Technical Assistance grant program.

> Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of $200,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for CREP Technical Assistance, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2020. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
>
> Randy Labbe moved the board add $37,771 of recaptured funds to the CREP Technical Assistance line item of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2020. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:44:14)

I. Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Awards (Audio = 2:44:20)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff and Partnerships Coordinator Leah Tai provided an overview of the 2019 Partnership TA grant offering and requested board consider Partnership TA grant awards.

Public Comments: (Audio = 3:18:15)

Kris Knight, Director, Upper Deschutes Water Council, offered thanks to the board for offering this type of grant program.

Jamie Stephens, Science Director, Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network, Bird Observatory, discussed their partnership's proposal, although not recommended for funding. Jaimie shared thoughts on the feedback received on the proposal. The board gave suggestions on how to respond to feedback they received and apply it on their next grant proposal.

> Jason Robison moved the board add $279,000 of recaptured funds to the Partnership Technical Assistance line item of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
>
> Jason Robison moved the board award Partnership Technical Assistance grants as described in Attachment A to the staff report with an award date of January 22, 2020. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The board approved the motion 7-0, with Mark Labhart abstaining. (Audio = 3:51:04)

J. Director's Update (3:51:18)

J-1: Budget and Legislative Update (Audio = 3:51:50) Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided an update on the budgeting process during both the legislative 2020 short session and 2021 long session, along with a general legislative update in advance of the 2020 session.

J-2: Oregon Plan Biennial Report Update (Audio = 4:15:45) Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided the board an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2017-2019 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

J-3: Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision (Audio = 4:22:20) Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an update describing outreach progress on Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

J-4: 2019 Annual Tribal Report (Audio = 4:38:00) Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison provided an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2019 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in 2019.

K. Organization Collaboration Grant Awards (Audio = 4:55:01)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested board action on an Organization Collaboration grant application submitted during the September 2019 grant offering. Jason Robison moved that the board award the Organization Collaboration grant as described in Attachment A to the staff report with an award date of January 22, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:04:57)

L. Telling the Restoration Story (Audio = 5:05:01)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch provided an update to the board on 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering, and provided examples from the West Fork Smith River and Warner Lakes Basin.

M. Conservation Easement Management (Audio = 5:17:12)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Stewardship Director Kristi Mergenthaler presented to the board on conservation easement management from the perspective of a local land trust.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 23, 2020 Board Meeting

Jacksonville Community Center
110 E Main Street
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/_GL8zoVW7Kk

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Buckmaster, Bruce
Alan Henning
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
McComb, Brenda
Reeves, Meg

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Appel, Lisa
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Prather, Nicki
Shaff, Courtney
Tai, Leah
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Coordes, Regan
Elder, Tim
Dean, Stan
Lehman, Bill
Stephens, Jaime
Green, Vanessa
Jenkins, Brian
Payne, Jennifer
DeLoyste, Arlene
Reid, William
Gerlach, Wendy
Nichols, Clint
Beamer, Kelley
Lee, Jan

N. Public Comment (Audio = 00:00:37)

Sarah Sauter with the Rogue Basin Partnership, presented on behalf of Jackson and Josephine County weed management areas. Sarah thanked OWEB for the ongoing support and investment of the work that the organization is doing.

Vanessa Green, Executive Director with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, provided a brief comment regarding Agenda Item S and the potential change to the open solicitation grant offering cycle.

O. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Priorities-Tribal Engagement (Audio = 00:06:32)
Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho updated the board on tribal outreach conducted in order to obtain feedback on the board-adopted FIP habitat priorities.

> Jamie McLeod-Skinner move the board adopt the revised Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Priority for the FIP program as described in Attachment B to the staff report. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 00:26:58)

P. Winter Lake Project Update (Audio = 00:27:09)
Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, Oregon Department of Fish Umpqua Watershed Manager Tim Walters, The Nature Conservancy Water Program Manager Jason Nuckols, Coquille Watershed Association Executive Director Melaney Dunne, and Beaver Slough Drainage District Manager Fred Messerle provided an update on the Winter Lake Restoration project.

Q. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 1:25:01)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy requested board action on Water Acquisition grant applications received during the August 2019 grant offering.

> Jason moved the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1 in the staff report, with the contingency that since 220-9901 is a multi-season project, that there is a report back to the board on how the program worked in the first season. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. (Audio = 2:10:35)
>
> Jason Robison amended motion to separate projects in Table 1. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
>
> Jason Robison moved the board award funding for the acquisition grant 220-9901, with the contingency that since 220-9901 is a multi-season project, that there is a report back to the board on how the program worked in the first season. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:19:00)
>
> Jason Robison moved the board award funding for the acquisition grant 220-9900 as presented in Table 1 in the staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-2, with Liza Jane McAlister and Barbara Boyer voting no. (Audio = 2:19:46)

R. FIP Program Monitoring and Progress Tracking (Audio – 2:21:20)
Deputy Director Renee Davis, Conservation Outcomes Specialist Lisa Appel, Partnerships Coordinators Andrew Dutterer and Leah Tai, Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Program Manager and Bonneville Environmental Foundation Team Member Lauren Mork presented a suite of products intended to help monitor the progress of FIP initiatives.

S. Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 3:17:79)

Grant Program Coordinator Eric Williams lead a board discussion on adjusting the open solicitation grant-offering schedule from fall and spring application deadlines and grant awards to winter and summer application deadlines and grant awards.

T. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (Audio = 3:37:12)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on recent developments to OAHP, and requested action on re-appointing Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima as members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

> Randy Labbe moved the board reappoint Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:40:06)

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
April 21, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Virtual Meeting Agenda
April 21, 2020

To keep updated on OWEB's granting processes, please visit our website (www.oregon.gov/oweb) which contains a list of frequently asked questions and our most recent responses.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.
Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the April 21 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming**: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA/featured.
- **Phone:** Dial 1-669-900-6833. When prompted, enter ID number 788 784 256.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time, and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Time has not been allotted for oral public comment to be provided at the virtual meeting. However, written comments will still be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein. Written comments received by 5:00 pm on Monday, April 20 will be provided to the board for their deliberations.

A. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:25 a.m.)

The minutes of the January 22-23, 2020 meeting in Jacksonville will be presented for board approval. *Action item*.

B. Board Co-Chair Election (8:30 a.m.)

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Randy Labbe ends in April 2020. Board members will vote to elect one board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term. *Action item*.

C. Public Comment (8:35 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to review the written public comment submitted for the meeting.

D. OWEB Monitoring Grants- Administrative Rules (8:50 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will present monitoring grants administrative rule revisions 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.*

F. Board Committee Structure (10:00 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will present the new board committee structure and board membership. *Information item.*

G. Director's Update (10:20 a.m.)

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

M. Water Acquisition Grant Program- Administrative Rules (11:30 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will present administrative rule revisions for the water 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.*

N. Telling the Restoration Story (12:30 p.m.)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will provide a *written* update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering, and provide an example from Coyote Creek in the Long Tom watershed. *Information item.*

O. Board Committee Updates (12:35 p.m.)

Representatives from board subcommittees will provide *written* updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

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.

Written comments will 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 *5:00 pm on April 20, 2020* will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

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 April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special

physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack 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 – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21, Virtual
June, TBD
July 21-22, in Sisters
October 20-21, in Enterprise

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

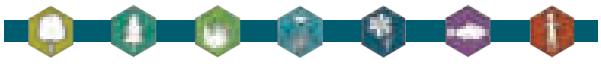
- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farms, ranches, and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement 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

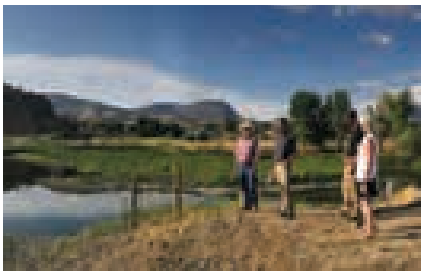


Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- 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 Jan 2020	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date	Apr 2020 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Apr 2020 awards	Other $$ Received & Awarded
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration	31.200	8.048	23.152		23.152	0.000
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	3.100	0.991	2.109		2.109	
5	CREP TA	1.163	1.163	0.000		0.000	0.450
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.245	0.755		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	0.157	6.593		6.593	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	3.150	3.150	0.000		0.000	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278	0.760	0.518		0.518	0.884
14	**TOTAL**	**54.141**	**17.514**	**36.627**	**0.000**	**36.627**	1.334
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**54.53%**					
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	0.150	0.300		0.300	0.000
29	**TOTAL**	**27.051**	**26.751**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**	0.000
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**27.25%**					
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	0.100	0.100		0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.779	0.779	0.000		0.000	0.000
36	**TOTAL**	**15.645**	**15.459**	**0.186**	**0.000**	**0.186**	0.000
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**15.76%**					
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	0.700	0.000		0.000	0.000
42	**TOTAL**	**2.450**	**2.450**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	0.000
43	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**2.47%**					
44	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**99.287**	**62.174**	**37.113**	**0.000**	**37.113**	**1.334**
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**	**111.298**	**74.185**	**37.113**	**0.000**	**37.113**	1.834

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 22, 2020 Board Meeting

Jacksonville Community Center
110 E Main Street
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Audio time stamps reference recording at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gHFkk_nNIj8&t=16688s

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
McComb, Brenda
Reeves, Meg

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Appel, Lisa
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Prather, Nicki
Shaff, Courtney
Tia, Leah
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Coordes, Regan
Lee, Jan
Knight, Kris
Harm, Audrey
Dombi, Cathy
Goode, Scott
Talbert, Kevin
Nichols, Clint
Beamer, Kelley
Mackhorter, Rob
Jones, Bob
Brandt, Tracey
O'Brien, Kevin
Mooney, Erica
Stabach, Greg
Becker, Geoff

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:15)
Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:54:25)
The minutes of the October 15-16, 2019 meeting in Condon were presented for approval.

> Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the October 15-16, 2019 meeting in Condon. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:54:55)

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 55:09)
Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates on subcommittee topics to the full board.

D. Public Comment (Audio = 1:03:36 a.m.)
Jan Lee with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Vanessa Green with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and Kelley Beamer with the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) gave the board an update on the group's combined activities. Kevin Talbert with COLT and the president of the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy welcomed the board to the region.

E. Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 1:20:20)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided a report to the board on progress made on strategic plan implementation.

F. OWEB Board Subcommittee Structure (Audio = 1:29:37)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein led the board in a discussion on a committee structure for the board. Deputy Director Renee Davis, Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams joined the discussion to provide a staff perspective. Standing committees would be for Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Water and Land Acquisitions. Ad-hoc committees would be for Climate Change; Water; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and Strategic Plan Implementation. The board co-chairs and chairs of each committee will make up an Executive Committee.

> Bruce Buckmaster moved the board adopt the committee structure as discussed today, with staff to provide details. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:17:10)

Once the structure is in place, staff will follow up asking the board for their preferences for committee membership. Based on the level of interest the board members have expressed, the co-chairs will determine final membership. Once the committees are developed, staff will work with members on logistics for each committee meeting including meeting in person verses teleconference, meeting times and frequency.

G. Land Acquisition Conveyance (Audio = 2:17:44)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board approve the transfer of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement from the Deschutes Land Trust to the McKenzie River Trust.

> Mark Labhart moved the board approve the assignment of the Rimrock Ranch conservation easement (OWEB Grant # 206-106) from Deschutes Land Trust to McKenzie River Trust, conditioned on staff and Department of Justice approval of the final form of all conveyance-related documents. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:31:38)

H. Receive Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Funding and Recaptured Funds for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance (Audio = 2:31:45)

Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy requested the board accept $200,000 from the NRCS, and add $37,771 of recaptured funds for the CREP Technical Assistance grant program.

> Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of $200,000 from the Natural Resources Conservation Service for CREP Technical Assistance, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2020. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
>
> Randy Labbe moved the board add $37,771 of recaptured funds to the CREP Technical Assistance line item of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2020. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:44:14)

I. Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Awards (Audio = 2:44:20)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff and Partnerships Coordinator Leah Tai provided an overview of the 2019 Partnership TA grant offering and requested board consider Partnership TA grant awards.

Public Comments: (Audio = 3:18:15)

Kris Knight, Director, Upper Deschutes Water Council, offered thanks to the board for offering this type of grant program.

Jamie Stephens, Science Director, Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network, Bird Observatory, discussed their partnership's proposal, although not recommended for funding. Jaimie shared thoughts on the feedback received on the proposal. The board gave suggestions on how to respond to feedback they received and apply it on their next grant proposal.

> Jason Robison moved the board add $279,000 of recaptured funds to the Partnership Technical Assistance line item of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
>
> Jason Robison moved the board award Partnership Technical Assistance grants as described in Attachment A to the staff report with an award date of January 22, 2020. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The board approved the motion 7-0, with Mark Labhart abstaining. (Audio = 3:51:04)

J. Director's Update (3:51:18)

J-1: Budget and Legislative Update (Audio = 3:51:50) Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided an update on the budgeting process during both the legislative 2020 short session and 2021 long session, along with a general legislative update in advance of the 2020 session.

J-2: Oregon Plan Biennial Report Update (Audio = 4:15:45) Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided the board an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2017-2019 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

J-3: Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision (Audio = 4:22:20) Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an update describing outreach progress on Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

J-4: 2019 Annual Tribal Report (Audio = 4:38:00) Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison provided an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2019 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in 2019.

K. Organization Collaboration Grant Awards (Audio = 4:55:01)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested board action on an Organization Collaboration grant application submitted during the September 2019 grant offering. Jason Robison moved that the board award the Organization Collaboration grant as described in Attachment A to the staff report with an award date of January 22, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:04:57)

L. Telling the Restoration Story (Audio = 5:05:01)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch provided an update to the board on 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering, and provided examples from the West Fork Smith River and Warner Lakes Basin.

M. Conservation Easement Management (Audio = 5:17:12)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Southern Oregon Land Conservancy Stewardship Director Kristi Mergenthaler presented to the board on conservation easement management from the perspective of a local land trust.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 23, 2020 Board Meeting

Jacksonville Community Center
110 E Main Street
Jacksonville, OR 97530

Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://youtu.be/_GL8zoVW7Kk

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Buckmaster, Bruce
Alan Henning
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
McComb, Brenda
Reeves, Meg

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Appel, Lisa
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Loftsgaarden, Meta
McCarthy, Jillian
Prather, Nicki
Shaff, Courtney
Tai, Leah
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Coordes, Regan
Elder, Tim
Dean, Stan
Lehman, Bill
Stephens, Jaime
Green, Vanessa
Jenkins, Brian
Payne, Jennifer
DeLoyste, Arlene
Reid, William
Gerlach, Wendy
Nichols, Clint
Beamer, Kelley
Lee, Jan

N. Public Comment (Audio = 00:00:37)

Sarah Sauter with the Rogue Basin Partnership, presented on behalf of Jackson and Josephine County weed management areas. Sarah thanked OWEB for the ongoing support and investment of the work that the organization is doing.

Vanessa Green, Executive Director with the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, provided a brief comment regarding Agenda Item S and the potential change to the open solicitation grant offering cycle.

O. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Priorities-Tribal Engagement (Audio = 00:06:32)
Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho updated the board on tribal outreach conducted in order to obtain feedback on the board-adopted FIP habitat priorities.

> Jamie McLeod-Skinner move the board adopt the revised Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Priority for the FIP program as described in Attachment B to the staff report. Jason Robison seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 00:26:58)

P. Winter Lake Project Update (Audio = 00:27:09)
Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, Oregon Department of Fish Umpqua Watershed Manager Tim Walters, The Nature Conservancy Water Program Manager Jason Nuckols, Coquille Watershed Association Executive Director Melaney Dunne, and Beaver Slough Drainage District Manager Fred Messerle provided an update on the Winter Lake Restoration project.

Q. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 1:25:01)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy requested board action on Water Acquisition grant applications received during the August 2019 grant offering.

> Jason moved the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1 in the staff report, with the contingency that since 220-9901 is a multi-season project, that there is a report back to the board on how the program worked in the first season. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. (Audio = 2:10:35)
>
> Jason Robison amended motion to separate projects in Table 1. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
>
> Jason Robison moved the board award funding for the acquisition grant 220-9901, with the contingency that since 220-9901 is a multi-season project, that there is a report back to the board on how the program worked in the first season. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 2:19:00)
>
> Jason Robison moved the board award funding for the acquisition grant 220-9900 as presented in Table 1 in the staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-2, with Liza Jane McAlister and Barbara Boyer voting no. (Audio = 2:19:46)

R. FIP Program Monitoring and Progress Tracking (Audio – 2:21:20)
Deputy Director Renee Davis, Conservation Outcomes Specialist Lisa Appel, Partnerships Coordinators Andrew Dutterer and Leah Tai, Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Program Manager and Bonneville Environmental Foundation Team Member Lauren Mork presented a suite of products intended to help monitor the progress of FIP initiatives.

S. Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 3:17:79)

Grant Program Coordinator Eric Williams lead a board discussion on adjusting the open solicitation grant-offering schedule from fall and spring application deadlines and grant awards to winter and summer application deadlines and grant awards.

T. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Update (Audio = 3:37:12)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on recent developments to OAHP, and requested action on re-appointing Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima as members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

> Randy Labbe moved the board reappoint Chad Allen and Dr. Sam Angima to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:40:06)

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item D 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
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item D – OWEB Monitoring Grant Rulemaking
April 21, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests board approval of proposed administrative rules for OWEB monitoring grants (Division 25).

II. Background

Monitoring grants are an integral OWEB grant offering, providing important resources that assist grantees in gathering data on current conditions in a watershed, evaluating the specific efforts of on-the-ground actions, or comparing similar watershed components before and after a restoration project.

At the April 2019 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for monitoring grants. A rules advisory committee (RAC) was established to assist OWEB staff in developing revisions to monitoring grants rules. A list of RAC members is found in Attachment A. The RAC convened on four occasions between August and December 2019 to discuss both important elements to be contained in proposed monitoring grants rules and draft rule language.

III. Summary of Proposed Rule Revisions

OWEB monitoring grants administrative rules were adopted in 2005 and are brief. The proposed rule revisions are substantial and are modeled on the format of other, more current OWEB administrative rules.

IV. Comment on Proposed Monitoring Grants Administrative Rules

OWEB released draft rules for comment on February 1, 2020. The public comment period was open from February 1 – March 1, 2020 with a public hearing in Salem on February 27th. A summary of the comments, and OWEB staff response, are provided in Attachment B. The four written comments that were received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment C. There was one attendee, who also submitted written comment, at the public hearing. Written comments were discussed at that time.

OWEB solicited tribal comments from the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe on the draft rules amendments on February 3, 2020. No tribal comments were received.

The rules are provided as Attachments D-1 and D-2 to the staff report. During the board meeting, staff will walk through changes with the board. At the 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.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the monitoring grant administrative rules found in Attachment D.

Attachments

A. Rules Advisory Committee Members
B. Staff Summary and Response to Public Comments
C. Public Comments
D-1. Proposed Monitoring Grants Rules – Redline
D-2. Proposed Monitoring Grants Rules - Clean

2019-2020 Monitoring Rules Advisory Committee

Name	Affiliation
Ellen Hammond	Oregon Dept. of Agriculture
Jamie Anthony	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Rachel Lovellford	Oregon Water Resources Department
Sandy Lyon	Partnership for Umpqua Rivers
Joe Carnes	Partnership for Umpqua Rivers
York Johnson	Tillamook Estuary Partnership/Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Ryan Bessette	Wasco SWCD
Angela Sitz	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pat McDowell	University of Oregon
Amy Charette	Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
Jonas Parker	Bureau of Land Management
Stan Van Der Wetering	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
Brandon Overstreet	U.S. Geologic Survey

OWEB Board ex-officio members

Alan Henning
Molly Kile

OWEB Staff

Renee Davis
Ken Fetcho
Eric Hartstein

Rules: 695-025-0080, Purpose

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kristen Larson, Executive Director, Luckiamute Watershed Council	Suggested edits to align rule language more closely with language in statute.	The suggested language has been incorporated into the draft rule.	Yes
Kelly Timchak, Board President, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils	Suggested edits to align rule language more closely with language in statute.	See response to Kristen Larson.	Yes

Rule: 695-025-0100, Eligibility

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kelly Timchak, Board President, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils	Concerned about research projects being ineligible for monitoring grants, suggests allowing research activities that directly benefit restoration projects.	OWEB agrees that monitoring projects that lead to restoration projects are eligible for grant funding. OWEB has clarified language in the draft rule on the types of activities that are ineligible for grant funding. OWEB would also like to note that draft rule language contains the qualifier of "sole purpose" for the certain activities that would lead to a determination that a project is ineligible for grant funding.	Yes
Guy Sievert	Concerned about research projects being ineligible for monitoring grants, suggests allowing research activities that directly benefit restoration projects.	See response to Kelly Timchak.	Yes

Rule: General Comments

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
James Peterson	Promoted extending mandatory riparian buffers beyond land regulated under Forest Practices Act. Encouraged returning beaver to the landscape in areas where they may provide natural benefits to the ecosystem.	OWEB appreciates the benefits of riparian buffers and beaver, and through its grant programs have provided funding for voluntary efforts to protect and restore riparian and floodplain areas across Oregon. As a grant-making agency, OWEB does not regulate riparian buffer establishment or beaver reintroduction.	No

Luckiamute Watershed Council

Board of Directors

Wendy Hudson, President
Monmouth

Karin Stutzman, Secretary
Monmouth

George Grosch, Treasurer
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Kathy Farnworth
Monmouth

Dave Ehlers
Kings Valley/Hoskins

Dan Farnworth
Monmouth

Staff

Kristen Larson
Executive Director

Suzanne Teller
Outreach Coordinator

Caleb Price
Monitoring Coordinator

Project Manager

Jean-Paul Zagarola
Bonneville Environmental Foundation

March 2, 2020

Dear Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Staff and Board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed revisions to OWEB Monitoring Grants rules. I appreciate the efforts of OWEB's Board, staff, and rules advisory committee members to review and update the rules.

I have proposed specific revisions to the draft language and a rationale for the proposed revision.

695-025-0080
Purpose
Suggested revisions:
In accordance with Section 4b.(2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose monitoring activities necessary for carrying out ~~eligible restoration or acquisition~~ projects that either protect of restore native fish or wildlife habitat, or protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve ~~natural functions,~~ water quality~~,~~ or stream flows.

Rationale
The intent of my proposed revision to the draft Purpose statement is to more accurately reflect the language voted on in Measure 76 and included in ORS 541.956. The current draft purpose statement paraphrases the statute but in doing so, appears to eliminate language around projects that protect native fish and wildlife habitats or protect natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

My concern is the current draft language is creating a system in which eligible actions are all geared towards the new and next restoration or acquisition project. While much work remains to be done for our native fish and wildlife habitats and watershed and ecosystem functions, I am concerned about a grant-making structure that operates only in service of creating a new restoration or acquisition project.

With OWEB recently celebrating 20 years of grant-making and with many years of investments ahead, I think it's worth considering and allowing for monitoring activities that collect data to inform grantees and stakeholders that the positive results of previous investments are being maintained. In some cases, this can be via effectiveness monitoring efforts, but there are other examples of potential monitoring work that may not be considered effectiveness monitoring.

For example, a local watershed council may seek to monitor streams in the upper portion of its watershed to collect data regarding water quality. Water quality may already be in good condition either because the ecosystem is intact or because of historical efforts. The watershed council seeks to protect this quality and maintain its good condition. There is very clear language in Measure 76 that the natural resources fund is intended to accomplish things such as maintaining habitats needed to sustain healthy and resilient populations of native fish and wildlife and maintaining the diversity of Oregon's plants, animals, and ecosystems.

Continuing with my example, if the monitoring data suggest a problem, the watershed council may engage local landowners about potential sources for the problem and best management practices to address sources. The intent may or may not be to pursue restoration actions to help resolve the source of the issue; it may be to ensure intact areas remain intact or to support dialogue and engagement with landowners and stakeholders. I am concerned that a project like this may not be considered eligible under the current draft rules or that a grantee may read the rules and elect not to pursue this work based on an interpretation that the project is not eligible.

Based on conversations with current OWEB staff members, the indication is that the rules are intended to be inclusive. In discussion, staff felt that activities that I perceived as potentially ineligible upon reading the rules would likely be eligible. This points to potential confusion from grantees and applicants and a need for clear guidance from OWEB. The guidance can help ensure that grantees don't read the rules, and as I did, incorrectly interpret them to mean that important work is no longer eligible. Also, staff and board members change over time. Even more important is having clear rules and guidance so that interpretation does not change as personnel change. I am concerned about unintended consequences that future staff, board members, and applicants will not be aware of to the conversations of today and will interpret these statements in the restrictive manner that I did when I first read them.

The Oregon Plan, Oregon Conservation Strategy, and other recovery plans consistently point to protecting functioning and intact habitats as effective and cost-effective strategies for meeting stated goals. With existing areas of intact habitats - that may not need restoration but are worth protecting - and OWEB's ever-growing legacy of investments, I encourage the Board to consider revisions to the rules so that they do not eliminate or potentially eliminate valuable monitoring activities.

In 2010, the voters overwhelmingly approved Measure 76. The ballot measure was described in the voter pamphlet as "amends constitution: continues lottery funding for parks, beaches, wildlife habitat, watershed protection beyond 2014." Ensuring monitoring activities in support of watershed protection remain eligible is in line with what the voters approved. These activities will be increasingly important as the portfolio of restoration work continues to grow and as we face challenges such as climate change that will impact our ecosystems in various ways.

Thank you,



Kristen Larson
Executive Director,
Luckiamute Watershed Council

NETWORK of OREGON
WATERSHED COUNCILS

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE
Salem, OR 97301-1290

RE: Comments on OWEB Monitoring Grants Rules
March 2, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Staff and Board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed revisions to OWEB Monitoring Grants rules. We appreciate the efforts of OWEB's Board, staff, and rules advisory committee members. We have proposed specific revisions to the draft language and a rationale for the proposed revision.

695-025-0080
Purpose
Suggested revisions (highlighted in yellow):
In accordance with Section 4b, (2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose monitoring activities necessary for carrying out ~~eligible restoration or acquisition~~ projects that either protect or restore native fish or wildlife, or ~~habitat, or~~ protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve ~~natural functions,~~ water quality; or stream flows.

Rationale:
The intent of our proposed revision to the draft Purpose statement is to more accurately reflect the language voted on in Measure 76 and included in ORS 541.956. The current draft purpose statement paraphrases the statute but in doing so, appears to eliminate language around projects that protect native fish and wildlife habitats or protect natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

Our concern is the current draft language is creating a system in which eligible actions are all geared towards the new and next restoration or acquisition project. While much work remains to be done for our native fish and wildlife habitats and watershed and ecosystem functions, I am concerned about a grant-making structure that operates only in service of creating a new restoration or acquisition project.

There is very clear language in Measure 76 that the natural resources fund is intended to accomplish things such as maintaining habitats needed to sustain healthy and resilient populations of native fish and wildlife and maintaining the diversity of Oregon's plants, animals,

and ecosystems. Please remember that staff and board members change over time. Even more important is clear rules and guidance so that interpretation does not change as personnel change.

The Oregon Plan, Oregon Conservation Strategy, and other recovery plans consistently point to protecting functioning and intact habitats as effective and cost-effective strategies for meeting stated goals. With existing areas of intact habitats - that may not need restoration but are worth protecting - and OWEB's ever-growing legacy of investments, we encourage the Board to consider revisions to the rules so that they do not potentially eliminate valuable monitoring activities. These activities will be increasingly important as the range of restoration work continues to grow and as we face challenges such as climate change that will impact our ecosystems in various ways.

Additionally, in concern to "applied science"
Watershed Councils have benefited from long-term monitoring studies done to either prove or disprove theories about such things as salmon life histories, the role of large woody debris in creating in-stream habitat, the value of estuaries for salmon. Research is critical to our function, and testing theories and new applications is essential to efficient and effective restoration projects. For example, the results of these studies have certainly changed local perspective on the value of estuaries for salmon (let alone the actual science).

Our suggestion would be to limit OWEB support for research activities to those that directly benefit watershed restoration projects. The language could be more outcome-based to make the distinction between funding research just for the sake of research, and research that directly benefits watershed councils in a way that ensures OWEB restoration dollars are being spent wisely, and with a scientific basis for the important work that councils do.

Respectfully,

Kelly Timchak
Board President, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

From: Guy Sievert <gsievert@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2020 9:25 AM
To: DAVIS Renee * OWEB <Renee.Davis@oregon.gov>
Cc: Jon Souder <jon.souder@oregonstate.edu>; Kelly Timchak <kelly@currywatersheds.org>; Vanessa Green <ed@oregonwatersheds.org>; Kristen Larson <director@luckiamutelwc.org>; Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council <nnwc@nestuccawaters.org>
Subject: Comment on Monitoring Grant rules

Hi Renee,

As you may know I am a member of the NOWC board and have been following the concerns over criteria changes in the Water Quality Monitoring grant program. Kristen Larsen has kept us up to date on her discussions with staff and recent meeting with you, Eric and others.

Kristen is submitting comments from her Council and I believe the NOWC will as well. I know time is short so I decided to email you my thoughts today rather than scramble to get a letter out while I'm on the road.

I fully support Kristen's recommended changes as will be detailed in a letter OWEB will receive today. I have one additional concern about the criteria and that is what seems to me an across the board ban on research. The concern about "testing theories" and "experimental applications" as noted in Kristen's notes from her OwEB meeting appears to be too broad in scope. Watershed Councils have benefited from long term monitoring studies done to either prove or disprove theories about such things as salmon life histories, the role of large woody debris in creating in-stream habitat, the value of estuaries for salmon. Research is critical to our function and testing theories and new applications is essential to an efficient and effective restoration projects.

My suggestion; limit support for research activities to those that directly benefit watershed councils restoration projects. Make it outcome based rather than a blanket ban. I'm sure OWEB staff can word this in a way that can get at your concerns about funding research just for the sake of research and research that benefits watershed councils in a way that ensures OWEB restoration funds are being spent wisely and with a scientific basis for what we do.

These comments above are mine alone and should not be considered coming from the NOWC nor my own watershed council board. If you have any questions about my concerns I will be mostly available by phone today. Thanks in advance for considering this.

Guy

Guy Sievert
President

Nestucca, Neskowin, Sand Lake Watersheds Council
503.866.4489



From:	James Peterson
To:	HARTSTEIN Eric * OWEB
Cc:	Commentsonfreshwatersystem@aol.com
Subject:	Comments on OWEB Rules
Date:	Tuesday, February 04, 2020 9:56:16 AM
Attachments:	Tempatures around Triangle Lake.odt

Comments; I have been doing Temperature Study's on Lake Creek that feeds into Triangle Lake. What I think I have found is a dramatic difference between water that is protected by the Forestry Buffer Strips and those that are not. The difference has to do with temperature and that has to do with fisheries health but goes much farther when it comes to a general cooling of the fresh water system in this state. Below are my comments and a copy of last years temperature study.

8/12/19

The forest industry, including private forestry, small woodland owners and small forestry land owners have given untold thousands of acres of productive land to the State of Oregon in the form of Buffer Strips. The filtration of these strips is high including erosive forces but also fertilizers and herbicides. But also we find very cool waters under these canopies of photosynthesis shade. They also form a strong layer of small brush, grasses and ferns witch build a strong humus layer and the associated insect life is very good for the fisheries. In a way the Forest industry with it's buffer strips, is and for the past 40 years, has been the tip of the spear when it comes to Warming.

I do not think that making the Buffer Strip system, as presently practices by the Forest Industry, larger, is the most appropriate way to handle the problem of warming or waters. We are looking straight at the elephant in the room and not seeing the answer. Most of the waters in this State do not have buffer strips. Everything except the forestry is voluntary. I suggest that you extend the Forestry Buffer Strip system. There are very powerful forces that say no, but I think that the political will to improve the States fisheries is much stronger, and for sure it is time for the rest of the State to shoulder the load. They have done very little while the Stated foresters have done a great deal.

The land use laws have to be changed in order that farmers and grazers will be in a position to do their share with the improvement of our fisheries. I think the most important thing we must do is extend the system of forestry buffer strips on to their lands. As forestry uses mostly Red Alder for it's primary tree the shade over the creeks can be established very quickly, probably in as little as 10 years. But establishing shade over the waters is only the beginning for improving fisheries. We must discourage grazing and fecal bacteria in the buffer zones. If we go this route and allow the zones to establish small brush, grasses and ferns and it's associated layer of hums then we also will establish strong insect life which will be good for fisheries. But the only way this will happen is if the new Buffer Strips are fenced.

10/10/19

I do not want to alienate the Oregon Farm Bureau or the grazers but fair is fair. If we are going to impact the fisheries in a good way then we must pull our fair share of the load. I have data from a relatively cool summer that shows water above 80 degrees F Just 4 miles down stream (Lake Creek) from the forestry buffer area's that had temperatures in the high 50 degrees F. I am a retired forest contractor, living on Social Security, So this is all I can afford. Good Luck.

11/06/2019

There are two keystone forest species that no one talks about. Beaver and salmon. The salmon, in historical numbers, were the protean infrastructure for the forest. I mean everybody made a living of salmon, alive or dead. The salmon would not be possible without beaver dams and their associated biology. They also store water in the summer and are good for trout as well as salmon rearing. As I came down 10 mile ck to day it occurred to me that the forest was fine but the creek was a wasteland. No beaver. They have been trapped unmercifully because they build,

build, build. During the old days they were trapped because of their fir, Many, many Beaver were taken and I suggest that the lack of Beaver damns was the beginning of the decline of Salmon in historical numbers. This must have had great effect on the forest animals but it happened gradually and nobody noticed. Much the same as over fishing in the Ocean has caused the different fish species size to decline since the 1950's. I fished on my grandfathers boat in the 1950's and fish size has declined greatly since then.

I know that Beaver is a real problem to Foresters and those who live farm and graze in the creeks where they would otherwise be. Beaver love culverts and consequently the roads become libel to destruction. I thought that maybe we could adjust their genome, probably in their smelling to do what we wanted. We could genetically engineer the animals to have a bad smell around culverts and homesteads and have a good smell in areas where we want Beaver Damns which the Salmon and Trout would love. Suddenly the Beaver would be our helper and the good part is that the genetic engineering would pass to their offspring. Could do a lot of good if you really think about it. The Beaver is a satiable builder. They would be a tremendous pardner and their very existence would no longer be a negative.

STATION	DATE	WATER	AIR	TIME
I went to a bridge 2 miles above Horton across Lake Creek. (LC-1) (In forestry zone)				
LC-1	JULY 4-19	51F	73 F	3:30 PM
LC-1	JULY 5-19	51 F	63 F	11:10 AM
LC-1	JULY 20-19	54.8 F	74 F	2:13 PM
LC-1	AUG 3-19	58.7 F	75.5 F	1:22 PM
LC-1	AUG 18-19	57.2 F	72 F	2:07 PM
LC-1	AUG 31-19	54.6 F	57.2 F	10:12 AM
LC-1	OCT 13-19	47.3 F	53 F	11:19 AM
I went to a bridge very close to HWY 38, about 2.5 miles South of Horton (LC-2)				
LC-2	JULY 5-19	60.6F	64 F	11:38 AM
LC-2	JULY 20-19	63 F	74 F	2:55 PM
LC-2	AUG 3-19	69.8 F	78.8 F	1:47 PM
LC-2	AUG 18-19	66.2 F	74.5 F	2:23 PM
LC-2	AUG 31-19	62.4 F	61.2 F	10:20 AM
LC-2	OCT 13-19	47.3 F	54 F	12:05 PM
I went to a bridge that is located a half mile from the lake. First bridge on Smuch Ck Rd (LC-3)				
LC-3	JULY 20-19	64.3 F	75.2 F	3:09 PM
LC-3	AUG 3-19	71.5 F	79 F	1:55 PM
LC-3	AUG 18-19	69.2 F	74.8 F	2:31 PM
LC-3	AUG 31-19	65.2 F	61.2 F	10:40 AM
LC-3	OCT 13-19	45.3 F	53.4 F	12:13 PM
I went to the outlet of Triangle lake on a bridge near the old boat landing (LC-4)				
LC-4	JULY 4-19	71 F	77 F	2:15 PM
LC-4	JULY 20-19	73.8 F	76.9 F	3:25 PM
LC-4	AUG 3-19	84 F	77 F	2:10 PM
LC-4	AUG 18-19	75.5 F	76 F	2:47 PM
LC-4	AUG 31-19	71.8 F	64.6 F	10:55 AM
LC-4	OCT 13-19	56.8 F	54.8 F	12:32 PM
I went to Lake Creek at the bridge at the end of Fish Ck road (LC-5)				
SITE	DATE	WET FDRY F		TIME
LC-5	JULY 4-19	68.8 F	76 F	1:50 PM
LC-5	JULY 20-19	74.8 F	75 F	3:35 PM
LC-5	AUG 3-19	74 F	81.8 F	2:20 PM
LC-5	AUG 3-19	69.2 F	75.8 F	2:54 PM
LC-5	AUG 31-19	64.2 F	64 F	11:02 AM
LC-5	OCT 13-19	56.6 F	56.2 F	12:37 PM
I went about a tenth of a mile up Fish Creek and found a bridge (LC-6) (In forestry zone)				
LC-6	JULY 4-19	58.6 F	76 F	1:58 PM
LC-6	JULY 20-19	68.4 F	72 F	3:41 PM
LC-6	AUG 3-19	66.2 F	82 F	2:20 PM
LC-6	AUG 18-19	62.2 F	78 F	2:56 PM

LC-6	AUG 31-19	56.8 F	63.8 F	11:05 AM
LC-6	OCT 13-19	49.2 F	54 F	12:45 PM

Chapter 695

Division 25
MONITORING GRANTS

~~**695-025-0090**~~

~~**Definitions**~~

~~"Watershed Monitoring Project" means a project that identifies conditions in the watershed. It may be for the purpose of gathering baseline data on current conditions, for evaluation of the specific effects of management actions, or for comparing similar watershed components before and after a project.~~

~~Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906~~

~~Statutes/ Other Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969~~

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

695-025-~~0120~~0080
Purpose

~~**Application Requirements**~~

~~Applicants must demonstrate conformance with the following provisions:~~

~~(1) Demonstrate knowledge of state and/or federally accepted monitoring protocols;~~
~~(2) Provide assurance that an appropriate protocol will be used; and~~
~~(3) Acknowledge that the results will be available to a state database.~~

In accordance with Section 4b.(2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose monitoring activities necessary for carrying out projects that either protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats, or protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or stream flows. This division supplements the OWEB Grant Program rules under OAR 695-005, and provides specific requirements for the OWEB monitoring grant program. In the event of any conflict between these requirements and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the monitoring grants requirements in this division will take precedence.

Statutory/Other Authority~~:~~: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-025-0090

Definitions

(1) “Adaptive management/adaptively manage” means a systematic process for continually improving by learning from ongoing experience. The process is commonly depicted as an iterative cycle of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting.
(2) “Delegated to the Director” means the grant funds that the Board has authorized to the Director to award and enter into appropriate agreements.
(3) “Limiting factors” means physical, biological, or chemical conditions that reduce population of a species.
(4) “Monitoring question” means the question(s) that the applicant aims to answer by implementing the project as proposed in the application.
(5) “Professionally accepted” means methodologies or techniques that have been vetted by experts in the field in which the applicant is seeking monitoring funds.
(6) “Publicly available” means any member of the public can easily and reasonably access information.
(7) “Technical Review Team” means a team of designated personnel with relevant knowledge convened to evaluate grant applications, which includes established regional review teams as described in OAR 695-005-0020(4).
(8) “Watershed processes” means the physical and chemical interactions that form and maintain the landscape at the scale of a drainage basin. They can be broken down into specific functions and characteristics, including: soil processes and erosion, nutrient cycling, pollution transport, riparian habitat and stream buffers, stream morphology and channel characteristics, hydrology, and water quality.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890 – 541.969
History: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-025-0100

~~**695-025-0140**~~

~~**Evaluation Criteria**~~

~~Watershed Monitoring projects will be funded on the basis of the extent to which they:~~

~~Are developed in the context of the entire~~
Eligibility

In accordance with ORS 541.956(4), the Board will only consider grant applications that:

~~(1)~~ Describe current watershed~~;~~

(1) ~~Follow appropriate protocols developed~~ conditions by ~~the Board;~~gathering and analyzing data, and making monitoring results publicly available;

~~(2) Use the information to implement or direct projects to enhance or sustain the health of watersheds.~~

(2) Establish trends about watershed conditions by gathering and analyzing data, and making monitoring results publicly available; or

(3) Evaluate the specific effects of a restoration or acquisition project or program by comparing similar watershed components before and after implementation of a restoration or acquistion project or program, and making monitoring results publicly available.

Projects that will not inform the development of restoration or acquisition projects or programs and have the sole purpose of theory testing, evaluation of experimental designs, or the production of generalizable knowledge, are ineligible.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

695-025-0140
Evaluation Criteria

Monitoring grant applications will be evaluated on the following criteria and to the extent to which the proposed project clearly addresses:

(1) The need, relevance, applicability, and timeliness of the proposed monitoring project to inform future planning, implementation or adaptive management of restoration or acquisition projects;

(2) Monitoring or information needs related to limiting factors, habitat conditions, watershed processes or actions described in federal, tribal, regional, state, or local plans or assessments, or that would inform development of a federal, tribal, regional, state, or local plan or assessment;

(3) Existing data or current or planned monitoring efforts that this project will complement;

(4) The monitoring questions and how the proposed monitoring methods and activities (including study design, data collection and management, and analysis procedures) will answer these questions;

(5) Professionally accepted monitoring and analysis protocols, including quality assurance / quality control procedures to be utilized;

(6) Proposed costs that are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives;

(7) The organizational capacity of the applicant as it relates to past experience and successful implementation of monitoring projects, relative to the proposed monitoring activities;

(8) The qualifications, ability, and performance history of the technical staff of the applicant, consultants to be retained, or project partners to apply appropriate monitoring approaches and the proposed data collection and analysis methods in a manner that will successfully complete the monitoring activities;

(9) How the appropriate technical experts and community stakeholders are engaged; and

(10) The process by which data and results will be stored, reported, and made publicly available.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0150
Technical Review Process

(1) For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) A statewide team with monitoring expertise from natural resource agencies will be convened to review monitoring grant applications using the following process:

(A) Prior to meeting, the statewide team shall receive each application, past evaluations for resubmitted projects and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-025-0140 to complete for each application; and

(B) The statewide team will evaluate each application individually based on the information provided and in accordance with criteria in OAR 695-025-0140.

(b) A technical review team will be convened to review monitoring grant applications.

(c) Prior to the technical review team meeting, the technical review team shall receive each application, past evaluations for resubmitted projects, the feedback from the statewide team and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-025-0140 to complete for each application;

(d) At the technical review team meeting, the technical review team shall:

(A) Review and evaluate each application individually based on the statewide team's feedback and how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-025-0140;

(B) Recommend each project as:

(i) Fund;

(ii) Fund with conditions;

(iii) Do not fund; or

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

(C) Rank order of projects recommended for funding based on how well the project meet the criteria established in OAR 695-025-0140.

(e) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be provided from the technical review team to staff for their consideration. This information will be provided to all applicants and to the Board.

(2) For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that have been delegated to the Director:

(a) A statewide team with monitoring expertise from natural resource agencies may be convened to review monitoring grant applications using the following process:

(A) Prior to meeting, the statewide team shall receive each application, past evaluations for resubmitted projects , and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-025-0140 to complete for each application; and

(B) The statewide team will evaluate each application individually based on the information provided and in accordance with criteria in OAR 695-025-0140.

(b) A technical review team will be convened to review monitoring grant applications and evaluate each application individually based on any statewide team feedback and how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-025-0140; this information will be provided to the applicants and the Director.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0160
Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

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

(b) Applicants may provide written comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision or oral comment to the Board during the meeting at which the Board decision will be made.

(2) For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that have been delegated to the Director, staff shall review the recommendations from each technical review team and make a funding recommendation to the Director based on available resources for the grant offering and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation shall be provided to the applicants.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0170
Funding Decision

For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board or Director to make a funding decision:

(1) A project may be funded in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0180

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board or the Director, 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, the proposed activity is within the same geographic area, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(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.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0190~~**History: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05**~~

Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 25 for individual grant applications unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's monitoring grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. The administrative rules for monitoring grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

Chapter 695

Division 25
MONITORING GRANTS

695-025-0080
Purpose

In accordance with Section 4b.(2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose monitoring activities necessary for carrying out projects that either protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats, or protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or stream flows. This division supplements the OWEB Grant Program rules under OAR 695-005, and provides specific requirements for the OWEB monitoring grant program. In the event of any conflict between these requirements and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the monitoring grants requirements in this division will take precedence.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-025-0090
Definitions

(1) "Adaptive management/adaptively manage" means a systematic process for continually improving by learning from ongoing experience. The process is commonly depicted as an iterative cycle of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and adjusting.

(2) "Delegated to the Director" means the grant funds that the Board has authorized to the Director to award and enter into appropriate agreements.

(3) "Limiting factors" means physical, biological, or chemical conditions that reduce population of a species.

(4) "Monitoring question" means the question(s) that the applicant aims to answer by implementing the project as proposed in the application.

(5) "Professionally accepted" means methodologies or techniques that have been vetted by experts in the field in which the applicant is seeking monitoring funds.

(6) "Publicly available" means any member of the public can easily and reasonably access information.

(7) "Technical Review Team" means a team of designated personnel with relevant knowledge convened to evaluate grant applications, which includes established regional review teams as described in OAR 695-005-0020(4).

(8) "Watershed processes" means the physical and chemical interactions that form and maintain the landscape at the scale of a drainage basin. They can be broken down into specific functions and characteristics, including: soil processes and erosion, nutrient cycling, pollution transport, riparian habitat and stream buffers, stream morphology and channel characteristics, hydrology, and water quality.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-025-0100
Eligibility

In accordance with ORS 541.956(4), the Board will only consider grant applications that:

(1) Describe current watershed conditions by gathering and analyzing data, and making monitoring results publicly available;

(2) Establish trends about watershed conditions by gathering and analyzing data, and making monitoring results publicly available; or

(3) Evaluate the specific effects of a restoration or acquisition project or program by comparing similar watershed components before and after implementation of a restoration or acquistion project or program, and making monitoring results publicly available.

Projects that will not inform the development of restoration or acquisition projects or programs and have the sole purpose of theory testing, evaluation of experimental designs, or the production of generalizable knowledge, are ineligible.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0140
Evaluation Criteria

Monitoring grant applications will be evaluated on the following criteria and to the extent to which the proposed project clearly addresses:

(1) The need, relevance, applicability, and timeliness of the proposed monitoring project to inform future planning, implementation or adaptive management of restoration or acquisition projects;

(2) Monitoring or information needs related to limiting factors, habitat conditions, watershed processes or actions described in federal, tribal, regional, state, or local plans

or assessments, or that would inform development of a federal, tribal, regional, state, or local plan or assessment;

(3) Existing data or current or planned monitoring efforts that this project will complement;

(4) The monitoring questions and how the proposed monitoring methods and activities (including study design, data collection and management, and analysis procedures) will answer these questions;

(5) Professionally accepted monitoring and analysis protocols, including quality assurance / quality control procedures to be utilized;

(6) Proposed costs that are appropriate for the work necessary to accomplish the objectives;

(7) The organizational capacity of the applicant as it relates to past experience and successful implementation of monitoring projects, relative to the proposed monitoring activities;

(8) The qualifications, ability, and performance history of the technical staff of the applicant, consultants to be retained, or project partners to apply appropriate monitoring approaches and the proposed data collection and analysis methods in a manner that will successfully complete the monitoring activities;

(9) How the appropriate technical experts and community stakeholders are engaged; and

(10) The process by which data and results will be stored, reported, and made publicly available.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0150

Technical Review Process

(1) For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) A statewide team with monitoring expertise from natural resource agencies will be convened to review monitoring grant applications using the following process:

(A) Prior to meeting, the statewide team shall receive each application, past evaluations for resubmitted projects and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-025-0140 to complete for each application; and

(B) The statewide team will evaluate each application individually based on the information provided and in accordance with criteria in OAR 695-025-0140.

(b) A technical review team will be convened to review monitoring grant applications.

(c) Prior to the technical review team meeting, the technical review team shall receive each application, past evaluations for resubmitted projects, the feedback from the statewide team and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-025-0140 to complete for each application;

(d) At the technical review team meeting, the technical review team shall:

(A) Review and evaluate each application individually based on the statewide team's feedback and how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-025-0140;

(B) Recommend each project as:

(i) Fund;

(ii) Fund with conditions;

(iii) Do not fund; or

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

(C) Rank order of projects recommended for funding based on how well the project meet the criteria established in OAR 695-025-0140.

(e) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be provided from the technical review team to staff for their consideration. This information will be provided to all applicants and to the Board.

(2) For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that have been delegated to the Director:

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(A) Prior to meeting, the statewide team shall receive each application, past evaluations for resubmitted projects , and an evaluation sheet that references criteria as described in OAR 695-025-0140 to complete for each application; and

(B) The statewide team will evaluate each application individually based on the information provided and in accordance with criteria in OAR 695-025-0140.

(b) A technical review team will be convened to review monitoring grant applications and evaluate each application individually based on any statewide team feedback and how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-025-0140; this information will be provided to the applicants and the Director.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0160
Staff Funding Recommendation Process

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

(b) Applicants may provide written comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision or oral comment to the Board during the meeting at which the Board decision will be made.

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Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0170
Funding Decision

For monitoring grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board or Director to make a funding decision:

(1) A project may be funded in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0180
Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board or the Director, 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, the proposed activity is within the same geographic area, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(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.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

695-025-0190
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 25 for individual grant applications unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's monitoring grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. The administrative rules for monitoring grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969

including those funded at the beginning of the 2021-23 biennium, will develop their own progress monitoring framework based on the theory of change as part of their Strategic Action Plan.

III. Next Steps

OWEB staff has initiated communications with the five FIP initiatives awarded this biennium to discuss their monitoring plans and approaches and to begin identification of top priority monitoring gaps. If the board awards funding, FIP partnerships will complete grant applications proposing work to address these priorities. The applications will be reviewed by a team involving OWEB and BEF staff, along one or more members of the respective FIP technical review teams and, as needed, others with relevant expertise. The review process will ensure that the proposed actions fill gaps in a way that increases the FIP initiative's ability to quantify its progress toward both implementation outputs and ecological outcomes.

Staff request that—for the purposes of enabling the five FIPs to initiate their monitoring requests to OWEB expeditiously and effectively address monitoring gaps—the award $300,000 in funding at the April 2020 board meeting. The remainder of the funding for the FIP supplemental monitoring work will be requested in July 2020, as was anticipated when the board developing the 2019-21 spending plan

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends the board award $300,000 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item to initiate grants to fill priority gaps for FIP initiatives, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of April 21, 2020.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item F supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F– OWEB Board Committee Structure
April 21, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an update on the final structure and membership of the revised board committees.

II. Background

At the July 2019 meeting, the board initiated a process to refresh committees, which to that point had largely been organized around OWEB's grant programs. At the July meeting, the board reflected on their experience with OWEB committees, involvement with committees on other boards and commissions, and topics of interest to incorporate into a revised committee structure.

At the October 2019 meeting, the board agreed to move forward with Focused Investments, Acquisitions, Monitoring, and Executive committees. The board also had robust discussion around the topics of climate change; water; strategic plan implementation; and diversity, equity, and inclusion. They requested additional conversations on these topics before the January 2020 board meeting, where they would finalize a committee structure.

In December, board members participated on phone calls, each organized around a specific topic identified for further discussion. On each call, board members discussed why the topic was of interest to them, why it should be elevated at the board level, and a recommendation for the board to consider in evaluating a committee structure.

At the January 2020 meeting, the board approved a committee structure with both standing and ad hoc committees (Attachment A). The approved committees are as follows:

A. Standing Committees (generally meets via teleconference, but may meet in person)

Focused Investment- Focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP), and other OWEB grant programs with a similar mandate. Generally meets quarterly, with more frequent meetings once per biennium associated with the FIP grant offering.

Acquisitions- Focuses on issues related to OWEB's land and water acquisition grant programs, including applications and policy reviews. Meets three times per year, with two meetings associated with land and water acquisition application reviews, and one meeting to discuss policy.

Monitoring- Oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring, including quantifying conservation outputs and outcomes, FIP monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments. Generally meets quarterly.

Executive- Composed of the board co-chairs and the chair of each subcommittee to discuss OWEB policy, program, and budget issues. Generally will meet three times per year.

B. Ad-Hoc Committees (generally meets in person in association with quarterly board meetings)

Climate- Identifies ways to incorporate climate change into OWEB's grant programs. Initial areas of focus include identifying approaches to help disseminate climate science to partners, identifying climate-related gaps in information that partners need to better understand how climate change could impact projects, and bringing that information to the scientific community, and inviting expert review of OWEB's granting through the lens of climate action and justice.

Water- Organized around Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, including strategic alignment with OWEB grants, funding coordination with other agencies, and coordinated data and information.

Strategic Plan- Focuses on gaps identified in strategic plan implementation that do not easily fit within the charge of the Executive Committee. Initially tasked with developing a high-level template measuring how OWEB's projects are advancing the strategic plan.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion- Provides board leadership on diversity, equity, and inclusion. Assists staff in organizing a focused training for all board members. Within a short timeframe, work of the committee will be transferred to the Executive Committee to incorporate values into OWEB's grant making and agency culture.

III. Committee Membership

Following the January 2020 board meeting, staff polled board members for their preferences in committee membership. The board co-chairs and staff received these preferences and assigned membership to the committees (Attachment B). All committee members received their first and second priority selections, and chairs were selected from those volunteering to serve in that capacity. Given the strong interest in membership on policy committees, (water, climate, focused investments, monitoring), staff recommend a follow-up conversation with the board around administrative committees (strategic plan; diversity, equity, and inclusion) and how they may fit within the Executive Committee function, with initial kick-off conversations that include more board members. Staff will present options for committee meetings for all topics at the April board meeting.

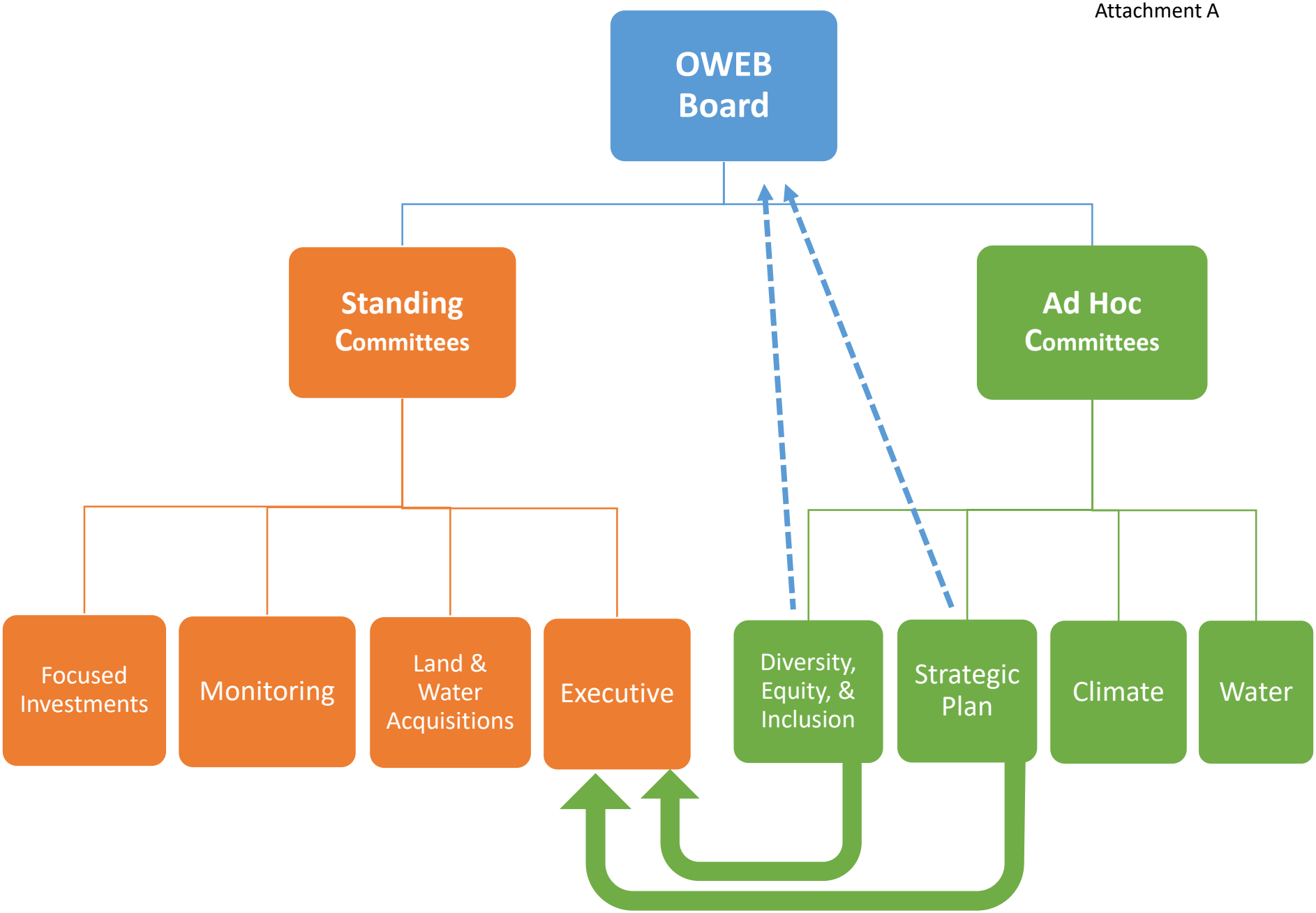
IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. Board Committee Structure
B. Committee Membership

Attachment A



OWEB Board Committee Membership

Focused Investment Committee

Tony Selle, Chair	Bureau of Land Management
Bruce Buckmaster	Public at large
Randy Labbe	Public at large
Mark Labhart	OR Fish and Wildlife Commission
Gary Marshall	Public at large

Land and Water Acquisition Committee

Meg Reeves, Chair	OR Water Resources Commission
Barbara Boyer	OR Board of Agriculture
Randy Labbe	Public at large
Mark Labhart	OR Fish and Wildlife Commission

Monitoring Committee

Alan Henning, Chair	U.S Environmental Protection Agency
Stephen Brandt	Oregon State University Extension Service
Molly Kile	OR Environmental Quality Commission
Brenda McComb	OR Board of Forestry

Climate Committee

Bruce Buckmaster, Chair	Public at large
Stephen Brandt	Oregon State University Extension Service
Alan Henning	U.S Environmental Protection Agency
Paul Henson	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Brenda McComb	OR Board of Forestry
Jamie McLeod-Skinner	Public at large
Eric Murray	U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service

Water Committee

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Chair	Public at large
Ron Alvarado	U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service
Barbara Boyer	OR Board of Agriculture
Molly Kile	OR Environmental Quality Commission
Gary Marshall	Public at large
Eric Murray	U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
Meg Reeves	OR Water Resources Commission

April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-1: Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

This update describes outreach progress to date on Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

Background

Throughout the fall, OWEB has led an effort on behalf of Governor Brown's Office to receive feedback on the first draft of Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, to receive recommendations on process steps for future phases of this work, and to begin conversations about information and decision-support tools needed in communities related to water. The sessions focused on listening, learning, and gathering information about the Vision and its associated goals and problem statements, while engaging leaders across the state to learn more about water in Oregon.

Outreach Summary

As of December 2019, the following outreach was completed:

- 8 community water conversations (7 communities, 1 virtual): over 400 participants;
- 1 technical workshop focused on community data and information needs: over 100 participants;
- 80 interviews with a diversity of organizations that have an interest in water, ranging from agriculture and environmental groups to environmental justice, housing, healthcare, business and local governments;
- Focus group with Natural Resources Agency directors;
- Presentations at board, commission, and other meetings including OWEB, Water Resources Commission, Board of Forestry, Board of Agriculture, Land Conservation and Development Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, Sustainability Board, Environmental Justice Task Force, Ocean Policy Advisory Council, and Mid-Valley Regional Solutions;
- Presentations at statewide and organizational meetings including: Oregon Coastal Economic Summit, Association of Clean Water Agencies, League of Oregon Cities, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Water Resources Congress, environmental organization gathering, Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians, and Oregon Water Law Conference;
- The state met formally with seven of the nine federally recognized tribes and had conversations with the other 2 tribes; and
- Over 200 comments received on feedback at www.OregonWaterVision.org website.
- Collectively, 950 participants were engaged and over 4,300 individual comments on the Vision were gathered.

2020 Short Legislative Session

With priority support from Governor Brown, OWEB and its sister agencies – Oregon Water Resources Department and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality – requested funding in the 2020 legislative session. The three areas of funding included: 1) staff to support continued implementation of the Water Vision process (OWEB), 2) contract funds to support development of a Business Case around the need to invest in water infrastructure in Oregon, and 3) contract funds to support design of a data integration framework to help communities, agencies and funders access and use information in strategic decision-making.

While all of those requests were included in the final budget bill, the bill was not voted on during the session. At writing of this report, given the state's critical priority response to the COVID-19 outbreak, there is not a time estimate as to when or whether funds will be approved.

Next Steps

Staff will continue to maintain the website, and will continue to work closely with other agencies on key issues to increase coordination around project funding, agency budget requests, data and information.

Attachments

A. Revised - Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision

B. Governor Brown letter to Legislature

Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision: A Call to Action

Preparing a Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

Vision Statement

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregonians will take care of our water to ensure we have enough clean water for our people, our economy, and our environment, now and for future generations. Oregonians will invest strategically in infrastructure and ecosystems across all regions to support resilient communities, vibrant local economies, and a healthy environment for all who live here.

Premise

Many areas of Oregon are known for clean and reliable water. As identified in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, some of the forces that combine to place significant stress on Oregon's water and water systems include:

1) Climate change and associated increases in temperature, wildfire, drought, damaging floods, and harmful algal blooms;

2) A half century of underinvestment in built and natural water infrastructure;

3) Our changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others; and

4) Too much demand for too little water for in-stream and out-of-stream uses.



These factors impact the quality and quantity of water for our communities, including water in our rivers, lakes, oceans, reservoirs, and aquifers. Simply put, if we are not willing to roll up our sleeves and work together to invest in the ecosystems that sustain us along with built and natural water infrastructure, we place the safety of our communities, the health of our people and environment, and Oregon's economic future at risk.

Goals

Each goal below is important. No single goal can be fully realized independent of the others. Recognizing that tension, we need to invest in a range of innovative solutions that work in balance for our shared water future.

- **Health: Clean water for all who live in Oregon**
  Water should be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable. Investments in ecosystem health, and built and natural infrastructure will provide reliable access to clean water.

- **Economy: Sustainable and clean water to support local economic vitality**
  Diverse and resilient agricultural, timber, fishing, hi-tech, energy, and recreation economies require a reliable and clean water supply. Investments in built and natural water infrastructure will support high quality jobs across all Oregon communities.

- **Environment: Adequate cool, clean water to sustain Oregon's ecosystems for healthy fish and wildlife**
  Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. Investments in ecosystems also provide recreational opportunities for those who live in and visit Oregon.

- **Safety: Resilient water supplies and flood protection systems for Oregon's communities**
  Natural and built water systems designed to protect communities, and increase their resiliency to disasters like earthquakes, wildfires, floods, drought, and sea level rise, are important for all Oregon communities. Investments in those systems will help create safer communities and healthier ecosystems.

Call to Action

Oregon's limited water supplies are already being shaped by climate and population changes. We must both act now and plan for the long term. How we choose to care for our water will determine if we pass a legacy of clean and sustainable water to future generations.

Principles

Note: The following principles were raised during the 2019 Vision outreach conversations. Some of them mirror principles in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Where the concepts are similar, the IWRS principles are referenced. Information gathered through the fall will also be used as part of the next update to the IWRS.

While the Vision goals reflect *the needs we have* for water, our principles guide how *people can work together* to achieve a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all who live here.

Balancing Interests: Water is an essential but limited resource. We recognize there is not enough water to meet every 'want.' We will seek to balance interests across all of our water goals, and recognize the best solutions should address multiple uses. (*IWRS Principles - Balance, Sustainability, Interconnection/Integration*)

State Framework with Regional and Local Flexibility: Water challenges and opportunities vary greatly from region to region across the state. Successful strategic solutions and investments will build on flexible approaches that respect regional differences. These approaches should be both supported and bounded by a state framework, grounded in current water law, with clear policies to define the direction. (*IWRS Principles - Science-Based, Flexible Approaches, Implementation, Facilitation by the state*)

Tribal Sovereignty: Oregon's water future is best implemented when we work in partnership with the sovereign tribes in Oregon, respecting both treaty rights and tribal cultural connections to water.

Equity & Transparency: The benefits of clean and reliable water are shared by all who live here, along with our native fish and wildlife. We will build a more equitable water future by ensuring our water decisions and investments are inclusive and transparent, with opportunities for all communities to participate. (*IWRS Principles - Public Process*)

Affordability: Improvements to our infrastructure and ecosystems come with costs. We will ensure that those costs are not disproportionately borne by those who can least afford it. *(IWRS Principles - Reasonable Cost)*

Infrastructure & Ecosystems: Oregon's water goals can be met in many ways. We recognize that built systems like dams, pipes, levees are only one part of the solution. Natural systems like wetlands, estuaries, and rivers themselves must also be part of Oregon's water future - both as natural infrastructure that provides clean water for human use, and as the components of a healthy ecosystem for fish and wildlife.

Coordination & Collaboration: We support formation of regional, coordinated, and collaborative partnerships that include representatives of local, state, federal, and tribal government, private and non-profit sectors, stakeholders, and the public to plan and invest strategically. (*IWRS Principles - Collaboration, Incentives*)

Engaged Oregonians: Engaged community members and water leaders are key to helping all of us who live in Oregon understand the value water as part of our culture, our communities, and our ecosystems. We will cultivate leaders in communities across Oregon that understand the importance of conserving and keeping our water clean, and recognize the need for coordinated water investments.

Innovation: Working with creative individuals and businesses across the state, we will invest in innovative solutions that balance the advantages of built, and natural infrastructure, while also protecting ecosystem values.

Best Use of Available Science Combined with Local Knowledge: The best solutions come when we recognize that both science and local knowledge have value. We will build investment approaches that allow for learning, adaptation, and innovative ideas. (*IWRS Principles - Science-Based, Flexible Approaches)*

Water as a public resource: Public investments in our water future should result in public benefits.

Oregon's Water Challenges

Acknowledgements: Water is not like other kinds of infrastructure or natural resources. It is a public resource, but is managed by both public and private entities. It has cultural significance, and is essential to sustain life. There is a finite amount of water and it moves across the landscape while also varying in availability from year to year. Each of us has our own unique background that influences our perspectives on water and water infrastructure. This history forms the foundation for the different ways we each envision our water future. When we each bring that background to a common table, there can be disagreements. Respecting our different perspectives, the lessons we have learned, and the unique water challenges we've faced in our history will be important to develop a shared water future. Below are a list of common challenges and opportunities that will benefit from the focused attention of Oregonians with diverse perspectives.

Water System Challenges

Water Availability

System challenge: Many of Oregon's water delivery systems are outdated and inefficient, increasing the chance that water will not be available for communities when it is most needed.

System opportunity: We can incentivize water conservation and reuse, and invest in modern water delivery systems statewide. Efficiency gains and updated systems will help improve water reliability for cities and counties, tribes, ecosystems, and the many aspects of a thriving economy that depend on water.

Clean Water

System Challenge: Not all parts of Oregon have reliable access to clean water, resulting in increased health risks for those who live here.

System Opportunity: We can invest in resilient built and natural water infrastructure, and reduce pollutants to provide clean water for all Oregon communities.

Ecosystems

System Challenge: Not all watersheds provide cool, clean water and habitat for fish and wildlife, threatening the sustainability of those species in Oregon.

System opportunity: We can increase investments in watersheds to store, filter, and deliver water for fish and wildlife.

Community Security

System challenge: Too much of Oregon's built infrastructure is neglected and not keeping communities safe, while we have not fully realized the benefits of natural infrastructure and ecosystems to protect communities from harmful floods and provide resilience to drought.

System opportunity: We can modernize our flood protection infrastructure where appropriate, while fully incorporating the benefits of natural infrastructure and ecosystems. Combined, these will help mitigate impacts of increased flooding and drought, while reducing the impacts of sea level rise to coastal communities.

Management Challenges

Data & Information Services

Management Challenge: Communities across Oregon lack basic data and information to make strategic, long-term decisions about water investments and water management.

Management Opportunity: Good data is the foundation of wise and coordinated decisions. We can work across agencies at all levels, with tribes, and with the private sector to improve access to accurate, relevant, trusted, and current water data and infrastructure condition. We can also use science and information to anticipate future trends. Access to quality information will help communities strategically plan for and invest in their water future.

Community Capacity

Management Challenge: Communities with fewer resources are challenged to strategically plan for and invest in their water future and need access to a skilled workforce to implement, manage, and monitor water projects.

Management Opportunity: We can begin investing now in strong community capacity and a skilled water workforce in every region across Oregon.

Investments in Water

Management Challenge: We have underinvested in our built and natural water infrastructure, and our ecosystems. Investments in water planning and projects are not fully coordinated at the community, regional or state levels, and there has not been a concerted conversation about how Oregon will fund its future water needs.

Management Opportunity: We can coordinate our current investments and seek new sustainable, dedicated public and private funding for restoration of ecosystems, and built and natural infrastructure. Coordinated and new investments will ensure communities – including Oregon's federally recognized tribes and those people living in disproportionately impacted and rural communities - can afford and access adequate clean water, and return it to our rivers for downstream users, fish, and wildlife.

Water Investment Decision-Making

Management challenge: Oregon lacks a cohesive governance system to strategically prioritize water investments at the local and regional levels, leaving those decisions to a wide array of individuals, governments, and other interests with overlapping priorities and investment needs.

Management Opportunity: Learning from other successful models, Oregon can implement best approaches to ensure water planning and investment decisions are strategic and coordinated across jurisdictions, and with public and private partners. This system can successfully combine a state-level framework with local and regional planning and flexibility.

Education & Culture

Management Challenge: Community leaders across Oregon have limited awareness of Oregon's water challenges, the urgency to act now, and potential water solutions.

Management Opportunity: We can work with communities to build a culture and leadership that prioritizes water at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

KATE BROWN
Governor

February 11, 2020

Senator Michael Dembrow, Chair
Senate Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Representative Ken Helm, Chair
House Committee on Water

Senator Betsy Johnson
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward
Representative Dan Rayfield
Chairs, Joint Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Legislators,

As you know, this fall, I asked my natural resource agencies to gather feedback on the first draft of Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, and to design a process for effectively engaging Oregonians. Water is one of the most complex natural resource issues in the state, and requires this level of engagement.

Staff are finalizing their evaluation of the responses received this fall, and will present the full summary when complete. It is very clear from early feedback that Oregonians have a strong interest in moving forward on strategic water planning and investments. I am asking for your support to continue this work by supporting the funding of the executive branch's three Water Vision Implementation budget requests.

Based on initial feedback from this fall's conversations, Phase II will focus on the following objectives:

Community Capacity: Recommend approaches to help communities engage individuals equitably, and expand capabilities to strategically plan for and implement actions to pursue their water futures. *(OWEB Vision Implementation budget request)*
Water Investment Governance: Recommend a framework for local, regional, and statewide governance that will lead to state-supported, regionally appropriate approaches to prioritize water investments with a focus on ensuring all individuals are represented. *(OWEB Vision Implementation budget request)*
Water Funding: Recommend approaches to increase funding coordination, identify early investment needs and funding gaps, and new funding sources that support community water planning, implementation, innovation, and evaluation. *(OWEB Vision Implementation budget request)*

- **Engaging Oregonians:** Recommend approaches to help Oregonians better understand the vital importance of water, the water challenges we face, and the need for all of us to work together and to support strategic water investments. *(engagement conversations will provide input into WRD Business Case budget request)*
- **Data and Information Systems:** Recommend data needs, tools, and information delivery systems that will help local communities and funders better understand current water and infrastructure conditions, and future water trends, to inform strategic decision-making at all levels. *(supported in part by DEQ Decision Support Tool budget request)*

The process is not intended to focus on policy or statutory changes, except those recommended as a part of the advisory council process to advance the objectives outlined above.

Should the legislature approve funding, I will be formally announcing a Water Future Advisory Council following the 2020 Legislative Session. We will advance work on these objectives through the council, along with support from other committees and external partnerships, aligning this work with both the 100-Year Vision and Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy. I have asked Senator Roblan and Bruce Taylor to co-convene the advisory council. More detail will follow with the formal announcement, including conveners for advisory council committees, and other council members. Through this process, we intend to provide direct ways for tribes, the public, and stakeholder organization representing diverse interests to engage with statewide leaders in the process. We will also work with the legislature to identify members to serve in an ex-officio capacity to carry this process forward in a meaningful way while providing coordination between both branches of state government.

While the process will highlight broad-scale investment opportunities for the 2021 Legislative Session, the next phase is not intended to prioritize individual community project investments. Rather, the process will help to establish a state and regional framework for how investments should be strategically coordinated and prioritized.

As referenced in the objectives above, we have budget requests for the 2020 Legislative Session in three areas: Water Vision Coordination & Implementation, Data Decision Support Tools, and a Business Case. Without legislative approval of funding for these three requests in the 2020 short session, we will not be advancing the work outlined above.

I appreciate the Legislature's willingness to take on this important issue through the formation of the House Water Committee. We support the House Water committee's work to advance important discussions around harmful algal blooms, septic system replacements and increasing water reporting. I look forward to seeing these discussions advanced through the legislative process. All of this work will help to improve the health of our economy, our communities, and our environment.

If you have questions during the Legislative Session, please reach out to Jason Miner in my office (Jason.Miner@oregon.gov), or Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, who has been leading the Phase I Water Vision work, (Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov).

Sincerely,

Kate Brown

Governor Kate Brown

KB:jm,kl

April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-2: Legislative Update

This report provides the board an update about the 2020 legislative short session.

Background

The 2020 legislative session began on February 3 and adjourned March 6.

2020 Legislative Session

The 2020 legislative session adjourned without passing any major legislation, as quorum was not reached in either the House or Senate during the last two weeks of the session. Pending legislation involving OWEB that did not pass included funding for Phase II the 100-Year Water Vision (see Executive Director Update X-X), addressing catastrophic wildfire, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Governor's Executive Order on Climate

Following the conclusion of the legislative session, Governor Brown released Executive Order 20-04, which directs state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions (Attachment A). In addition to the general directive for agencies to exercise authority and discretion in helping to meet greenhouse gas emissions goals and prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities, OWEB is specifically identified in the Executive Order in several locations:

- Section 3.D. Report on Proposed Actions – Along with other agencies, report to the Governor by May 15, 2020, on proposed actions within OWEB's statutory authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts. Staff has requested additional detail on this directive and will report to the board in April.
- Section 3.E. Participation in Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities – Participate on an interagency workgroup convened by the Governor's Office on climate impacts to impacted communities, with the intent of developing strategies to guide state climate actions.
- Section 12.A. Directives to the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) – In coordination with Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor by June 30, 2021 for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science.

At the April board meeting and future meetings, staff will update the board on agency progress on these directives. Staff plan to work with the newly formed climate committee between meetings.

Staff Contact

General Legislative: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029. Executive Order on Climate: Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

Attachments

A. Executive Order 20-04 on Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Office of the Governor
State of Oregon

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-04

DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE ACTIONS TO REDUCE AND REGULATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

WHEREAS, climate change and ocean acidification caused by greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are having significant detrimental effects on public health and on Oregon's economic vitality, natural resources, and environment; and

WHEREAS, climate change has a disproportionate effect on the physical, mental, financial, and cultural wellbeing of impacted communities, such as Native American tribes, communities of color, rural communities, coastal communities, lower-income households, and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes, who typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and are therefore the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage, and other effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change is contributing to an increase in the frequency and severity of wildfires in Oregon, endangering public health and safety and damaging rural economies; and

WHEREAS, the world's leading climate scientists, including those in the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, predict that these serious impacts of climate change will worsen if prompt action is not taken to curb emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has identified limiting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius or less as necessary to avoid potentially catastrophic climate change impacts, and remaining below this threshold requires accelerated reductions in GHG emissions to levels at least 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Oregon, as a member of the U.S. Climate Alliance, has committed to implementing policies to advance the emissions reduction goals of the international Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, GHG emissions present a significant threat to Oregon's public health, economy, safety, and environment; and

WHEREAS, the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner energy resources can significantly reduce emissions and increase energy security and the resilience of Oregon communities in the face of climate change; and

WHEREAS, emissions from the transportation sector are the single largest source of GHG emissions in Oregon; and

WHEREAS, actions to reduce GHG emissions in Oregon's transportation sector will provide substantial public health co-benefits by reducing air pollutants from the combustion of gasoline and diesel fuel that are harmful to human health; and

WHEREAS, the rapid transition from internal combustion engines to zero-emission vehicles will play a key role in reducing emissions from the transportation sector and advancing the state's GHG emissions reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, zero-emission vehicles provide multiple benefits to Oregonians, including lower operating, maintenance, and fuel costs, and lower emissions of GHGs and other pollutants; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature established ambitious goals for the adoption of zero-emission vehicles in Senate Bill 1044 (2019); and

WHEREAS, rapid actions and investments by Oregon's utility sector to reduce GHG emissions and improve the resilience of the energy system in the face of climate change and wildfire risk can reduce risks for utility customers; and

WHEREAS, transitioning the traditional natural gas supply to renewable natural gas can significantly reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency standards in the built environment can reduce operating costs, save renters and homeowners money on their utility bills, improve the comfort and habitability of dwellings, and reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, product energy efficiency standards reduce costs for consumers, save energy, and reduce GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of effective federal engagement on these issues, it is the responsibility of individual states to take immediate actions to address climate change and ocean acidification; and

WHEREAS, after thorough hearings within the Oregon Legislature, a majority of both chambers support addressing climate change, and the failure of the Oregon Legislature to attain quorum has thwarted legislative action to achieve science-based GHG emissions reduction goals; and

WHEREAS, given the urgency and severity of the risks from climate change and ocean acidification, and the failure of the Legislature to address these immediate harms, the executive branch has a responsibility to the electorate, and a scientific, economic, and moral imperative to reduce GHG emissions and to reduce the worst risks of climate change and ocean acidification for future generations, to the greatest extent possible within existing laws; and

WHEREAS, existing laws grant authority to state agencies to take actions to regulate and encourage a reduction of GHG emissions in a variety of circumstances; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature through the Emergency Board took action on March 9, 2020, to provide permanent funding to the executive branch to pursue executive action on reducing GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, considering climate change in agency planning and decision making will help inform decisions regarding climate change risks and avoid higher mitigation and adaptation costs in the future; and

WHEREAS, all agencies with jurisdiction over the sources of GHG emissions will need to continue to develop and implement programs that reduce emissions to reach the state's GHG goals; and

WHEREAS, all agencies with jurisdiction over natural and working landscapes in Oregon will need to prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change and take actions to encourage carbon sequestration and storage; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature previously established the goal of achieving GHG levels "at least 75 percent below 1990 levels" by 2050, and our State has an urgent, moral obligation to set and achieve more ambitious GHG reduction goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

1. **State Agencies**. The following state commissions and state agencies are subject to the directives set forth in this Executive Order:

   A. Business Oregon;

   B. Department of Administrative Services (DAS);

   C. Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division (BCD);

   D. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC);

   E. Environmental Justice Task Force;

   F. Environmental Quality Commission (EQC) and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);

   G. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA);

   H. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE);

   I. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW);

   J. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF);

   K. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oregon Transportation Commission (OTC);

   L. Oregon Global Warming Commission;

   M. Oregon Health Authority (OHA);

   N. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD);

   O. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB); and

   P. Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC).

2. **GHG Emissions Reduction Goals**. Consistent with the minimum GHG reduction goals set forth in ORS 468A.205(1)(c), this Executive Order establishes science-based GHG emissions reduction goals, and calls for the State of Oregon to reduce its GHG emissions (1) at least 45 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2035; and (2) at least 80 percent below 1990 emissions levels by 2050.

3. **General Directives to State Agencies**. From the date of this Executive Order, the state commissions and state agencies listed in paragraph 1 are directed to take the following actions:

   A. GHG Reduction Goals. Agencies shall exercise any and all authority and discretion vested in them by law to help facilitate Oregon's achievement of the GHG emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order.

   B. Expedited Agency Processes. To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall prioritize and expedite any processes and procedures, including but not limited to rulemaking processes and agency dockets, that could accelerate reductions in GHG emissions.

   C. Agency Decisions. To the full extent allowed by law, agencies shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's GHG emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgets, investments, and policy making decisions. While carrying out that directive, agencies are directed to:

      (1) Prioritize actions that reduce GHG emissions in a cost-effective manner;

      (2) Prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities adapt to climate change impacts; and

      (3) Consult with the Environmental Justice Task Force when evaluating climate change mitigation and adaptation priorities and actions.

   D. Report on Proposed Actions. The following agencies are directed to report to the Governor by May 15, 2020, on proposed actions within their statutory authority to reduce GHG emissions and mitigate climate change impacts: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODOE, ODFW, ODF, ODOT, OWRD, OWEB, and PUC.

E. Participation in Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. The Governor's Office will convene an interagency workgroup on climate impacts to impacted communities to develop strategies to guide state climate actions, with participation by the following agencies and commissions: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODF, ODFW, ODOE, ODOT, OHA, OWEB, OWRD, PUC, Environmental Justice Task Force, Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Sustainability Board.

4. **Directives to the Environmental Quality Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, the EQC and DEQ are directed to take the following actions:

A. Oregon's Clean Fuel Standards. Pursuant to its authority under ORS 468A.265 *et seq.* and other applicable laws, the EQC and DEQ shall take actions necessary to amend the low carbon fuel standards, and the schedule to phase in implementation of those standards, with the goal of reducing the average amount of GHG emissions per unit of fuel energy by 20 percent below 2015 levels by 2030, and 25 percent below 2015 levels by 2035.

B. Clean Fuel Credits for Electrification. The EQC and DEQ are directed to advance methods accelerating the generation and aggregation of clean fuels credits by utilities that can advance the transportation electrification goals set forth in Senate Bill 1044 (2019).

C. Sector-specific GHG Cap and Reduce Program. Pursuant to its authority under ORS 468A.005 *et seq.* and other applicable laws, the EQC and DEQ shall take actions necessary to:

(1) Cap and reduce GHG emissions from large stationary sources of GHG emissions, consistent with the science-based emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order;

(2) Cap and reduce GHG emissions from transportation fuels, including gasoline and diesel fuel, consistent with the science-based emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order; and

(3) Cap and reduce GHG emissions from all other liquid and gaseous fuels, including natural gas, consistent with the science-based emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order.

D. Regulation of Landfill Methane Emissions. The EQC and DEQ shall take actions necessary to reduce methane gas emissions from landfills, as defined in ORS 459.005(14), that are aligned with the most stringent standards and requirements for reducing methane gas emissions from landfills adopted among the states having a boundary with Oregon.

E. Reduction of Food Waste. The EQC and DEQ are directed to take actions necessary to prevent and recover food waste, with the goal of reducing food waste by 50 percent by 2030, to reduce GHG emissions resulting from such waste, including but not limited to engaging with states and other jurisdictions, industry, food retailers, and brand manufacturers to develop and implement strategies to prevent and recover food waste.

F. Timeline and Implementation.

(1) No later than May 15, 2020, DEQ shall submit a report to the Governor regarding an estimated timeline for rulemaking necessary for implementing the directives of paragraph 4(A)–(B) and paragraph 4(D)–(E), above.

(2) DEQ shall submit a preliminary report to the Governor by May 15, 2020, regarding program options to cap and reduce emissions from large stationary sources, transportation fuels, and other liquid and gaseous fuels that can commence no later than January 1, 2022. A final report shall be due by June 30, 2020.

(3) Reports submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of this Executive Order also should detail DEQ's plans to engage impacted communities during the rulemaking process, in a manner consistent with ORS chapter 183.

5. **Directives to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, the PUC is directed to consider the following factors and values, consistent with state law:

A. Statement of Public Interest. It is in the interest of utility customers and the public generally for the utility sector to take actions that result in rapid reductions of GHG emissions, at reasonable costs, to levels consistent with the GHG emissions reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order, including transitioning to clean energy resources and expanding low carbon transportation choices for Oregonians.

B. Regulatory Considerations. Executive Order 00-06, which ensures that the PUC maintains its independence in decision making, is reaffirmed. The directives in this Executive Order are consistent with Executive Order 00-06. When carrying out its regulatory functions, the PUC is directed to:

(1) Determine whether utility portfolios and customer programs reduce risks and costs to utility customers by making rapid progress towards reducing GHG emissions consistent with Oregon's reduction goals;

(2) Encourage electric companies to support transportation electrification infrastructure that supports GHG reductions, helps achieve the transportation electrification goals set forth in Senate Bill 1044 (2019), and is reasonably expected to result in long-term benefit to customers;

(3) Prioritize proceedings and activities, to the extent consistent with other legal requirements, that advance decarbonization in the utility sector, and exercise its broad statutory authority to reduce GHG emissions, mitigate energy burden experienced by utility customers, and ensure system reliability and resource adequacy;

(4) Evaluate electric companies' risk-based wildfire protection plans and planned activities to protect public safety, reduce risks to utility customers, and promote energy system resilience in the face of increased wildfire frequency and severity, and in consideration of the recommendations made by the Governor's Council on Wildfire Response 2019 Report and Recommendations;

(5) Convening periodic workshops for purposes of assisting electric companies, consumer-owned utilities, and operators of electrical distribution systems to develop and share best practices for mitigating wildfire risk; and

(6) In cooperation with Oregon Housing and Community Services, establish a public process to address and mitigate differential energy burdens and other inequities of affordability and environmental justice, including rate design and other programs to mitigate energy burden.

6. **Directives to the Department of Consumer and Business Services Building Codes Division**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, BCD is directed to take the following actions:

A. Energy Efficiency Goal for New Construction. BCD, through its advisory boards and committees, and in cooperation with ODOE, is directed to adopt building energy efficiency goals for 2030 for new residential and commercial construction. That goal shall represent at least a 60 percent reduction in new building annual site consumption of energy, excluding electricity used for transportation or appliances, from the 2006 Oregon residential and commercial codes.

B. Code Progress and Updates. BCD, through its advisory boards and committees, and in cooperation with ODOE, is directed to evaluate and report on Oregon's current progress toward achieving the goal for new residential and commercial buildings, pursuant to paragraph 6(A) of this Executive Order, and options for achieving steady progress toward the goal over the next three code cycles (2023, 2026, and 2029). Pursuant to its authority under ORS 455.500, BCD also is directed to update the Reach Code on the same timeline. No later than September 15, 2020, BCD should submit a report to the Governor on current progress and options for achieving the goals over the next three code cycles. The report should be updated every three years thereafter.

C. Baseline Metrics and Reductions. BCD, in cooperation with ODOE, is directed to agree on metrics, based on best practice and academic research, to inform the baseline and reductions associated with the code updates set forth in paragraph 6(B).

7. **Directives to the Oregon Department of Energy**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, ODOE is directed to take the following actions:

   A. Energy Efficiency Standards. ODOE is directed to pursue emissions reductions by establishing and updating energy efficiency standards for products at least to levels equivalent to the most stringent standards among West Coast jurisdictions, including grid-connected appliances that can be utilized to manage end-use flexible electrical loads. ODOE also is directed to periodically evaluate and update those standards, as practicable, to remain at least equivalent to the most stringent standards among West Coast jurisdictions.

   B. Rulemaking. ODOE is directed to take actions necessary to establish and update energy efficiency standards for products sold or installed in Oregon that include but are not limited to the following:

      (1) High CRI fluorescent lamps;

      (2) Computers and computer monitors;

      (3) Faucets;

      (4) Shower heads;

      (5) Commercial fryers;

      (6) Commercial dishwashers;

      (7) Commercial steam cookers;

      (8) Residential ventilating fans;

      (9) Electric storage water heaters; and

      (10) Portable electric spas.

   C. Timeline. Any rulemaking necessary to implement the directives set forth in paragraph 7(B) should be completed by September 1, 2020.

   D. Third-Party Validation for Cost Savings. ODOE, in cooperation with BCD, is directed to contract with a third party consulting firm to assess cost implications, including long-term energy cost savings, of the energy efficiency and building code actions set forth in paragraph 6(A)–(B) of this Executive Order.

8. **Directives to the Department of Administrative Services**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, DAS is directed to take the following actions:

   A. Procurement Model for Zero-Emission Vehicles. DAS is directed to develop a statewide policy and plan for state agencies to follow for procuring zero-emission vehicles, which local governments and special government bodies may use as a model program for furthering adoption of zero-emission vehicles for their fleets. The model program shall provide for a rate of procurement of zero-emission vehicles consistent with the findings and goals set forth in ORS 283.398 and the provisions of ORS 283.327. The model program may provide for DAS to participate in, sponsor, conduct, or administer cooperative procurements in accordance with ORS 279A.200 to ORS 279A.225, under which DAS, local governments, and special government bodies may procure zero-emission vehicles.

   B. GHG Implications of Contracting. DAS is directed to review existing state procurement laws and practices to identify potential improvements that can reduce GHG emissions, consistent with the GHG reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order. DAS shall provide a report to the Governor no later than September 15, 2020, detailing options.

   C. GHG Reduction Goals and Electrification Goals. DAS is directed to support the state in meeting the GHG reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order, and the zero-emission vehicle adoption goals set forth in Senate Bill 1044 (2019), through the rapid conversion of state fleets to zero-emission vehicles, and the expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for public buildings. DAS shall provide a report to the Governor no later than September 15, 2020, detailing its plan.

9. **Directives to the Oregon Transportation Commission, Oregon Department of Transportation, Land Conservation and Development Commission, Environmental Quality Commission, and Oregon Department of Energy**.

A. In a letter from the Governor, dated September 23, 2019, the OTC, LCDC, EQC, and ODOE were directed to prioritize implementation of the Statewide Transportation Strategy, adopted by the OTC. Those agencies are further directed to include the following elements in their implementation of the Statewide Transportation Strategy:

(1) Establishment of GHG emissions reduction performance metrics; and

(2) Amendments to the Transportation Planning Rule that direct changes to the transportation plans of metropolitan planning areas to meet GHG reduction goals.

B. ODOT and DLCD are directed to identify and implement means to provide financial and technical assistance to metropolitan planning areas for amendment to transportation and land use plans that meet the state GHG reduction goals, or more stringent goals adopted by a metropolitan planning area.

C. Implementation of the directives set forth in paragraph 9(A)–(B) shall be at the highest level within the agencies, with regular and direct reporting to the Governor. The first report shall be made to the Governor no later than June 30, 2020.

10. **Directives to the Oregon Department of Transportation**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, ODOT is directed to take the following actions:

A. In consultation with DEQ, ODOE, other appropriate state agencies, and public utilities, ODOT is directed to conduct a statewide transportation electrification infrastructure needs analysis, with particular focus on rural areas of the state, across use types and vehicle classes, to facilitate the transportation electrification goals set forth in Senate Bill 1044 (2019). The study should be completed no later than June 30, 2021.

B. ODOT is directed to develop and apply a process for evaluating the GHG emissions implications of transportation projects as part of its regular capital planning and Statewide Transportation Improvement Program planning processes. ODOT shall provide a report on the process to the Governor no later than June 30, 2021.

11. **Directives to Oregon Health Authority**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, OHA is directed to take the following actions:

    A. OHA is directed to deliver a report to the Governor, the Oregon Global Warming Commission, and the Environmental Justice Task Force no later than September 1, 2020, on the public health impacts of climate change in Oregon, with particular emphasis on the risks faced by vulnerable communities, including Oregon's nine federally recognized Native American tribes, communities of color, low income communities, and rural communities. OHA is directed to update the report annually.

    B. OHA is directed to study the impacts of climate change on youth depression and mental health in Oregon and deliver a report to the Governor no later than June 30, 2021.

    C. OHA and the Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are directed to jointly develop a proposal for standards to protect workplace employees from exposure to wildfire smoke and excessive heat. The proposal should be completed no later than June 30, 2021.

12. **Directives to Oregon Global Warming Commission**. In addition to the general directives set forth in paragraph 3, the Global Warming Commission is directed to take the following actions:

    A. In coordination with ODA, ODF, and OWEB, the Oregon Global Warming Commission is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021.

    B. Consistent with its reporting requirements in House Bill 3543 (2007), the Oregon Global Warming Commission shall also include reporting on progress toward the GHG reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Executive Order, and the zero-emission vehicle adoption goals set forth in SB 1044 (2019).

13. **Effectiveness**. This Executive Order will remain in effect unless and until it is superseded by statute or another Executive Order.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 16th day of March, 2020.

Kate Brown
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Bev Clarno
SECRETARY OF STATE

April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-3 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on progress implementing the strategic plan progress.

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 committee updates as well as other staff reports.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, January to March 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – January-March 2020

- Black text describes progress on actions and measures for the current quarter, along with the associated strategies, outputs and outcomes.
- Gray text describes all other content extracted from the strategic plan for the purpose of providing framing information, but for which no actions or progress occurred this quarter.

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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions)	<u>**So That:** (outputs)</u> - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress. - 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.	<u>**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes)</u> - 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. - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,418 YouTube views , 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,031 YouTube views (accessed 3/03/2020) - 59 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (1/1/2019 – 3/9/2020) <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.
	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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Held a "streamside chat" with Columbia Slough Watershed Council for staff to learn about living and working in an urban Oregon community from a grantee's perspective. - Three staff attended *Equity in Grantmaking Training* by Philanthropy Northwest to learn about ways to apply an equity lens to design programs and grant-making strategies that are inclusive and accessible to communities of color and underserved populations. - Launched a lunchtime DEI book club for staff with the book *So You Want to Talk about Race* by Ijeoma Oluo; through the discussion, staff reflected on concepts presented and ways the book related to life experiences, community, and work. - In 2019, OWEB distributed a survey to all grantees asking questions about the demographic make-up of their organizations and the stakeholders they serve. OWEB staff is now scheduling follow-up conversations to learn more about survey respondents' diversity, equity, and inclusion work.	<u>**So That:** (outputs)</u> - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - 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. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into	<u>**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes)</u> - 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,	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Staff has participated in 338 hours of training (July 2018-March 2020) <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.
	Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table				
	Develop funding strategies with a lens				

	toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)		OWEB grant programs, as appropriate. - Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.	and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.	
Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds					
Strategies	Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	**<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u>** <u>(actions)</u> - OWEB previously awarded a contract for the retrospective evaluation to the Ecosystem Workforce Program at the University of Oregon and Oregon State University. The team began meeting and formed a stakeholder advisory committee, as well as initiated communications about the evaluation with watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.	**<u>So That:</u>** <u>(outputs)</u> - 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. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions. - 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.	**<u>To Make This Difference:</u>** <u>(outcomes)</u> - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively. - State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.	**<u>Near-term measure:</u>** - Under development **<u>Potential impact measure:</u>** - 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.
	Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity	- OWEB awarded six Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) grants, which provide funding to create a new or enhance an existing strategic action plan and supports partnership capacity. - OWEB launched the 2021-2023 FIP Solicitation and staff consulted with potential grantees on their structure and organization as well as restoration planning to determine eligibility and competitiveness for the FIP program. - Staff participated in planning and facilitating a State of the Willamette 2-day workshop in January (Corvallis) that convened Willamette community scientists and practitioners to discuss restoration techniques and strategic planning.			
	Accelerate state/federal agency participation in 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	**<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u>** <u>(actions)</u> - Presented to the House Water Committee during January legislative days about Water Core Teams' conditions inventory assessment work.			
	Align common investment areas with private foundations				
	Explore creative funding opportunities and 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	- Executive Director and staff led outreach and communications for Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, including: o Updating the Water Vision statement based on stakeholder feedback from fall 2019 outreach. o Describing and synthesizing the findings of fall outreach and engagement efforts in a report. o Updating the website www.OregonWaterVision.org, which includes current information, summary findings, and full report. o Presenting the outreach and engagement findings to the House Water Committee. o Coordinating with the Governor's announcement of Phase II: The Water Future Advisory Council, contingent on funding from the legislature.	**So That:** (outputs) - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.	Near-term measure: - Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees. Potential impact measure: - Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects. - Increase in new and diverse funding sources. - Increase in creative funding mechanisms and strategies. - Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment. - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.
Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health					
Strategies	Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions)	**So That:** (outputs) - 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.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.	**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.
	Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners	- OWEB awarded the Wasco Soil & Water Conservation District a grant to support the Fifteenmile Action to Stabilize Temperature (FAST) program that provides incentive payments to irrigators to voluntarily shutoff irrigation when it is most needed to reduce temperatures, protecting ESA-listed steelhead.			
	Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects				

	on farm, ranch and forestlands		- New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - 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.	- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.	- 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.
	Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands	- Four Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) held Local Monitoring Team meetings, convening diverse watershed science partners to identify monitoring objectives, review existing data, and begin to outline monitoring proposals. o 2nd meetings, continuing to develop proposals: North Fork Malheur; Thirtymile Creek o Initial meetings, beginning to develop proposal: Lower Coquille River (Lampa/Bear Creek); Tualatin (Lower Gales and Carpenter Creek) - The Eightmile SIA completed their approved monitoring proposal and initiated monitoring for bacteria, temperature and macroinvertebrates at strategic locations within the SIA boundary.			
	Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations	- OWEB awarded $1.54 million for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance grants supporting 12 projects covering 21 counties in the state.			
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness					
	Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - OWEB published Oregon Plan Biennial Report for 2017-2019, summarizing investments and accomplishments under the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The report describes coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partner agencies; inter-agency efforts to address monitoring and information needs; and specific information for fifteen Oregon Plan Reporting Basins. - Staff developed a searchable online map to highlight the Telling the Restoration Story grant offering as part of the 2017-19 Oregon Plan Biennial Report and project deliverables are available through this map. The map currently describes progress and provides links to outreach products from the first suite of seven Telling the Restoration Story projects. - The inter-agency Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) continues to engage DEQ, ODA, ODFW, NRCS and OWEB in collaborative efforts to describe the effectiveness of restoration actions in achieving ecological outcomes. In February, communications staff from each agency convened with managers to initiate a collaborative communications strategy, and work will continue through the spring in preparation for the summer 2020 CEP Agency Directors' meeting. - Staff completed Progress Tracking Reports for all six of the first cohort of FIPs. The reports summarize and synthesize actions and monitoring efforts to provide a high-level portrait of the progress each partnership is making towards measuring and achieving their identified outcomes, including adaptive management. A communication plan is under development to share reports with key stakeholders.	**So That:** (outputs) - Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe restoration	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Partners are using results-based restoration 'stories' to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly.	**Near-term measure:** - 30 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (1/1/2019 – 3/20/20). **Potential impact measure:** - 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 - 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.
	Invest in monitoring over the long term	- OWEB's Monitoring Initiatives Fellow prepared an internal report, "Regional Monitoring Frameworks: Summary of Lessons Learned" to analyze and summarize successes and challenges of four regional monitoring initiatives.			
	Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring				

	Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Staff participated in planning and facilitating a State of the Willamette 2-day workshop in January (Corvallis) that convened Willamette community scientists and practitioners to discuss restoration techniques and strategic planning. - Staff began work with the Institute of Natural Resources to plan and facilitate a Stage 0 Workshop for Practitioners, including convening a steering committee to develop an agenda meaningful to the target audience. The workshop goal is to promote a better understanding of this innovative restoration technique and develop shared learning around monitoring findings and needs.	investment outcomes. - Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs.	- Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales. - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.	- 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.
	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	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - FIP Coordinators are working with partnerships to refine the technical review process based on the completed first round and are planning for upcoming 2020 project cycles. - OWEB launched the 2021-2023 FIP Solicitation and staff consulted with potential grantees on their structure and organization as well as restoration planning to determine eligibility and competitiveness for the FIP program. - Bonneville Environmental Foundation and staff co-developed a generic ecological theory of change for each of the seven board-adopted ecological priorities in the FIP program. OWEB has shared them publically on the website. - Staff completed Project Tracking Reports for all six of the first cohort of FIPs. The reports summarize and synthesize actions and monitoring efforts to provide a high-level portrait of the progress each partnership is making towards measuring and achieving their identified outcomes, including adaptive management. A communication plan is under development to share reports with key stakeholders.	**So That:** (outputs) - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB's landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - 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 encourages a culture of innovation. - 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. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk	**Near-term measure:** - 27% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP, Partnership TA, 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.
	Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies				
	Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission	- Staff began work with the Institute of Natural Resources to plan and facilitate a Stage 0 Workshop for Practitioners, including convening a steering committee to develop an agenda meaningful to the target audience. The workshop goal is to promote a better understanding of this innovative restoration technique and develop shared learning around monitoring findings and needs.			

April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-4: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

This update describes the activities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP).

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 report is for information only.

Activity This Quarter

The commission held a public meeting on March 10, 2020 for discussing the results of the 2020 short legislative session and potential funding strategies. The final budget bill, while not acted upon, did not include funds for OAHP programs. The commission discussed the need for commissioners to continue engagement with key constituencies about the value of the program and is comfortable with OWEB proceeding with a $10 million agency budget request. The next meeting will be scheduled in late June to discuss next steps in funding OAHP programs.

Staff Contact

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

April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update G-6: Board Member Memo

Below is the memo provided to board members on April 6, 2020

Date: **April 6, 2020**

To: **OWEB Board Members**

From: **Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director**

Subject: **Grant Recommendations for April Board Meeting**

As you know, we are in an unprecedented situation with the COVID-19 outbreak and associated Stay at Home orders that are keeping our family, friends, and neighbors safe. As a part of those orders, in mid-March, Governor Brown worked with Oregon Lottery to power down all video lottery machines as bars and restaurants were closing. The estimated Lottery revenue impact of those closures is still unknown. As a result of budget uncertainties, in discussions with the board co-chairs, below are a suite of recommendations and additional background.

1. Place a pause on board financial awards and budget decisions. Late last week, following conversations with the State of Oregon's Chief Financial Officer, I have recommended to the Board co-chairs, and they have agreed, that the board pause all financial awards and budget decisions at the April board meeting, including placing a pause on Open Solicitation and Acquisition awards that were slated to be presented at the meeting. Instead staff will wait to make our recommendations to the board until after we receive the May Lottery distributions and revenue forecast.

Given the unknowns around budget projections at this time, we want to be able to provide the best information to you as you make funding decisions. We believe the most prudent option is to put a pause on award granting until we have a better handle on revenues.

At the same time, I am also placing a pause on funding any grant that has not been approved as of April 3 that is a part of a 'director delegation' by the board. This move assures that all grant types – from small grants to Governor's Priorities and Focused Investment Partnerships – are treated equally. Funding considerations for all grants—regardless of grant type—are on 'pause' until we have additional information about current revenues and projections.

The pause will be discussed as a formal agenda item at the April board meeting, but I wanted to make you aware of this recommendation now. We are also informing our staff and grantees so they are not caught off guard in advance of the April meeting. I am scheduling Zoom conference calls with grantees in each region to provide this update on Tuesday, April 7.

2. Hold two board meetings to accommodate non-financial and financial decisions. To accommodate this pause in financial awards and budget decisions, in consultation with the co-

chairs, we will divide our April board meeting into two segments, one that will occur in April and the other to take place in early June. On April 21, we will meet to discuss all non-financial decisions and will receive an update on the latest regarding state budgets. We will then schedule a meeting in early June to discuss grant awards and budget. A June meeting will give staff and the Chief Financial Office enough time to evaluate the May Lottery disbursements and revenue forecast and to develop a set of recommendations for the board.

3. Continue to make payments on open grants based on current funding available. In terms of our current Lottery revenues, we have been lucky in the first nine months that our revenues exceeded budget expectations. That said, this biennium – like most - we fund a higher percentage of grants in the spending plan at the beginning of the biennium. This includes awards like Capacity grants. With higher than expected revenues and front-loaded grant awards, we are about even between revenues and expenditures as of this date. And as a reminder, our current and future revenues also include Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), which we expect to be at a similar level to last year.

Given that we have funding on hand for our current open grants, we will not stop payments on existing open grants, and we will not sweep any funds from existing open grants at any time this biennium.

4. Accept applications for Spring 2020 grant cycle. We do intend to receive grant applications for the Spring 2020 grant cycle, the deadline for which has been extended from April 27 to May 11. While we don't yet have a board decision on next steps related to funding awards, we think it is important to continue to receive grant applications. This will allow us to move forward when we can, and to also look for opportunities to fund worthy projects through other means that may emerge.

5. Operating fund precautions. While OWEB's Legislatively Adopted Budget outlines the agency's biennial operations budget that is managed by the executive director, I did want to keep you up to speed on our plans there as well. As a reminder, 65% of the funds we receive from Lottery are required to be used for grants, which the board oversees, and 35% are distributed per the legislative budgeting process to OWEB and other agencies for staffing. Lottery Fund Operating revenues cover much of the operations of our agency (including both staffing and contracts) and are distributed to other agencies for staff as well. Funds cannot be traded between grants and operations. As noted above regarding Lottery revenues received, revenues were above budget through February on both the grants and operations sides, thus OWEB exceeded the revenues needed for our operations budget up to that point in the biennium. As a result, our operating fund is covering costs currently. However, to be prudent and reserve funds where possible, we are also putting a pause on all contract expenditures to the extent practicable.

Next Steps. We will be holding conference calls with each region on Tuesday, April 7 to provide this information, and will share this memo with grantees and other interested individuals as well. It will also be a part of the board meeting materials.

We are collecting a new set of FAQs as a result of this announcement and will update our FAQs (https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx) on the web daily. If you have questions you

think should be addressed through the FAQs, please send them to Courtney.Shaff@oregon.gov. This will ensure we have consistent answers to all questions for our grantees and others.

During these challenging times, I am reminded what an honor it is to work alongside OWEB's exceptional board and staff to support our local grantees. Working together, we will guide the agency and our investments through the uncertainty ahead. Thank you for your service to our OWEB and Oregon.

Cc: Jason Miner, Office of Governor Brown, Natural Resources Policy Director
George Naughton, DAS Chief Financial Officer
Linnea Wittekind, DAS Budget and Management Analyst
Paul Siebert, Legislative Fiscal Office Deputy Director
Alexis Taylor, Department of Agriculture Director

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT 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: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Water Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules
April 21, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests board approval of proposed administrative rules for OWEB's Water Acquisition grant program (Division 46)

II. Background

Water Acquisitions grants are a fundamental 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.

At the July 2019 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking for Water Acquisition grants. The rules were last updated in 2013. A rules advisory committee (RAC) was established to assist OWEB staff in developing Water Acquisition administrative rules. A list of RAC members is found in Attachment A.

The RAC convened on four occasions between September and December 2019, reviewing each section of the current rule and recommending changes where there was consensus to do so.

III. Summary of Proposed Changes

In addition to technical changes and new definitions, the following changes are included in the proposed rules:

- Eligible water acquisition projects are expanded to include those that address conservation needs as determined by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- The monetary interest on bridge loans is an eligible use of grant funds.
- Evaluation criteria are expanded to include ecological outcomes, cost effectiveness, watershed context, and organizational capacity considerations.
- Public involvement includes public hearings held on grant applications seeking funding for permanent instream transfers.

IV. Comment on Proposed Water Acquisition Grant Administrative Rules

OWEB released draft rules for public comment on February 1, 2020. The public comment period was open from February 1 – March 1, 2020 with a public hearing in Salem on February 26th. A summary of the comments, and OWEB staff response, are provided in Attachment B. The three written comments that were received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment C. There were no attendees at the public hearing.

OWEB solicited tribal comments from the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe on the draft rules amendments on February 3, 2020. No tribal comments were received.

The rules are provided as Attachments D-1 and D-2 to the staff report. During the board meeting, staff will walk through changes with the board. At the 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.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve Water Acquisition grant administrative rules found in Attachment D.

Attachments

A. Rules Advisory Committee Members
B. Staff Summary and Response to Public Comments
C. Public Comments
D-1. Proposed Monitoring Grants Rules – Redline
D-2. Proposed Monitoring Grants Rules - Clean

2019-2020 Water Acquisition Grants Rules Advisory Committee

Name	**Affiliation**
Danette Faucera	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Lisa Jaramillo	Oregon Water Resources Dept
Kacy Markowitz	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Spencer Sawaske	The Freshwater Trust
April Snell	Oregon Water Resources Congress
Chrysten Lambert	Trout Unlimited
Natasha Bellis	Deschutes River Conservancy
Shilah Olson	Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District
Anton Chiono	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Caylin Barter	Jordan Ramis PC

OWEB Staff

Eric Williams
Jillian McCarthy
Eric Hartstein

Summary of Public Comments: Water Acquisition Grants Rules (Division 46)

Rules: 695-046-0010, Purpose

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Recommends adding language to clarify that water acquisition grants must result in legally protected water instream. Recommends adding language to clarify that a purpose of the grant program is to maintain or restore streamflows.	OWEB will clarify the purpose statement to include legally protected instream flow. OWEB will clarify the purpose statement to include maintaining or restoring streamflows.	Yes Yes

Rules: 695-046-0020, Definitions

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Recommends adding a definition for a “Conserved Water Project”.	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Summary of Public Comments: Water Acquisition Grants Rules (Division 46)

Rules: 695-046-0020(5), Definitions

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Recommends changing the definition of "Protected Instream Flow" to, "Legally Protected Instream Flow". Recommends providing new language for the definition of "Legally Protected Instream Flow" to clarify that legally protected instream flow include only the instream flow that is protectable under Oregon law through mechanisms administered by Oregon Department of Water Resources.	OWEB concurs. OWEB considers all of the transaction types listed in the definition of "Water Acquisition Project" to result in legally protected instream flow, through either State enforcement mechanisms or legally enforceable water use agreements.	Yes No

Rules: 695-046-0020(7), Definitions

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Concerned that definition of "Technical Review Team" is too vague and broad. Suggests limiting to experts from relevant state agencies, tribes, and NGOs that have as a mission restoring and protecting streamflows.	The proposed definition of "Technical Review Team" align with other OWEB grant program definitions of review teams. OWEB does not want to be overly prescriptive on this definition, as certain entities may have expertise on water acquisition grants that would be valuable to incorporate into a review team.	No

Summary of Public Comments: Water Acquisition Grants Rules (Division 46)

Rules: 695-046-0020(9), Definitions

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Concerned that proposed definition of "Water Acquisition Project" does not contain reference to "legally" protected instream flow and will not ensure that water is legally protected instream under Oregon law. Recommends adding "legally" in front of "protected instream flow".	OWEB concurs with including "legally" before "protected instream flow in the definition of "Water Acquisition Project".	Yes
	Recommends deleting language referring to Water Use Agreements.	OWEB considers all of the transaction types listed in the definition of "Water Acquisition Project" to result in legally protected instream flow, through either State enforcement mechanisms or legally enforceable water use agreements, and will retain Water Use Agreements in the definition.	No
	Recommends adding "flow augmentation secondary rights from storage" as a type of water acquisition project.	Unlike traditional leases and transfers that result in an instream water right, flow augmentation rights require a diversion or other control of the water in order for the water to benefit instream flow. Flow augmentation rights can be stored in a reservoir and later released for instream benefits, or they could be diverted from one source and then re-diverted to another stream for instream benefits. Flow augmentation rights may be held by an individual or an organization instead of OWRD. Because these rights are typically junior, without an agreement among downstream water right holders, there is little assurance that water from a secondary	No

		augmentation right from storage would remain instream. Due to the lack of assurance, OWEB will not add "flow augmentation secondary rights from storage" to the definition of Water Acquisition Project; however, OWEB may consider flow augmentation secondary rights from storage as a mechanism included in a water use agreement that will result in legally protected instream flow.	

Rules: 695-046-0020(10)

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Suggests deleting the definition of "Water Use Agreement" as the State cannot enforce or regulate water that is kept instream pursuant to private agreements.	OWEB considers all of the transaction types listed in the definition of "Water Acquisition Project" to result in legally protected instream flow, through either State enforcement mechanisms or legally enforceable water use agreements and proposes to retain the definition of "Water Use Agreements. Non-state regulated agreements, like forbearance and minimum flow agreements, allow for creative approaches to water allocation issues and are often used as an initial way to engage a landowner that could lead to an OWRD-regulated agreement over time. Oregon water law currently restricts split-season water transactions to 1-5 years (renewable for up to 10), this leaves water users with very few long-term options to maintain the integrity of working lands and improve instream condition.	No
	Suggests that if "Water Use Agreements" is retained in the rules, that it is limited to projects where the		No

	applicant can prove water will be protected instream in the same way a legal transfer or lease would be.	While OWRD does not regulate and enforce these types of agreements, OWEB grant agreements include conditions for monitoring that are appropriate for the transaction type, and payments to the water right holder are contingent upon documentation that the terms of the private agreement have been met.	
	Suggests that the applicant for a project involving a Water Use Agreement be a tribe, ODFW, or a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission of protecting and restoring streamflows.	Applicants for this grant program are traditionally Qualified Local Entities (QLEs) designated through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. Applicants who are not QLEs or who are outside of the Columbia Basin must demonstrate, through their grant application, that they possess the capacity and experience to complete the proposed water transaction and manage it over time. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations with a mission of protecting and restoring streamflows are the primary applicant; however, tribes, special districts, counties, and cities are eligible to apply. OWEB does not want to be overly restrictive on applicant eligibility.	No

Rules: 695-046-0035(1), Eligibility

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Proposes inserting word "legally" before "protected instream flows" and replacing the term "lead to" with "result in".	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Summary of Public Comments: Water Acquisition Grants Rules (Division 46)

Rules: 695-046-0035(2), Eligibility

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Proposes deleting as it is a circular reference to OAR 695-046-0035(1).	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Rules: 695-046-0185, Use of Grant Funds

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Suggests removing provision that "legal fees" of a grantee may be an appropriate use of grant funds as it may encourage water speculation. Non-profits dedicated to restoring instream flows can capture necessary costs through the "customary due diligence activities" provision in the proposed rules.	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Summary of Public Comments: Water Acquisition Grants Rules (Division 46)

Rules: 695-046-0196(1)(e), Evaluation Criteria

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Suggests changing "or" at end of sentence to "and".	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Rules: 695-046-0196(3)(d), Evaluation Criteria

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Recommends deleting this section of the proposed rule, as many restoration and protection opportunities fall outside of designated collaboratives.	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Rules: 695-046-0195, Coordinating and Partnering with Other Funders

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Suggests including language to ensure that coordination is limited to projects that result in "legally" protected water instream.	OWEB concurs.	Yes

Rules: 695-046-0196, Evaluation Criteria

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Craig Horrell, President, Deschutes Basin Board of Control	Recommends adding new section to proposed rules, requiring grant applicants to obtain written consent from irrigation districts potentially impacted by a water acquisition grant.	There is a legitimate concern that an irrigation district could be impacted by the lease or transfer of water rights that are privately held, but within the boundary of the district. Because not all of these transactions would require irrigation district consent, staff have amended the language in	Yes

		Proposed OAR 695-046-0035, "Eligibility" to require notification of the irrigation district if the water rights involved in a proposed transaction are within the boundary of an irrigation district.	

Rules: 695-046-0200, Application Evaluation Process

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Kimberley Priestley, Senior Policy Analyst, WaterWatch of Oregon	Suggests that this proposed rule contain a public notice and comment period as part of the application evaluation process. Specifically, proposes an opportunity for public comment on the technical review team review before staff make a recommendation to the board.	OWEB intends on including an opportunity for public comment for grant applications seeking funding for permanent water transactions. Accordingly, staff have amended the language in proposed OAR 695-046-0205, "Public Involvement". Public comment on proposed permanent water transactions would be incorporated into the application evaluation that would be provided to the board.	Yes

Rule: General Comments

Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Keith Jordan	Expresses concern over depleted aquifer in Harney County leading to water quality issues near Burns. Suggests looking at number of irrigation pivots in area as a potential cause of water quality issues.	OWEB understands the groundwater issue in Harney County, and is involved in identifying solutions to the problem. However, the focus of the water acquisition grant program is surface water.	No

WaterWatch of Oregon
Protecting Natural Flows In Oregon Rivers

March 2, 2020

Eric Hartstein, Rules Coordinator
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Comments Chapter 695, Revisions to OWEB Water Acquisition Grant Program Rules

Dear Mr. Hartstein,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed rule changes to OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant Program Rules.

WaterWatch is a river conservation group that is dedicated to restoring and protecting streamflows statewide. As a general matter, we are supportive of state grants that result in legally protected water instream. That said, we do have some concerns with the rules as drafted. Comments will follow the ordering of the rules.

OAR 695-046-0010 Purpose of OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant Program: We would suggest that this section be amended to clarify that the water acquisition program must result in legally protected water instream. As is, the purpose is limited to acquiring from willing sellers interests in water for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitats for native fish or wildlife, without actually stating that the interest acquired must be water rights that can be legally protected instream.

Suggested amendment (in underline): OWEB may consider grant applications that propose to acquire from willing sellers legally protectable water rights for the purposes of maintaining or restoring streamflows, watersheds and habitats for native fish or wildlife.

OAR 695-046-0020 Definitions: Below are some suggested amendments as well as new terms.

(ADD NEW DEFINITION) Conserved Water Project: A project that conserves water pursuant to Oregon's Conserved Water Act, ORS 537.455 to 537.500.

(5) Protected Instream flow: This should be changed to "legally protected instream flow" and should be defined as instream flow that is protected under Oregon law through permanent or temporary transfers, instream leases, allocations of conserved water under a Conserved Water Project (ORS 537.455 to 537.500), flow augmentation rights (from stored water) or split season leases. See note on water use agreements under (10).

The definition provided simply punts to the definition of "water acquisition project" which includes measures that do not result in water that is legally protectable instream. See suggested edits to definition 9 ("water acquisition project") below.

(7) Technical review team: The definition seems both overly vague and overly broad. We would suggest limiting it to technical experts from relevant state agencies, Tribes and NGOs that have as a mission restoring and protecting streamflows.

(9) Water Acquisition project: This definition is the defining term of the program. As currently written it will not ensure that water is legally protected instream under Oregon law. To ensure that state funds are spent on projects that will result in legally protected water instream that can be enforced, we suggest the following amendments (cross out of deleted words, underline of replacement/amendments).

> "Water Acquisition Project" means a voluntary transaction that results in ~~a~~ legally protected instream flow through Oregon Water Resources Department~~, or other mechanisms,~~ that includes Instream Leases, Split Season Use Instream Leases, Time-limited Instream Transfers, Conserved Water Projects[1], Permanent Instream Transfers and flow augmentation secondary rights from storage. ~~And other Water Use Agreements.~~[2]

(10) Water Use Agreement: We would suggest deleting this definition in whole. State money for water acquisition should be limited to water acquisition tools that result in legally protected water instream. The State of Oregon cannot enforce/regulate water that is put instream pursuant to private agreements between users. As such, state funds should not be spent on such agreements.

That said, if OWEB decides to retain the option of "water use agreements", we would suggest that it be limited to projects where the applicant can prove that the water will be protected instream as against other users on the stream in the same way a legal transfer or lease would be; and that the applicant is a Tribe, ODFW, or is working through 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has a mission of protecting and restoring streamflows.

695-046-0035 Eligibility: We would suggest the following edits:

(1) Insert the word "legally" before "protected instream flows" in sub (1). Delete the words "lead to" and replace with "result in"
(2) Sub (2) should be deleted as it is a circular provision. Section (1) already says that it will only consider water acquisition projects that result in (a) or (b), so it is unnecessary to then have section (2) as an additional layer. In other words, it is already captured in (1).

695-046-0185 Use of Grant Funds:

The new provision for "legal fees" does not seem to be a judicious use of taxpayer monies. As OWEB is likely aware, there are a number of non-profits dedicated to restoring instream flows through transactions that broker instream deals on staff time. It seems to us that they could capture necessary

[1] If a definition of "conserved water project" is added to the definition section, then use of this term here is not problematic; If, however, the definition is not added then it should be made clear here that only conservation projects that go through the Conserved Water Act are eligible.
[2] See note in OAR 695-046-002 (10). If OWEB keeps this term in this section we would suggest limiting its use to ODFW, Tribes or applicants working through a 501(c)(3) organizations that have an organizational mission of restoring and protecting water instream.

costs under "customary due diligence activities". Increasingly, there are water speculators and/or districts that don't have as part of their mission/work to restore water instream that are attempting to circumvent the work of these nonprofits; OWEB should not encourage this by allowing undefined attorney fees.

695-046-0195 Coordinating and Partnering with Other Funders: This section should be amended to ensure that coordination is limited to projects that result in legally protected water instream and fit into the definition of "water acquisition project". Too often we see grant applications for projects that claim to "increase instream flow" or "improve water quality," but do not result in legally protectable water instream and therefore are of limited value.

695-046-0196 Evaluation Criteria:

(1)(e): The "or" at the end of (e) should be changed to an "and".
(3)(d): We would suggest deleting this section. Many restoration and protection opportunities fall outside of designated "collaboratives," which are often geared at addressing out-of-stream uses (even under the OWRD Place Based Planning work, there is not balance). 3(c) is a much better tier.

695-046-0200 Application Evaluation Process:

We do not see any public notice and comment allowed in this section. While we appreciate that Section OAR 695-046-0205 allow for general public comment, we would suggest that this section provide for a specific and robust public notice and comment period as part of the application evaluation process. Specifically, OWEB should offer an opportunity to the public to comment on the Technical Review team review/ranking before staff makes a recommendation to the board. Given that Boards often defer to staff recommendations, a more transparent process would allow comment before the staff makes its final recommendation to the Board.

We would suggest looking to the Oregon Water Resources Department's Water Supply Grant and Loan program as an example. OAR Chapter 690, Division 93.

Conclusion: WaterWatch very much supports OWEB's Water Acquisition Program. Our comments are meant to help ensure that water is actually protected instream and that public money is spent on projects that actually bring a public benefit. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Kimberley Priestley
Senior Policy Analyst

Deschutes Basin Board of Control

February 28, 2020

Attn: Eric Hartstein, Rules Coordinator
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL: eric.harstein@oregon.gov

Re: Comments on OWEB Water Acquisition Grant Program Rules

Dear Mr. Hartstein,

The Deschutes Basin Board of Control ("DBBC") appreciates the opportunity to comment on OWEB's proposed revisions to the Water Acquisition Grant Program Rules, OAR Chapter 695, Division 46. The DBBC includes eight Central Oregon irrigation districts, which are quasi-municipal corporations organized under ORS Chapter 545.

The DBBC requests that OWEB incorporate an additional requirement into the proposed rules, requiring grant applicants obtain written consent from irrigation districts potentially affected by grant projects. Oregon irrigation districts have statutory responsibilities to deliver water to patrons within their geographic boundaries. The DBBC is aware of previous instances in which a grant applicant failed to inform, let alone obtain consent from, an irrigation district before pursuing a project that would have interfered with the district's ability to deliver water. Requiring grant applicants to first obtain consent from an affected irrigation district is a simple but necessary step to ensure that OWEB grant projects do not interfere with district statutory responsibilities.

To accomplish this change, the DBBC requests that OWEB add a new section (5) to the proposed revision to OAR 695-046-0196:

> (5) Whether the proposed water acquisition project is within the boundaries of or may otherwise affect an irrigation district organized pursuant to ORS Chapter 545 and, if so, that the applicant has obtained written consent from the irrigation district for the proposed water acquisition project.

This language will alert applicants of the need to coordinate with affected irrigation districts. It will also ensure that the Board and its staff have the opportunity to evaluate applications for impacts to irrigation districts and to seek additional information, if necessary, during the application evaluation process.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Craig Horrell
DBBC President

PO Box 919 - Madras, OR 97741

DBBC Member Districts
Arnold Irrigation District • Central Oregon Irrigation District • Lone Pine Irrigation District • North Unit Irrigation District
Ochoco Irrigation District • Swalley Irrigation District • Three Sisters Irrigation District • Tumalo Irrigation District
DBBC President - Craig Horrell, 541-548-6047; chorrell@cosd.org

From:	Donita Jordan
To:	HARTSTEIN Eric * OWEB
Subject:	Comments on OWEB Rules
Date:	Tuesday, February 04, 2020 7:02:08 PM

Mr. Hartstein

My name is Keith Jordan and I'm a Harney County resident presiding in Burns.
Over the past several years I have become aware that families living within a few miles of the Burns-Hines district are losing quality of their well water and the water dept continues to plunge.
I consider this to be a very serious problem that will probably effect all of us here sooner rather than later.
I know folks who have not been able to drink their well water for several years because it has become toxic.
It seems to me that the number of pivots draining the aquafur would be the first thing to look at.

Sincerely

Keith Jordan

Chapter 695

Division 46
WATER ~~**LEASE AND TRANSFER**~~ACQUISITION GRANTS

695-046-0010

~~**695-046-0010**~~

Purpose

~~The purpose of this rule is~~In accordance with Section 4b of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose to ~~supplement~~acquire from willing sellers interests in water that result in Legally Protected Instream Flow to maintain or restore streamflows for the benefit of watersheds and habitats for native fish or wildlife. This division supplements the OWEB Grant Program rules under OAR 695-005 and ~~to add~~provides specific ~~guidance regarding~~requirements for the OWEB water acquisition grant program. ~~The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board~~In the event of any conflict between these requirements and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the water acquisition grant requirements in this division will take precedence. OWEB does not itself hold an interest in water rights in grants authorized under these rules, but rather allocates funding for Water ~~allocation~~Acquisition Projects to other entities ~~to hold~~, which may result in the State of Oregon or other entities holding the interest in water rights.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13
OWEB 2-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-046-0020~~,~~
Definitions

(1) “Conserved Water” means that amount of water that results from conservation measures, measured as the difference between:

(a) The smaller of the amount stated on the water right or the maximum amount of water that can be diverted using the existing facilities; and

(b) The amount of water needed after implementation of conservation measures to meet the beneficial use under the water right certificate.

(2) “Conserved Water Project” means a project that conserves water pursuant to Oregon’s Conserved Water Act, ORS 537.455 to 537.500.

(3) “Delegated to the Director” means the grant funds that the Board has authorized to the Director to award and enter into appropriate agreements.

(4) “Instream Lease” means the conversion of all or a portion of an existing water use subject to ~~their contractual and statutory obligations and the compliance requirements set forth in OAR 695-046-0220.~~transfer to an instream water right for a specified time-period as authorized by ORS 537.348(2).

~~Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906~~

~~Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)~~

~~Hist.: OWEB 2-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13~~

~~695-046-0020~~

~~Definition of Water Acquisition Project~~

~~(1) "Water Acquisition Project is a program or project that plans for or implements, or both, the acquisition of an interest or interests in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing instream flow to do either or both of the following:~~

~~Address the~~ (5) “Legally Protected Instream Flow” means the amount of water secured through a Water Acquisition Project that includes Instream Leases, Split-Season Use Instream Leases, Time-limited Instream Transfers, Conserved Water Projects, Permanent Instream Transfers, and other Water Use Agreements. .

(6) “Permanent Instream Transfer” means the permanent conversion of all or a portion of an existing water use subject to transfer to an instream water right as authorized by ORS 537.348(1).

(7) “Split-Season Use Instream Lease” means an Instream Lease in which the water right can be exercised in the same season defined by the water right in the same calendar year for both the existing purpose of the water right and for an instream purpose, provided that the water is not used for the existing purpose during the period in which water is to be protected instream as authorized under ORS 537.348(3).

(8) “Technical Review Teams” means a team of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities organized to evaluate water acquisition grant applications.

(9) “Time-limited Instream Transfer” means an instream transfer authorized under ORS 537.348(1) that is not permanent and under which the water right will revert back to its original use:

(a) Without further action by the Oregon Water Resources Department at the end of the period of time specified in the final order approving the instream transfer; or

(b) On a determination by the Department that other conditions, specified in the final order approving the instream transfer, for termination have been met.

(10) "Water Acquisition Project" means a voluntary transaction that results in a Legally Protected Instream Flow through Oregon Water Resources Department, or other legally recognized agreements.

(11) "Water Use Agreement" means a legal agreement between a water right holder and an eligible grant applicant to conserve water or curtail the beneficial use of water under a water right subject to transfer during specified periods or under specified conditions to achieve Legally Protected Instream Flow

695-046-0035
Eligibility

(1) The Board will only consider Water Acquisition Projects involving legal water rights not subject to forfeiture that will result in Legally Protected Instream Flows to address:

(a) The identified conservation needs of habitats and species~~;~~ as determined by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and in consideration of needs identified by other federal or tribal fish and wildlife agencies; or

~~Improve~~(b) Improving water quality in a water-quality-limited area ~~as~~, as defined in OAR 340-041-0002(70) and determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

~~(2) A water acquisition project may~~(2) The Board will also only consider projects that include written notice to irrigation districts where the ~~following activities:~~

~~(a) Strategic planning and development, project design, landowner outreach, and other activities associated with water acquisitions in a given basin or other defined area;~~

proposed Water Acquisition Project is within the boundary of an ~~interest in water and associated due diligence;~~irrigation district.

~~(b) Monitoring and other associated activities to ensure the interest is maintained through time.~~

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)

~~Hist.: OWEB 2-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05;~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13
OWEB 2-2005, f. & cert. ef. ~~6-19-13~~2-1-05

695-046-0185

~~695-046-0175~~

~~Nature of Application~~

~~In accordance with Section 4(b) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, OWEB may consider grant applications in partnership with other funders for projects that plan or implement the acquisition of an interest in water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat(s) for native fish or wildlife. Interest in water includes, but is not limited to, instream leases (including split season use instream leases), water use agreements that result in protectable instream flows, conserved water projects as determined by the Oregon Water Resources Department's Allocation of Conserved Water Program, and permanent and time-limited instream transfers. These projects must be designed to increase instream flow to do either or both of the following:~~

~~(1) Address the conservation needs of habitats and species; or~~

~~(2) Improve water quality in a water-quality-limited area as determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Applications must address the conservation and restoration needs of habitat(s) and species consistent with ecological priorities and principles identified by the Board.~~

~~Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906~~

~~Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) Hist.: OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13~~

~~695-046-0180~~

~~Application and Subsequent Grant Processing Requirements~~

~~(1) Grant applications for water acquisition projects must be submitted on the most current form that conforms with the process prescribed by the Board.~~
~~(2) This Board-prescribed process may be conducted in cooperation with other funders of water acquisition projects.~~
~~(3) In the event of any conflict between these requirements and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the water acquisition requirements in this division will take precedence.~~

~~Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906~~

~~Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) Hist.: OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13~~

~~695-046-0185~~

Use of Grant Funds

Water acquisition grant funds may be applied ~~towards~~toward reasonable costs, as determined by OWEB, related to the ~~planning and/or~~ implementation of ~~acquisition of interest in water from willing sellers~~Water Acquisition Projects, including:

(1) The purchase price and the purchase option fees associated with acquisition of an interest in water.

(2) The monetary interest on bridge loans needed to secure the interest in water prior to when funding will be available for distribution through the program.

(3) The staff costs incurred as part of acquiring the interest in water.

(4) The cost of ~~water-owner~~ outreach activities necessary for the funded Water Acquisition Project.

(5) The cost of due diligence activities, including appraisal or valuation of the interest to be acquired, title report, assessment of the timing and extent of water use and regulation associated with the interest in water, ~~Oregon Water Resources Department application costs,~~ and other customary due diligence activities.

~~(1)~~ (6) The ~~legal fees incurred.~~

~~The transfer and~~ closing fees related to the acquisition of an interest in water.

(7) The cost of monitoring the ~~acquisition~~Water Acquisition Project to certify that the water interest is being used and managed consistent with Section ~~4(b),~~4b, Article XV of the Oregon Constitution.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0190

~~**695-046-0190**~~

Matching Contributions

(1) All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% of the ~~actual~~ Water Acquisition Project cost is being sought as match, with the grant applicant required to provide matching funds and efforts necessary to complete the purchase. The following costs and activities will qualify as match:

(a) All costs listed under OAR 695-046-0185, including in-kind contributions of those costs.

(b) Funding commitments made by others as a result of grant applicant efforts (including funding to be secured from other funders as part of a Board-prescribed process conducted in cooperation with other funders).

(c) Any donated portion of the interest in water.

(2) OWEB funds ~~provided under OAR 695-046-0185~~ shall not qualify as matching contributions.

(3) The Director retains the discretion to determine ~~that specific~~whether matching costs are ~~unreasonable in a particular grant context~~reasonable and ~~would not~~will be recognized as qualifying matching costs.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0195

~~**695-046-0195**~~

Coordinating and Partnering with Other Funders

In accordance with Section 4b of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, OWEB may consider grant applications in partnership with other funders for the ~~purpose~~purposes of creating operational efficiencies and ~~better~~ coordinating investments in ~~water acquisitions to maintain or restore watersheds and habitat(s) for native fish or wildlife that are~~ projects designed to ~~increase~~ result in legally protected water instream ~~flow~~and to do one or both of the following:

(1) Address the conservation needs of habitats and species as determined by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and in consideration of needs identified by other federal, or tribal fish and wildlife agencies; or

(2) Improve water quality in a water-quality-limited area as defined in OAR 340-041-0002(70) and determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~

History:

OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0196

~~**695-046-0200**~~

~~Application~~ Evaluation ~~Process~~Criteria

~~(1) Grant applications for~~ Water acquisition ~~projects shall~~ grant applications will be evaluated ~~in accordance with guidance (including priorities, principles, and process) adopted and periodically reviewed by the Board and made available to the public via~~ on the ~~agency's website and Board meeting materials.~~

~~(2) The evaluation may be conducted in cooperation with other funders.~~

~~The grant~~ extent to which the application ~~evaluation process shall include reviews for~~describes:

~~(a) The consistency of the water acquisition project with the Board's established priorities and principles for water acquisitions.~~

~~(b)~~ (1) The significance of the projected ecological outcomes~~.~~

~~(c) The business plan for the water acquisition project~~, including~~:~~

~~Socio-economic strategy, including the community impacts or benefits resulting from the project (including, but not limited to, description of both current and~~ how the proposed Water ~~uses, potential effects on existing water rights and uses, and other relevant socio-economic information).~~Acquisition Project:

~~(A) The capacity of the grant applicant to complete the acquisition and to achieve and sustain the proposed ecological outcomes over time.~~

~~(B) The soundness of the planning and of the legal and financial terms of the proposed water acquisition project, and its feasibility to achieve the projected ecological outcomes.~~

~~Priority will be given to projects that are planned or implemented, or both, by grant applicants with a sound program to acquire interests~~(a) Achieves or helps to achieve any professionally accepted flow target during the period of use;

(b) Addresses limiting factors identified in ~~water rights to address the~~professionally accepted conservation ~~needs of habitats and~~ plans for habitat conservation needs or water quality;

(c) Provides benefits to impacted species and ~~improve water quality~~life stages;

(d) Monitors and tracks project impacts over time, as appropriate for the transaction type and duration;

(e) Monitors project compliance, as appropriate for the transaction type and duration; and

(f) Contributes to climate change resiliency.

(2) The alignment of proposed costs with the work necessary to accomplish the objectives described in ~~a water~~ the application, including:

(a) The ownership, use, validity, and reliability of the water right;

(b) How the proposed cost of the Legally Protected Instream Flow is consistent with local or regional market conditions; and

(c) How the term of the proposed Water Acquisition Project is appropriate to meet the habitat, species, or water quality ~~limited area, as determined by the Oregon Department of~~ needs.

(3) How the proposed activities are part of a strategic effort or long term vision for restoring instream flows in the watershed, including how the proposed Water Acquisition Project:

(a) Complements other habitat conservation actions and needs;

(b) Will lead to future expansion of instream flow restoration; and

(c) Addresses Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or other federal or tribal fish and wildlife agency priorities for aquatic habitat, Oregon Department of Agriculture or Oregon Department of Forestry priorities for water quality, or Oregon Department of Environmental Quality water quality management or implementation plans, if established.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ (4) The capacity and qualifications of the applicant, including staff or consultants to be retained, to accomplish the proposed Water Acquisition Project activities described in the application and to sustain the projected ecological outcomes over the project term.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~

History:

OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0200

Application Evaluation Process

(1) For Water acquisition applications s seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) A Technical Review Team will be convened to review water acquisition grant applications.

(b) Prior to the Technical Review Team meeting, the Technical Review Team shall evaluate each application based on the information provided and the evaluation criteria as described in OAR 695-046-0196.

(c) At the Technical Review Team meeting, the Technical Review Team shall:

(A) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria as described in OAR 695-046-0196.

(B) Recommend the project as:

(i) Do fund;

(ii) Do fund with conditions:

(iii) Do not fund; or

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

(C) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on how well the project meets the criteria established in OAR 695-046-0196.

(d) The project description, summary evaluation, and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the Technical Review Team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be provided to all applicants and to the Board.

(4) For Water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that have been Delegated to the Director;

(a) A Technical Review Team will be convened to review grant applications.

(b) The Technical Review Team shall review and evaluate each project based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-046-0196 and provide feedback and recommendations to OWEB staff.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History:

695-046-0201
Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) For water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

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

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

(2) For grant applications seeking grant funds that have been Delegated to the Director, staff shall review the recommendations from each Technical Review Team and make a funding recommendation to the Director based on available resources for the grant offering and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation shall be made available to the applicants.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History:

695-046-0202

~~**695-046-0205**~~

Funding Decision

(1) For water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) After considering recommendations from staff, and any community impacts from the proposed Water Acquisition Project, the Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(b) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

(2) For water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that have been Delegated to the Director:

(a) After considering recommendations from staff, and any community impacts from the proposed Water Acquisition Project, the Director may fund a project in whole or in part.

(b) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History:

695-046-0205
Public Involvement

The public shall be provided with opportunities to comment on grant applications for Water Acquisition Projects being considered by the Board. OWEB will provide written notice through its website of the Board's intent to consider water acquisition grant applications. The Board will accept:

(1) Comments made at public hearings, as described in ORS 271.735, held on grant applications seeking funding for Permanent Instream Transfers;

(2) Written comments received at least 14 days before the Board meeting at which the application is to be considered by the Board; and

(3) Oral comments made at the Board meeting at which the grant application is considered.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0210

~~695-046-0210~~

Board Approval and Delegation of Authority

The Board shall conditionally approve grants ~~in accordance~~ with ~~guidance adopted by the Board and~~funding conditions made available to the public. The Director is delegated the responsibility of ensuring that funding conditions required by the Board are fully satisfied by the grant applicant.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0215

~~695-046-0215~~

Director's 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 met to the full satisfaction of the Director;

(b) The legal and financial terms of the proposed ~~acquisition of an interest in water~~Water Acquisition Project transaction are approved by the Director~~.~~;

(c) A grant agreement is executed by the Director and ~~either~~ the grant applicant~~ or the entity or entities identified under the Board-prescribed process for other funders as referenced under OAR 695-046-0180. In the latter case, the other funder(s) must subsequently execute a grant agreement with the applicant to utilize OWEB funds in support of a water acquisition project.~~; (d) The Director has reconciled conditionally ~~-~~approved funding with actual Water Acquisition Project costs~~.~~; and

(d) The grant applicant has satisfied the match requirements under 695-046-0190.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ (2) For grants established under these rules, the Director is authorized to reimburse the grant applicant for allowable costs identified in OAR 695-046-0185 and to recognize matching contributions under OAR 695-046-0190 that were incurred no earlier than 18 months before the applicable grant application deadline.

(3) Notwithstanding OAR 659-046-0215(1)(a), funds may be distributed prior to Water Acquisition Project transaction closing for due diligence activities specified in OAR 659-046-0185(5) and included in the application budget.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)~~ Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0220

~~695-046-0220~~

Compliance and Enforcement

(1) The ongoing use of the water ~~interest~~interests acquired with OWEB water acquisition grant funds shall be consistent with the purposes specified in section ~~4(b)~~4b 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 initiate any and all legal remedies available to OWEB, including recovery of the OWEB grant funds that were used to purchase the water interest, and reasonable interest and penalties at the option of the Director.

(2) OWEB, its grantees, contractors and cooperating agencies must be provided sufficient legal access to property to which the water interest acquired with OWEB funds is appurtenant, for the purpose of monitoring to certify that the water interest is being used and managed consistent with Section ~~4(b),~~ 4b, Article XV of the Oregon Constitution.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0225

~~695-046-0225~~

Subsequent Conveyances

A water interest acquired with OWEB grant funds shall not be conveyed to another party unless the conveyance is approved by the Board~~,~~ and may not be conveyed for the purpose of consumptive uses.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0230

~~695-046-0230~~

Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 46 for individual grant applications, not including mandatory constitutional or statutory requirements, when doing so is reasonably calculated to result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's water acquisition grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. The administrative rules for water acquisition grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

~~Stat. Auth.:~~ Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906

~~Stats.~~
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9) ~~Hist.:~~
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

Chapter 695

Division 46
WATER ACQUISITION GRANTS

695-046-0010
Purpose

In accordance with Section 4b of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution and ORS 541.956, OWEB may consider grant applications that propose to acquire from willing sellers interests in water that result in Legally Protected Instream Flow to maintain or restore streamflows for the benefit of watersheds and habitats for native fish or wildlife. This division supplements the OWEB Grant Program rules under OAR 695-005 and provides specific requirements for the OWEB water acquisition grant program. In the event of any conflict between these requirements and requirements identified in OAR 695-005, the water acquisition grant requirements in this division will take precedence. OWEB does not itself hold an interest in water rights in grants authorized under these rules, but rather allocates funding for Water Acquisition Projects to other entities, which may result in the State of Oregon or other entities holding the interest in water rights.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13
OWEB 2-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-046-0020
Definitions

(1) "Conserved Water" means that amount of water that results from conservation measures, measured as the difference between:

(a) The smaller of the amount stated on the water right or the maximum amount of water that can be diverted using the existing facilities; and

(b) The amount of water needed after implementation of conservation measures to meet the beneficial use under the water right certificate.

(2) "Conserved Water Project" means a project that conserves water pursuant to Oregon's Conserved Water Act, ORS 537.455 to 537.500.

(3) "Delegated to the Director" means the grant funds that the Board has authorized to the Director to award and enter into appropriate agreements.

(4) “Instream Lease” means the conversion of all or a portion of an existing water use subject to transfer to an instream water right for a specified time-period as authorized by ORS 537.348(2).

(5) “Legally Protected Instream Flow” means the amount of water secured through a Water Acquisition Project that includes Instream Leases, Split-Season Use Instream Leases, Time-limited Instream Transfers, Conserved Water Projects, Permanent Instream Transfers, and other Water Use Agreements.

(6) “Permanent Instream Transfer” means the permanent conversion of all or a portion of an existing water use subject to transfer to an instream water right as authorized by ORS 537.348(1).

(7) “Split-Season Use Instream Lease” means an Instream Lease in which the water right can be exercised in the same season defined by the water right in the same calendar year for both the existing purpose of the water right and for an instream purpose, provided that the water is not used for the existing purpose during the period in which water is to be protected instream as authorized under ORS 537.348(3).

(8) “Technical Review Teams” means a team of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities organized to evaluate water acquisition grant applications.

(9) “Time-limited Instream Transfer” means an instream transfer authorized under ORS 537.348(1) that is not permanent and under which the water right will revert back to its original use:

(a) Without further action by the Oregon Water Resources Department at the end of the period of time specified in the final order approving the instream transfer; or

(b) On a determination by the Department that other conditions, specified in the final order approving the instream transfer, for termination have been met.

(10) "Water Acquisition Project” means a voluntary transaction that results in a Legally Protected Instream Flow through Oregon Water Resources Department or other legally recognized agreements.

(11) “Water Use Agreement” means a legal agreement between a water right holder and an eligible grant applicant to conserve water or curtail the beneficial use of water under a water right subject to transfer during specified periods or under specified conditions to achieve Legally Protected Instream Flow

695-046-0035
Eligibility

(1) The Board will only consider Water Acquisition Projects involving legal water rights not subject to forfeiture that will result in Legally Protected Instream Flows to address:

(a) The identified conservation needs of habitats and species as determined by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and in consideration of needs identified by other federal or tribal fish and wildlife agencies; or

(b) Improving water quality in a water-quality-limited area, as defined in OAR 340-041-0002(70) and determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

(2) The Board will also only consider projects that include written notice to irrigation districts where the proposed Water Acquisition Project is within the boundary of an irrigation district.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13
OWEB 2-2005, f. & cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-046-0185
Use of Grant Funds

Water acquisition grant funds may be applied toward reasonable costs, as determined by OWEB, related to the implementation of Water Acquisition Projects, including:

(1) The purchase price and the purchase option fees associated with acquisition of an interest in water.

(2) The monetary interest on bridge loans needed to secure the interest in water prior to when funding will be available for distribution through the program.

(3) The staff costs incurred as part of acquiring the interest in water.

(4) The cost of outreach activities necessary for the funded Water Acquisition Project.

(5) The cost of due diligence activities, including appraisal or valuation of the interest to be acquired, title report, assessment of the timing and extent of water use and regulation associated with the interest in water, and other customary due diligence activities.

(6) The closing fees related to the acquisition of an interest in water.

(7) The cost of monitoring the Water Acquisition Project to certify that the water interest is being used and managed consistent with Section 4b, Article XV of the Oregon Constitution.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0190
Matching Contributions

(1) All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% of the Water Acquisition Project cost is being sought as match, with the grant applicant required to provide matching funds and efforts necessary to complete the purchase. The following costs and activities will qualify as match:

(a) All costs listed under OAR 695-046-0185, including in-kind contributions of those costs.

(b) Funding commitments made by others as a result of grant applicant efforts (including funding to be secured from other funders as part of a Board-prescribed process conducted in cooperation with other funders).

(c) Any donated portion of the interest in water.

(2) OWEB funds shall not qualify as matching contributions.

(3) The Director retains the discretion to determine whether matching costs are reasonable and will be recognized as qualifying matching costs.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0195
Coordinating and Partnering with Other Funders

In accordance with Section 4b of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, OWEB may consider grant applications in partnership with other funders for the purposes of creating operational efficiencies and coordinating investments in projects designed to result in legally protected water instream and to do one or both of the following:

(1) Address the conservation needs of habitats and species as determined by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and in consideration of needs identified by other federal, or tribal fish and wildlife agencies; or

(2) Improve water quality in a water-quality-limited area as defined in OAR 340-041-0002(70) and determined by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)

History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-1

695-046-0196
Evaluation Criteria

Water acquisition grant applications will be evaluated on the extent to which the application describes:

(1) The significance of the projected ecological outcomes, including how the proposed Water Acquisition Project:

(a) Achieves or helps to achieve any professionally accepted flow target during the period of use;

(b) Addresses limiting factors identified in professionally accepted conservation plans for habitat conservation needs or water quality;

(c) Provides benefits to impacted species and life stages;

(d) Monitors and tracks project impacts over time, as appropriate for the transaction type and duration;

(e) Monitors project compliance, as appropriate for the transaction type and duration; and

(f) Contributes to climate change resiliency.

(2) The alignment of proposed costs with the work necessary to accomplish the objectives described in the application, including:

(a) The ownership, use, validity, and reliability of the water right;

(b) How the proposed cost of the Legally Protected Instream Flow is consistent with local or regional market conditions; and

(c) How the term of the proposed Water Acquisition Project is appropriate to meet the habitat, species, or water quality needs.

(3) How the proposed activities are part of a strategic effort or long term vision for restoring instream flows in the watershed, including how the proposed Water Acquisition Project:

(a) Complements other habitat conservation actions and needs;

(b) Will lead to future expansion of instream flow restoration; and

(c) Addresses Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, or other federal or tribal fish and wildlife agency priorities for aquatic habitat, Oregon Department of Agriculture or Oregon

Department of Forestry priorities for water quality, or Oregon Department of Environmental Quality water quality management or implementation plans, if established.

(4) The capacity and qualifications of the applicant, including staff or consultants to be retained, to accomplish the proposed Water Acquisition Project activities described in the application and to sustain the projected ecological outcomes over the project term.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0200
Application Evaluation Process

(1) For Water acquisition applications s seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) A Technical Review Team will be convened to review water acquisition grant applications.

(b) Prior to the Technical Review Team meeting, the Technical Review Team shall evaluate each application based on the information provided and the evaluation criteria as described in OAR 695-046-0196.

(c) At the Technical Review Team meeting, the Technical Review Team shall:

(A) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria as described in OAR 695-046-0196.

(B) Recommend the project as:

(i) Do fund;

(ii) Do fund with conditions:

(iii) Do not fund; or

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

(C) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on how well the project meets the criteria established in OAR 695-046-0196.

(d) The project description, summary evaluation, and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the Technical Review Team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be provided to all applicants and to the Board.

(4) For Water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that have been Delegated to the Director;

(a) A Technical Review Team will be convened to review grant applications.

(b) The Technical Review Team shall review and evaluate each project based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in OAR 695-046-0196 and provide feedback and recommendations to OWEB staff.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History:

695-046-0201
Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) For water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

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

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

(2) For grant applications seeking grant funds that have been Delegated to the Director, staff shall review the recommendations from each Technical Review Team and make a funding recommendation to the Director based on available resources for the grant offering and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation shall be made available to the applicants.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History:

695-046-0202
Funding Decision

(1) For water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that require the Board to make a funding decision:

(a) After considering recommendations from staff, and any community impacts from the proposed Water Acquisition Project, the Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(b) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

(2) For water acquisition grant applications seeking grant funds that have been Delegated to the Director:

(a) After considering recommendations from staff, and any community impacts from the proposed Water Acquisition Project, the Director may fund a project in whole or in part.

(b) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during future application submission periods.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890-541.969
History:

695-046-0205
Public Involvement

The public shall be provided with opportunities to comment on grant applications for Water Acquisition Projects being considered by the Board. OWEB will provide written notice through its website of the Board's intent to consider water acquisition grant applications. The Board will accept:

(1) Comments made at public hearings, as described in ORS 271.735, held on grant applications seeking funding for Permanent Instream Transfers;
(2) Written comments received at least 14 days before the Board meeting at which the application is to be considered by the Board; and
(3) Oral comments made at the Board meeting at which the grant application is considered.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0210
Board Approval and Delegation of Authority

The Board shall conditionally approve grants with funding conditions made available to the public. The Director is delegated the responsibility of ensuring that funding conditions required by the Board are fully satisfied by the grant applicant.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0215
Director's 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 met to the full satisfaction of the Director;

(b) The legal and financial terms of the proposed Water Acquisition Project transaction are approved by the Director;

(c) A grant agreement is executed by the Director and the grant applicant; (d) The Director has reconciled conditionally approved funding with actual Water Acquisition Project costs; and

(d) The grant applicant has satisfied the match requirements under 695-046-0190.

(2) For grants established under these rules, the Director is authorized to reimburse the grant applicant for allowable costs identified in OAR 695-046-0185 and to recognize matching contributions under OAR 695-046-0190 that were incurred no earlier than 18 months before the applicable grant application deadline.

(3) Notwithstanding OAR 659-046-0215(1)(a), funds may be distributed prior to Water Acquisition Project transaction closing for due diligence activities specified in OAR 659-046-0185(5) and included in the application budget.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0220
Compliance and Enforcement

(1) The ongoing use of the water interests acquired with OWEB water acquisition grant funds shall be consistent with the purposes specified in section 4b 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 initiate any and all legal remedies available to OWEB, including recovery of the OWEB grant funds that were used to purchase the water interest, and reasonable interest and penalties at the option of the Director.

(2) OWEB, its grantees, contractors and cooperating agencies must be provided sufficient legal access to property to which the water interest acquired with OWEB funds is appurtenant, for the purpose of monitoring to certify that the water interest is being used and managed consistent with Section 4b, Article XV of the Oregon Constitution.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0225
Subsequent Conveyances

A water interest acquired with OWEB grant funds shall not be conveyed to another party unless the conveyance is approved by the Board and may not be conveyed for the purpose of consumptive uses.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

695-046-0230
Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 46 for individual grant applications, not including mandatory constitutional or statutory requirements, when doing so is reasonably calculated to result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's water acquisition grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies. The administrative rules for water acquisition grants shall be periodically reviewed by the Board and revised as necessary and appropriate.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906
Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.932(9)
History:
OWEB 2-2013, f. & cert. ef. 6-19-13

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.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
April 21, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. At each board meeting, staff will briefly highlight *Telling the Restoration Story* project outcomes, drawing on projects that have occurred in the region where the board meeting is hosted.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Eight projects have been funded under this offering so far. An online map provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available: https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6

III. *Telling the Restoration Story*: Coyote Creek South

Coyote Creek South is a 116-acre project area within a complex of protected land in the West Eugene Wetlands and Fern Ridge Wildlife Area in the southern Willamette Valley. OWEB-funded restoration aims to restore agricultural wetlands to a mosaic of wet prairie and vernal pool habitat that supports diverse native plant species and sensitive wildlife, including the red-legged frog and Streaked Horned Lark (federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act). Monitoring efforts have focused on surveys of site hydrology, native vegetation, and avian and amphibian species. The resulting data informs effective strategies for restoring habitat for sensitive species, and is of great interest to restoration practitioners working in oak-prairie habitat throughout the Willamette Valley-Puget Trough-Georgia Basin ecoregion. While

OWEB restoration and monitoring grants have funded Coyote Creek South data collection, a strong need remained to share results with restoration practitioners working in similar landscapes.

Telling the Restoration Story funded Long Tom Watershed Council to compile amphibian and avian survey data and to produce a suite of outreach products. OWEB staff advised the grantee on communication product design, high-quality graphics, and online mapping technology to create an in-depth online StoryMap.

Outreach products include 1) a site brochure with map (Attachment A), 2) a poster for display within the Eugene community, and 3) a short fact sheet for potential project landowners (Attachment B).

The StoryMap is available online: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bc3ffd9f95fb4d9b828e85b7351f3a7c and highlights are presented in Attachment C. The StoryMap describes the cultural and ecological context for wet prairie restoration, including the importance of the habitat for Kalapuya peoples. The StoryMap provides detailed information about vegetation monitoring results, showing specific seed mixtures used at different locations throughout the restoration site. Hydrology monitoring results are available through an interactive map showing changing water depth and pool surface area, capturing important characteristics for wildlife in response to restoration.

Two additional products were produced for restoration practitioners: 1) a six-page fact sheet and 2) a technical appendix, providing additional data and documentation on restoration methods and results.

IV. Next steps

OWEB staff continue to work with *Telling the Restoration Story* grantees on communication product development for ongoing projects under this offering. Two applications are currently under review. Staff continue to identify new project opportunities, and anticipate that several additional projects will be developed during the 2019-2021 biennium.

V. Recommendation

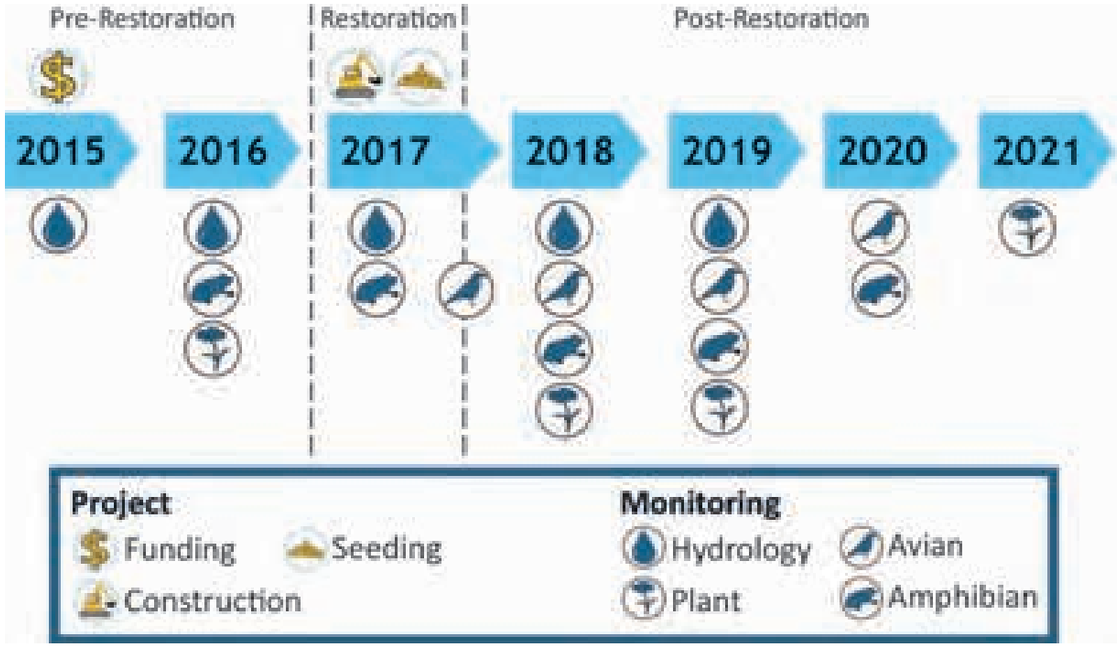
This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Coyote Creek South Brochure with Map
B. Coyote Creek South Two-Page Fact Sheet
C. Coyote Creek South StoryMap Highlights

OUR TIMELINE

MONITORING TO MEASURE BENEFITS TO WILDLIFE FROM WET PRAIRIE RESTORATION



RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

The site was previously under cultivation for grass seed. Drainage ditches were installed and soil was leveled to reduce standing water, benefiting crops, but disrupting the natural movement of water and severely limiting habitat for many species. Starting in 2015 with funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Bonneville Power Adminstration's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, Long Tom Watershed Council and ODFW restored the historic hydrologic function of the ecosystem across 116 acres using the following techniques:

- SITE PREP: removing agricultural grasses with herbicide to prepare for seeding native species
- EARTHWORK: creating shallow berms and depressions to hold water on site seasonally
- SEEDING: native plant mixes designed for eight different microhabitats through broadcast and drill seeding
- MONITORING: amphibian, plant, and bird surveys; seasonal pool depth and surface area

LEARN MORE AND DONATE TO SUPPORT RESTORATION PROJECTS AT:
WWW.LONGTOM.ORG/CCS

BENEFITS OF RESTORATION

HYDROLOGIC FUNCTION: Vernal (seasonal) pools are special features of wet prairies that provide valuable habitat for a diversity of plants and animals.

- Some pools hold water into June or July for amphibians to complete their reproductive cycle.
- Other pools dry in time for streaked horned larks to begin nesting in May.

HABITAT FOR RARE BIRDS: Welcome back streaked horned lark! 2018 saw larks establishing in the area. In 2019, five nests with fledgling birds were identified at Coyote Creek South. These birds create nests in bare ground that is exposed when shallow pools dry.

HABITAT FOR AMPHIBIANS: In 2018, native amphibians found on the site included rough skinned newt, long toed salamander, and Pacific chorus frog. Native amphibian presence significantly increased in 2019. The threatened Red-legged frogs have not yet been found on site, but they are nearby and expected to travel.

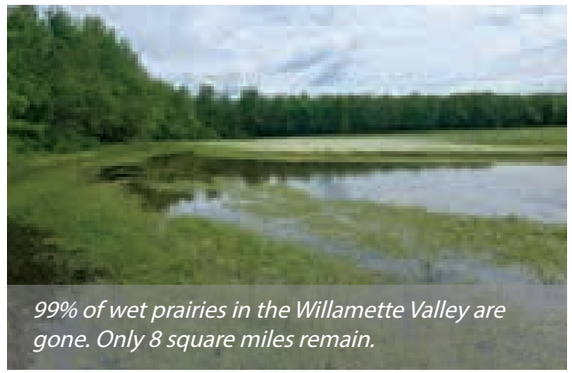
PLANT DIVERSITY: Over 60 species of plants were seeded to the site. Overall the plant establishment is quite successful. 89 plant species were counted in 2019.



A lark nest discovered at Coyote Creek South in summer 2019. Photo by Lara Jones

LONG TOM
WATERSHED COUNCIL

COYOTE CREEK SOUTH WET PRAIRIE RESTORATION



99% of wet prairies in the Willamette Valley are gone. Only 8 square miles remain.

Coyote Creek South is a 309 acre property managed by the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). Historically maintained as part of the Kalapuya people's prairie horticulture system in the Willamette Valley, Coyote Creek South is part of a complex of more than 8,500 acres of protected lands around Fern Ridge Reservoir that include the largest remaining acreage of wet prairie in the valley.

Many of the plant and animal species associated with wet prairie habitats have become threatened or endangered because of habitat loss, including the streaked horned lark (pictured below) and the red-legged frog. In 2015, ODFW and the Long Tom Watershed Council partnered to create a plan to restore more of the original hydrology and native plant composition through years of site preparation, earthwork, and seeding.

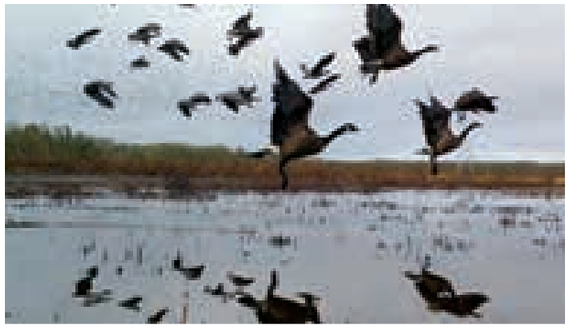


Thirteen federally-recognized species of concern call the wet prairie of Coyote Creek South home.

LEARN MORE AT:
WWW.LONGTOM.ORG/CCS

COME VISIT!

Coyote Creek South is a unique opportunity to see the results of a conservation project. Its proximity to the Fern Ridge Reservoir and nearby urban centers such as Eugene and Veneta makes it a convenient location to visit. As state-managed land, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife welcomes on-foot, low-impact recreation on the site to observe and enjoy the outcomes of restoration actions.



BIRDWATCHING: Overwintering waterfowl, seasonally migrating shorebirds, as well as grassland birds such as meadowlarks and streaked horned larks.

WILDFLOWERS: Enjoy the colorful display of flowers, from popcorn flower, monkey flower, and blue-eyed Mary in the spring, to the culturally significant gumweed and tarweed in later summer.

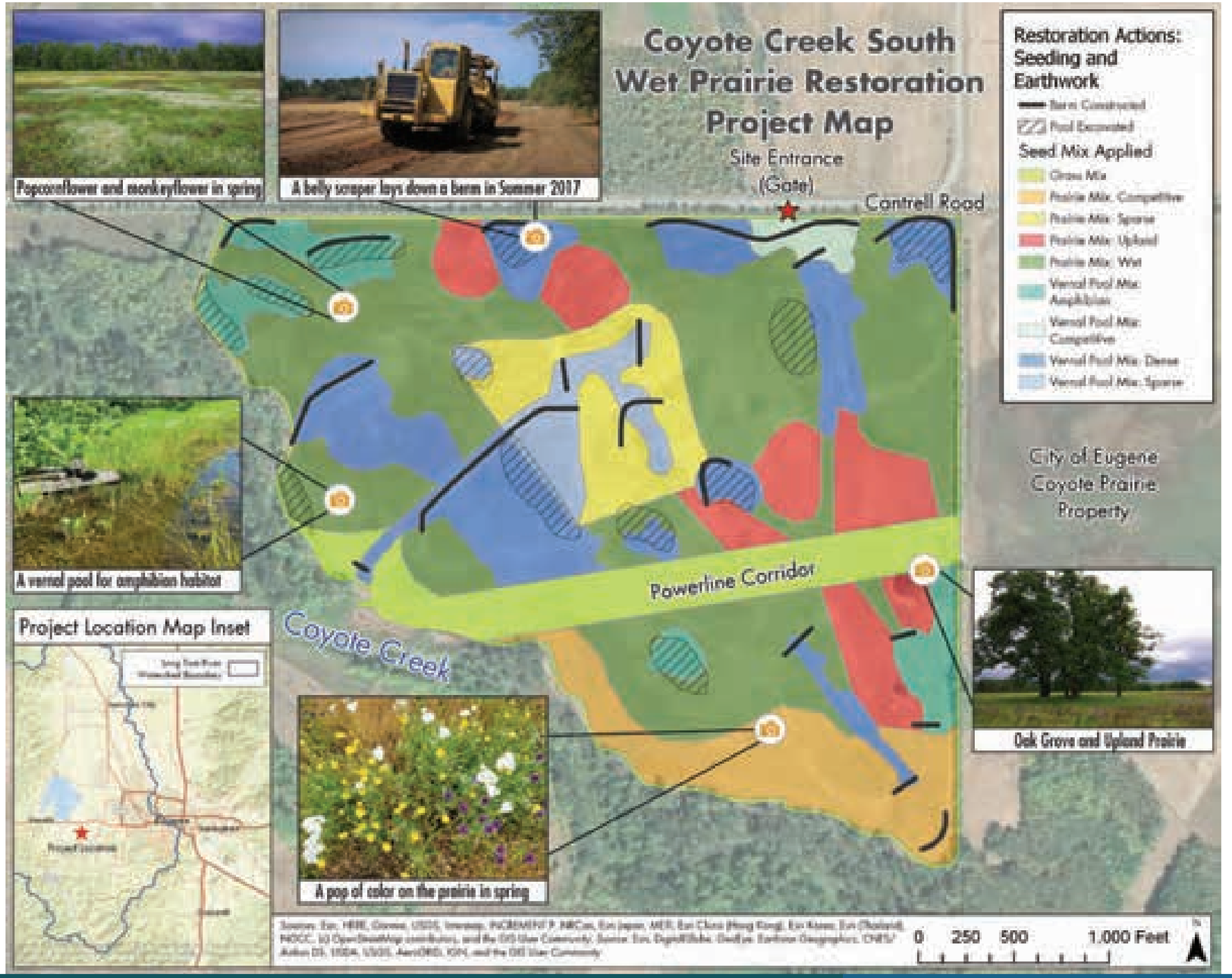
VERNAL POOLS: See how the water level changes dramatically throughout the year. Take a closer look at the teeming aquatic life.



VISIT THE SITE:

Seasonal closure are posted at the site entrance on Cantrell Road. More information on site access and regulations can be found at:

myodfw.com/fern-ridge-wildlife-area-visitors-guide



In one square meter of wetland, you can find up to 30 native plant species.

LEARN MORE AT:
WWW.LONGTOM.ORG/CCS

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

COYOTE CREEK SOUTH — WET PRAIRIE RESTORATION



116 acres restored to benefit rare native plants, birds, and amphibians

Coyote Creek South wet prairie restoration site. *Photo by Aaron Zettler-Mann*

LANDSCAPE CHANGES

The Willamette Valley floodplain was historically maintained as a dominantly open prairie-savanna landscape by the Kalapuya peoples. Since Euro-American colonization in the 1850s, the majority of the valley bottoms have been converted to agriculture and residential/urban development. Combined with the exclusion of fire and control of flooding, the resulting habitat loss and fragmentation has imperilled a number of native species that depend on these ecosystems to live.



99% of wet prairies in the Willamette Valley are gone. Only 8 square miles remain.

WHAT'S IN A PRAIRIE

Wetland prairies are formed in poorly drained lowlands where seasonal rainwater collects, saturating the soil and leaving vernal (seasonal) pools that hold standing water into April or May. The pattern of natural flooding also creates complex landscape features, with small mounds (pedestals) and banks (berms) protruding above braided channels. This network of microtopography in wetland prairies support a high diversity of plant species—approximately 350—many of which will not grow in other places.

In one square meter of a wetland you can find up to 30 native plant species.

SENSITIVE SPECIES

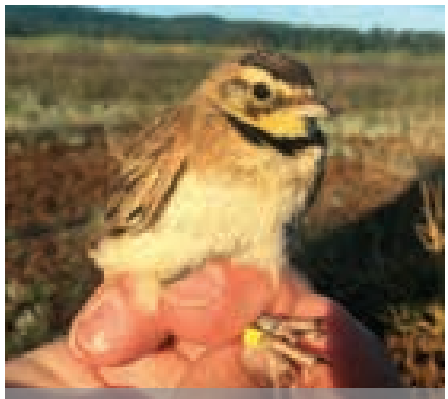
Wet prairies host a diversity of species, some of which are at risk due to habitat loss. For example, the Streaked Horned Lark (federally listed threatened bird) depends on large expanses of sparsely vegetated grassland—such as those left by drying vernal pools in wet prairies—for nesting. It is estimated that there are only 1600 larks remaining. Red-Legged Frogs (federally listed species of concern) depend on seasonal pools with emergent plants for egg laying.



Essential habitat for waterfowl.



A pop of spring color.



Color-banded fledgling streaked horned lark. Photo by Lara Jones

PROJECT PROFILE: COYOTE CREEK SOUTH

Coyote Creek South, within the homelands of the native Kalapuya peoples, is managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The property was purchased in 2013 through the Bonneville Power Administration's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, and is part of more than 8,500 acres of protected lands around Fern Ridge Lake that comprise the largest remaining acreage of wet prairie in the entire Willamette Valley.





VISIT THE SITE:

ODFW welcomes low-impact recreation. Foot traffic only, leave no trace, keep dogs on leash.

Seasonal closures are posted at the site entrance on Cantrell Road. More information on site access and regulations can be found at:

myodfw.com/fern-ridge-wildlife-area-visitors-guide

REVIVING A FUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPE

Low-lying, seasonally wet agricultural lands—both productive and degraded fields—are crucial sites for wetland prairie restoration. Coyote Creek South offers an example of how such sites can be reclaimed to provide critical habitat for rare species and revive the seasonal patterns of wet and dry that support a functioning ecosystem for all life.

RESTORATION TECHNIQUES

The site was previously under cultivation for grass seed. Drainage ditches were installed and soil was levelled to reduce standing water, benefitting crops, but disrupting the natural movement of water and severely limiting habitat for many species. Starting in 2015 with funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Bonneville Power Administration, the Long Tom Watershed Council and ODFW restored the historic hydrologic function of the ecosystem across 116 acres using the following techniques:

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BENEFITS OF RESTORATION

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RARE AMPHIBIANS: Since 2018, native amphibians found on the site included rough skinned newt, long toed salamander, and Pacific chorus frog. Native amphibian presence significantly increased in 2019. The threatened Red-legged frogs have not yet been found on site, but they are nearby and expected to travel.

PLANT DIVERSITY: Over 60 species of plants were seeded to the site. Overall the plant establishment is quite successful. 89 plant species were counted in 2019.



Essential habitat for amphibians.

LONG TOM WATERSHED COUNCIL

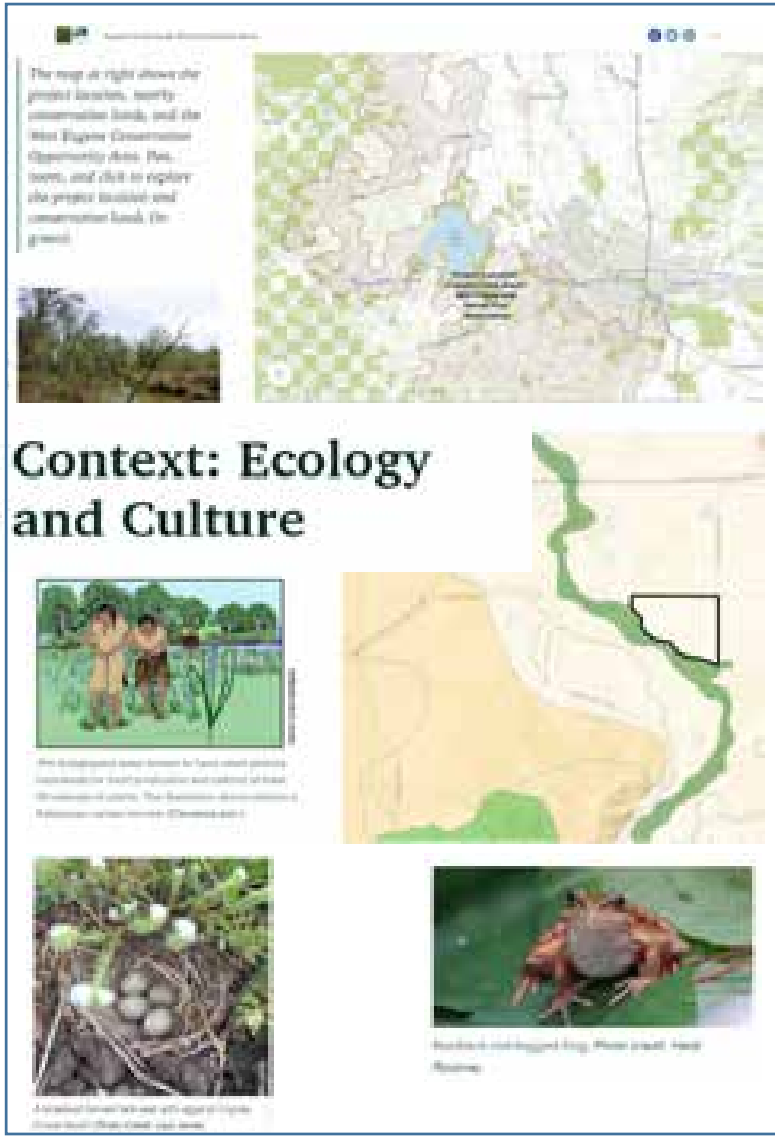
For 21 years the LTWC has worked on behalf of its *community* to build a culture of neighbors helping neighbors to do the right thing for *land* and *water* in the *home* we share through voluntary habitat restoration.

Highlights from Coyote Creek South Wet Prairie Restoration StoryMap

Attachment C

https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/bc3ffd9f95fb4d9b828e85b7351f3a7c

Produced by Long Tom Watershed Council in support of OWEB Telling the Restoration Story Grant #218-7000-16571



- Provides an interactive overview of the restoration site, owned by ODFW and located within the West Eugene Wetlands complex
- Describes the history of prairie and floodplains in the ecoregion, and role of Kalapuya peoples
- Describes role of wet prairie habitat restoration for Streaked Horned lark, red-legged frog and other wildlife

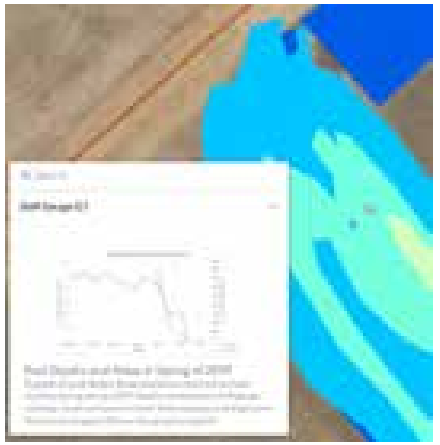




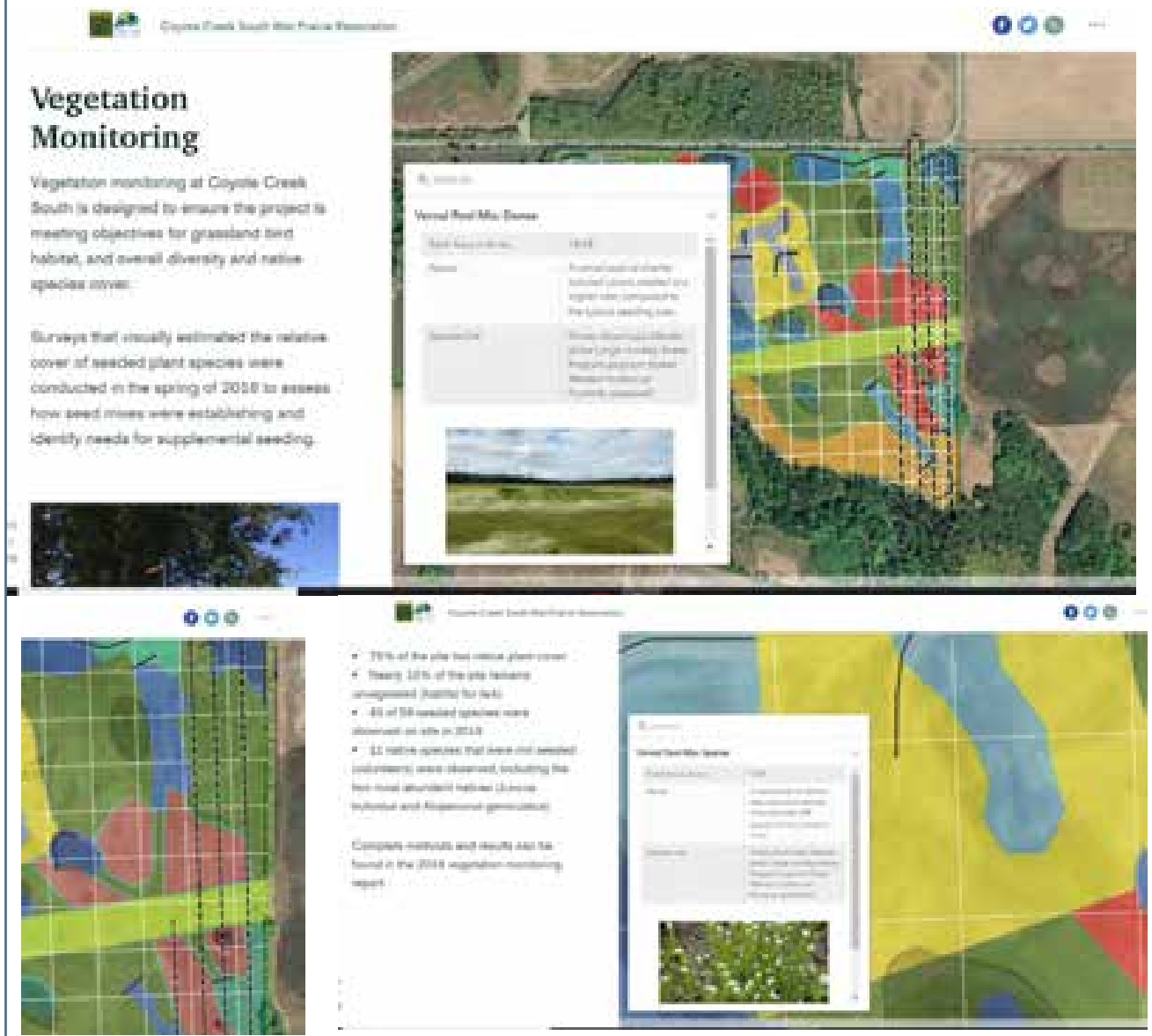


Since initiating restoration in 2017:

- Monitoring the changing depth and surface area extent of pools across the site, important for wildlife (data from Spring 2019)
- Water gauges shown on an interactive map
- Each gauge has a graph of water depth and pool extent



Vegetation monitoring results can be viewed for each transect, showing the specific seed mixture used for each habitat type:



Avian and Amphibian Monitoring Results:

- Summarizes data
- Describes the role of vernal pools to wildlife habitat conservation

Streaked Horned Lark Survey Results

	2017	2018	2019
# Nests found	0	0	1
# Fledglings	4	12	14
# Breeding pairs	3	4-5	5-6

A summary of streaked horned lark observations during monitoring in 2017, 2018, and 2019.

OWEB Staff Remarks:

- Long Tom Watershed Council incorporated OWEB staff communications, graphic design, and geospatial expertise into the StoryMap and other grant deliverables
- StoryMap provides context to restoration practitioners working in similar landscapes (e.g., Cascadia Oak Partnership) and can easily be shared online
- StoryMap provides ideas and information for site visitors



April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Committee Update - Agenda Item O

Committee Members
Ron Alvarado, Bruce Buckmaster, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Gary Marshall, Jason Robison

Background
The Focused Investment Committee focuses on issues related to the Focused Investment Program (FIP).

Summary of Focused Investment Committee Work this Quarter
The Committee met on March 13, 2020; Committee members and staff discussed:

- 2021 Implementation FIP Solicitation, including: the solicitation calendar; the importance of the November 2020 Committee interviews of each applicant partnership; plans to fine-tune application evaluations based on the 2019 experience; and the need to provide ample time for Committee member review, particularly if there is a heavy application load.
- 2020 FIP Gathering – the event was planned for late April and has been postponed. Alternatives for postponement include selecting dates later in the year based on social restrictions and availability of facilities or adapting to a webinar format.
- 2019 FIP Progress Updates – staff provided the current status of the five recently awarded FIPs, including technical review team meetings held, and obligation of project funds.

The Committee met jointly with the Monitoring Committee on March 13, 2020 to discuss the concept of post-FIP monitoring. The initial six-year investment period is coming to close in 2021 and there is interest in tracking and reporting progress toward measurable outcomes beyond the investment period. The Committees discussed possible frameworks for post-FIP monitoring investment, taking into account inherent differences among FIPs, differences between post-FIP monitoring and the type of work eligible under Open Solicitation and the Partnership Technical Assistance offering, and level of interest from the six FIP partnerships. To the extent possible, the effort will strive for consistency of content and format, and to develop a system that can be incorporated into new FIPs upon initiation. Staff will prepare to have further discussions with the Committees in advance of next year's spending plan discussions.

The Focused Investment Committee will reorganize based on new board member assignments and develop a new quarterly meeting schedule.

To be presented at the April 2020 Board Meeting as a written report only.

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

April 21-22, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Committee Update - Agenda Item O

Committee Members

Chair Alan Henning, Stephen Brandt, Debbie Hollen, Molly Kile, Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Committee 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 Committee Work this Quarter

The committee met on January 14 and March 2, 2020. During the January meeting, staff from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) provided a briefing to the committee about DEQ's Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS), a data management system for water-quality data. Following the briefing, the committee discussed related topics including: how data and results from AWQMS can be shared during the OWEB grant review process; how AWQMS results can inform future grant-making priorities; the importance of DEQ staff to assist monitoring grantees; and ideas for training in data management for local monitoring grantees. The committee also heard an update about revising the monitoring grant administrative rules, and discussed status updates for ongoing OWEB monitoring initiatives.

During the March meeting, committee members and staff discussed:

- Upcoming monitoring related topics to be discussed at the April 2020 board meeting, including: request for board adoption of the revised administrative rules for monitoring grants; an update on the retrospective evaluation of watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity investments; a request for supplemental monitoring funding for the second cohort of Implementation FIPs; and the next 'Telling the Restoration Story' update;
- Progress on ongoing initiatives, including "Telling the Restoration Story" investments, 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; and
- The upcoming joint meeting with the Focused Investment Committee on March 13, 2020 to discuss the concept of post-FIP progress tracking reporting (see Focused Investment Committee report for a summary of this discussion).

The group tentatively is scheduled to meet again on May 19, 2020, pending composition decisions on the refined slate of board committees. At that meeting, the committee likely will begin 1) follow-up on ideas for grantee training based on the AWQMS briefing, 2) next steps on post-FIP reporting, and 3) exploration of other emerging monitoring needs (e.g., drones, social outcomes of OWEB's investments), among other topics.

To be presented at the April 2020 Board Meeting as a written report only.

Staff Contact

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

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
April 21, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Ron Alvarado
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Hudson, Bryn
Kirchner, Gretchen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
McCarthy, Jillian
Odoemelan, Onyema
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

The meeting was called to order at 8:14 a.m. by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden.

A. Review and Approval of January Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:15:15)

The minutes of the January 22-23, 2020 meeting in Jacksonville were presented to the board for approval.

> Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the January 22-23, 2020 meeting in Jacksonville. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Co-Chair Election (Audio = 0:16:58)

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Randy Labbe ends in April 2020. Board members voted to elect one board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe nominated Liza Jane McAlister. Gary Marshall moved the board elect Liza Jane McAlister as Co-Chair of the OWEB board. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:24:46)

Three written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments:

> Mid-Coast Watersheds Council requested the board make limited open solicitation grant awards at this meeting or closer to the May forecast.
>
> Long Tom Watershed Council requested the board fully fund a Focused Investment Partnership project grant agreement at the June meeting (currently paused).
>
> Oregon Conservation Partnership provided an update on the work of the partnership through the Covid-19 crisis.

D. Monitoring Grants Administrative Rules (Audio = 0:41:41)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented monitoring grants administrative rule revisions for board consideration and approval.

> Rule language changes proposed by Jamie McLeod-Skinner to add “including indigenous knowledge” in 695-025-0090(7) and “including historical data and indigenous knowledge” in 695-025-0140 (3).

Jamie McLeod-Skinner motioned the board move to approve the changes to the Monitoring Grants Administrative Rule revisions with the two amendments. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Board Committee Structure (Audio = 2:05:13)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented the new board committee structure and board membership.

G. Director’s Update (Audio = 2:24:38)

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

A. **G-1: Legislative -- Water (Audio = 2:26:13)**

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the board an update on the conversation series around the state regarding Oregon's 100-year water vision, as well as requests in the 2020 legislative session.

B. **G-2: Legislative -- Climate (Audio = 2:44:32)**

Deputy Director Renee Davis reviewed the executive order from Governor Brown directing agencies, including OWEB, to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts.

C. **G-3: Strategic Plan (Audio = 3:04:07)**

This report was provided to the board in written form only.

D. **G-4: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (Audio = 3:04:07)**

This report was provided to the board in written form only.

E. **G-5: M76 Performance Audit (Audio = 3:02:45)**

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden shared that OWEB, along with other Measure 76 Lottery funded agencies, is currently working with the Secretary of State on a performance audit for Measure 76 funding.

E-6: Budget (Audio = 3:04:26)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an agency budget update in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes a pause on all new grant awards until after the State revenue forecast in May.

M. Water Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules (Audio = 3:28:25)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented administrative rule revisions for the water acquisition grant program for board consideration and approval.

> Rule language changes: At Meg Reeves's suggestion, staff proposed limiting the definition of "Legally Protected Instream Flow" to flow protected through OWRD programs, and adding a new definition for "Contractually Protected instream Flow," for other types of eligible projects. Brenda McComb suggested changing "resiliency" to "adaptation" in OAR695-046-0196(1)(f) .

Barbara Boyer motioned the board approve the Water Acquisition Grants Administrative Rule revisions as amended. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

N. Telling the Restoration Story (Audio = 4:48:32)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch provided an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering, and provided an example from Coyote Creek in the Long Tom watershed. Website update: Longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth.

O. Committee Updates (Audio = 4:57:16)

This report was provided to the board in written form only.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
June 10-11, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
June 10-11, 2020

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

Business Meeting - 2:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the June 10-11 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

YouTube Streaming: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.

- **Phone:** Dial 1 669 900 6833. When prompted, enter ID number 810 5906 4907. Please note that this ID number is specific for the June 10 portion of the meeting.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time, and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time. Please note that certain agenda items are out of alphabetical order. These items were originally slated for the April 21 board meeting, but postponed until the June 10-11 board meeting, when the board will rebalance the 2019-2021 Spending Plan.

Written and verbal public comment
OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments
Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, June 5 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments
Verbal comments are limited to three minutes, and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item B) at approximately 2:35 p.m. on June 10. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at april.mack@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9 and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment,
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

A. 2019-2021 Budget Projections and OWEB Spending Plan (2:05 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will provide the board an introduction to budget projections and the resulting need for rebalancing of the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan, as Oregon lottery revenues have declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item; board deliberation and action on rebalancing the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan will occur the following day at approximately 8:50 a.m.*

B. Public Comment (2:35 p.m.)

This time is reserved for public comment on the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan, Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, October 2019 Land Acquisition Grant Offering, Focused Investment Partnership program, and any other item before the board.

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the June 10-11 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

YouTube Streaming: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.

- **Phone:** Dial 1-669-900-6833. When prompted, enter ID number 923 1515 3346. Please note that this ID number is specific for the June 11 portion of the meeting.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time, and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time. Please note that certain agenda items are out of alphabetical order. These items were originally slated for the April 21 board meeting, but postponed until the June 10-11 board meeting, when the board will rebalance the 2019-2021 Spending Plan.

Written and verbal public comment
OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments
Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, June 5 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments
As noted on the June 10 agenda, verbal comments will only be taken on June 10 during the public comment time period. See June 10 agenda above for details on how to provide verbal comments.

C. 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*.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item*.

A. 2019-2021 Budget Projections and OWEB Spending Plan (8:50 a.m.)

Following the previous day's introduction to the topic and public comment, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will answer any questions from the board regarding the previous day's budget presentation.

Deputy Director Renee Davis will then request the board approve receipt of funds from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for support of OWEB and ODFW programs, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding

for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will discuss OWEB's budget situation in more detail.

Finally, the board will deliberate on options for rebalancing the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan. *Action item.*

E. Focused Investment Partnership 2021-2023 Solicitation (10:30 a.m.)

***NOTE*: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard on Wednesday, June 10 at approximately 2:35 p.m.**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will lead the board in a discussion on postponing the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership solicitation, due to Oregon lottery revenue declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Action item.*

L. Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (10:50 a.m.)

***NOTE*: Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard on Wednesday, June 10 at approximately 2:35 p.m.**

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will provide background information on the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. The board will then consider grant applications submitted through the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

K. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (12:30 p.m.)

***NOTE:* Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard on Wednesday, June 10 at approximately 2:35 p.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 2019 grant offering. *Action item.*

I. OWEB Agency Request Budget (1:40 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board's approval of budget proposals that will be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor's Office and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the 2021-2023 biennium. *Action item.*

J. Director's Update (2:25 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and OWEB staff will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

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.

Due to the challenge of managing verbal comment at a virtual meeting, the public is highly encouraged to provide written comments in place of verbal comments.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, June 5 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments
Verbal comments limited to three minutes will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item B). In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at april.mack@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9 and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name
- The topic of your comment
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges

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 April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack 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
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 – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21, Virtual
June 10-11, Virtual
September 9, Virtual
December 16, Virtual

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

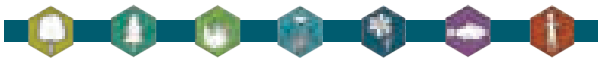
- Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
- Strengthen engagement with a broad base of landowners
- Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farms, ranches, and forestlands
- Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands
- Develop engagement 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

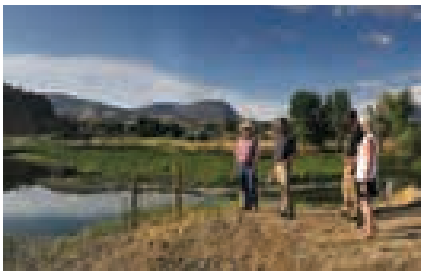


Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- 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 Jan 2020	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date	Apr 2020 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Apr 2020 awards	Other $$ Received & Awarded
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration	31.200	8.048	23.152		23.152	0.000
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	3.100	0.991	2.109		2.109	
5	CREP TA	1.163	1.163	0.000		0.000	0.450
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.245	0.755		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	0.157	6.593		6.593	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	3.150	3.150	0.000		0.000	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278	0.760	0.518		0.518	0.884
14	**TOTAL**	**54.141**	**17.514**	**36.627**	**0.000**	**36.627**	1.334
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**54.53%**					
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	0.150	0.300		0.300	0.000
29	**TOTAL**	**27.051**	**26.751**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**	0.000
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**27.25%**					
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	0.100	0.100		0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.779	0.779	0.000		0.000	0.000
36	**TOTAL**	**15.645**	**15.459**	**0.186**	**0.000**	**0.186**	0.000
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**15.76%**					
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	0.700	0.000		0.000	0.000
42	**TOTAL**	**2.450**	**2.450**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**	0.000
43	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**2.47%**					
44	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**99.287**	**62.174**	**37.113**	**0.000**	**37.113**	**1.334**
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**	**111.298**	**74.185**	**37.113**	**0.000**	**37.113**	1.834

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

April 21, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vwpimiUN50)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Ron Alvarado
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Robison, Jason

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Hudson, Bryn
Kirchner, Gretchen
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
McCarthy, Jillian
Odoemelan, Onyema
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

A. Review and Approval of January Meeting Minutes (Audio = 0:15:15)

The minutes of the January 22-23, 2020 meeting in Jacksonville were presented to the board for approval.

> Randy Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the January 22-23, 2020 meeting in Jacksonville. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Co-Chair Election (Audio = 0:16:58)

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Randy Labbe ends in April 2020. Board members voted to elect one board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term.

> Co-Chair Randy Labbe nominated Liza Jane McAlister. Gary Marshall moved the board elect Liza Jane McAlister as Co-Chair of the OWEB board. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:24:46)

Three written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments:

> Mid-Coast Watersheds Council requested the board make limited open solicitation grant awards at this meeting or closer to the May forecast.
>
> Long Tom Watershed Council requested the board fully fund a Focused Investment Partnership project grant agreement at the June meeting (currently paused).
>
> Oregon Conservation Partnership provided an update on the work of the partnership through the Covid-19 crisis.

D. Monitoring Grants Administrative Rules (Audio = 0:41:41)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented monitoring grants administrative rule revisions for board consideration and approval.

> Rule language changes proposed by Jamie McLeod-Skinner to add “including indigenous knowledge” in 695-025-0090(7) and “including historical data and indigenous knowledge” in 695-025-0140 (3).

Jamie McLeod-Skinner motioned the board move to approve the changes to the Monitoring Grants Administrative Rule revisions with the two amendments. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Board Committee Structure (Audio = 2:05:13)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented the new board committee structure and board membership.

G. Director’s Update (Audio = 2:24:38)

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

A. **G-1: Legislative -- Water (Audio = 2:26:13)**

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the board an update on the conversation series around the state regarding Oregon's 100-year water vision, as well as requests in the 2020 legislative session.

B. **G-2: Legislative -- Climate (Audio = 2:44:32)**

Deputy Director Renee Davis reviewed the executive order from Governor Brown directing agencies, including OWEB, to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts.

C. **G-3: Strategic Plan (Audio = 3:04:07)**

This report was provided to the board in written form only.

D. **G-4: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (Audio = 3:04:07)**

This report was provided to the board in written form only.

E. **G-5: M76 Performance Audit (Audio = 3:02:45)**

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden shared that OWEB, along with other Measure 76 Lottery funded agencies, is currently working with the Secretary of State on a performance audit for Measure 76 funding.

E-6: Budget (Audio = 3:04:26)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an agency budget update in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes a pause on all new grant awards until after the State revenue forecast in May.

M. Water Acquisition Grants Administrative Rules (Audio = 3:28:25)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented administrative rule revisions for the water acquisition grant program for board consideration and approval.

> Rule language changes: At Meg Reeves's suggestion, staff proposed limiting the definition of "Legally Protected Instream Flow" to flow protected through OWRD programs, and adding a new definition for "Contractually Protected instream Flow," for other types of eligible projects. Brenda McComb suggested changing "resiliency" to "adaptation" in OAR695-046-0196(1)(f) .

Barbara Boyer motioned the board approve the Water Acquisition Grants Administrative Rule revisions as amended. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

N. Telling the Restoration Story (Audio = 4:48:32)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch provided an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering, and provided an example from Coyote Creek in the Long Tom watershed. Website update: Longtom.org/coyotecreeksouth.

O. Committee Updates (Audio = 4:57:16)

This report was provided to the board in written form only.

Co-Chair Randy Labbe adjourned the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
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(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item A supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item A-1 – Board Approval of Additional Funding for 2019-2021 Spending Plan
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report requests that the board approve receipt of funding from the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) to supplement the 2019-2021 OWEB board-spending plan.

II. Background

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 coming from Lottery and PCSRF. In addition, the board may receive funding from other sources throughout the biennium, including funding from sources such as PSMFC for targeted work. The Oregon Legislature allocates PCSRF funding for OWEB's budget based on estimated federal grant awards over the two years of each biennium.

III. Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 PCSRF Award

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding has been provided through the PCSRF competitive grant process, which is offered by NOAA Fisheries. Oregon has received more than $252 million from PCSRF for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts during that time. The OWEB board and the state's Legislature have used PCSRF funding to support watershed restoration-related actions and for staffing in state agencies. PCSRF has significantly enhanced OWEB's expenditures through grants in salmon and steelhead recovery areas around the state.

On an annual basis, OWEB applies for PCSRF funding on behalf of the State of Oregon. For FFY 2020, OWEB requested the maximum allowable, $25 million. Oregon provides the required 33% match through a combination of lottery funding, salmon license plate revenues, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) funding.

At time of writing this report, OWEB has yet to receive information from NOAA regarding its 2020 award. An update will be provided at the board meeting. However, given the past

track record of funds received from the program, OWEB proposes to combine FFY 2020 PCSRF funding with previous years' PCSRF funding that was held in reserve, for a total addition to the spending plan of $9.5 million. This amount is more than staff normally recommends for the spending plan; however, PCSRF funds can be used for projects in both open solicitation and FIP cycles, and staff believe the current funding crisis warrants an extra investment of federal dollars at this time.

IV. PSMFC Funding for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)

The IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time, with the intent of describing the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. OWEB participates on the IMW steering team and assists with securing funding for several monitoring aspects of the program.

The Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has indicated it will provide $291,000 to OWEB in support of the IMW monitoring efforts. Funding will enable partners to continue to perform priority-monitoring activities in 2020-21. Partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of PCSRF Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funding for inclusion in current and future OWEB spending plans, and utilize a combined total of $9.5 million from the FFY 2020 award and previous PCSRF awards for the update to the spending plan.

Staff recommend the board approve receipt of Federal Fiscal Year 2020 PSMFC funding for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW totaling $291,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2020.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
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(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item A-2 supports all OWEB Strategic Plan Priorities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item A-2 – OWEB Grant and Operations Budget
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

This is an information item only. As of April 3, 2020, OWEB placed a pause on all grant financial awards and budget decisions. This pause allowed the agency to better understand its current budget situation and make decisions using the May quarterly Lottery distribution and the May revenue forecast. At the same time, the agency placed a pause on contracts and other non-essential agency expenditures.

OWEB receives approximately 70-75% of its revenues from Lottery funds. The remainder are from federal funds through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) and a small amount from Salmon License Plates. The funding received through the Lottery must be distributed as 65% grants and 35% operations, with the operations portion primarily covering staff costs and transfers to other agencies in support of Measure 76 (M76) work.

II. OWEB Grant Funds Available

At the time OWEB paused on distributing grants, the agency had approximately $13.3 million in cash on hand. In May, the agency received a grant distribution of $7.7 million, which is 92% of a typical distribution of $8.3 million. In addition, in Item A-1, staff propose to add a total of $9.5 million in PCSRF funding to the spending plan, including funds from multiple years of PSCRF grants. Combined, this makes available $30.5 million dollars for the board to award.

The May revenue forecast projects revenues to OWEB's grant fund to be down by around $18 million for the remainder of the biennium. If this holds true, the agency would receive approximately $15 million above what is currently available in the board's account.

In the worst-case scenario, revenues could be down by as much as $25 million, leaving the board with approximately $8 million for future distributions. Staff will be closely tracking each distribution to provide the board with recommendations about best ways to invest funds based on actual dollars received.

III. OWEB Operations Budget Situation

In May, the agency also received its operating fund distribution. The total of the distribution was $1.04 million. This is close to normal because the state has a 'beginning fund balance' for M76 lottery funds that was used to make the distribution whole. Using the revenue forecast above, in the best-case scenario, staff estimate the agency will only receive two-thirds of the funding needed for operations, including drawing down the beginning fund balance. In the worst-case scenario, that number dips to around 55% of funding needed. Because of the constitutional requirement that grant funds cannot be used to fund staff, the full brunt of reductions will be felt by staff reductions.

IV. Impacts to Staff and Agency Spending

The budget situation for the agency's operating fund is very serious, and conversations are continuing. Staff will provide the board with updates prior to and at the meeting. Because of the severe nature of Lottery revenue reductions, OWEB has had to take a number of immediate actions to reduce costs. The agency has immediately transferred a team of five staff to work full time to help stand up and manage the state's new Food Security and Farmworker Safety program summarized in Item J. Their salaries will be covered by federal CARES Act funding throughout the summer and fall. In addition, the agency has reduced or eliminated office leases, travel, contracts, in-person board meetings and other reductions that maximize savings to the operations budget. Additional information will be provided as details become available.

V. Impacts

OWEB is an agency with a large grant budget, but an incredibly small staff. Staff and other cost reductions greatly impact our ability to perform our statutory obligations including:

Future Grant Cycles. Operating with fewer staff limits the ability to hold new grant cycles after the June 2020 awards. Recommendations for future grant cycles will be based on both grant revenues and available staffing resources. If revenues for staff continue to decline, the agency will be limited in its ability to hold grant offerings, including potentially early in the 2021-23 biennium.

Ability for Agency to Regain Capacity. With staff shifting to other functions, the agency loses critical expertise. This loss will impact the quality of program delivery both in the current biennium and in subsequent biennia as the agency regains capacity.

Federal Agreements. Even with reduced staffing, the agency's reliance on federal funding requires OWEB meet both the obligations identified in multiple years of agreements, along with the agency's granting requirements. In addition, if grantees are not billing the agency for their federally funded projects, this reduces the indirects earned by OWEB, which are vital to keep agency staff employed.

Payment Processing. OWEB fully intends to continue to process payments in as timely a fashion as possible, though grantees will face longer review times. These payments are funds that mostly go to rural community-based organizations and are important for rural economic development. If revenues continue to decrease, the ability to make payments in a timely manner will be restricted.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item A-3 supports all OWEB strategic plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item A-3 – Spending Plan Rebalance
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

On April 3, OWEB placed a pause on all new grant awards. Given the critical nature of the budget crisis related to Lottery, staff needed time to better understand the challenges and identify criteria to advise the board to rebalance the spending plan. Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) funding additions were discussed in Item A-1. Budget and revenue details were provided in the budget staff report, Item A-2. This report outlines three proposals and a preferred option for the board's consideration and approval of a spending plan rebalance.

Attachment A to the staff report summarizes every spending plan line item along with the staff recommendation for each by option, and Attachment B is a spreadsheet with the specific spending plan options.

II. Considerations

To effectively evaluate spending plan options, staff developed a series of values against which to test any proposal. In part, these values were informed by a survey completed by the Oregon Conservation Partnership, which represents a vast majority of OWEB's grantees. While many of the survey findings were more specific than the spending plan, there were some general themes that helped inform staff values. As an example, 70% of respondents are prioritizing restoration projects to complete over the next 12 months; 65% are considering monitoring or stakeholder engagement projects along with organizational planning. Grantees are looking for project funding to keep staff employed, and have concerns about other funding sources going away, which may impact their match and timeliness in delivering projects.

Taking the survey and other issues into consideration, staff values for the spending plan revision options include:

- ✓ *Consider the agency's severe staffing shortages.* As noted in the budget presentation, OWEB is facing staffing reductions that will impact the agency's ability to hold grant cycles. All proposals take this into consideration by requesting the board consider both staff resources and available funds prior to implementing future grant cycles.

- ✓ *Use only available funds to award grants.* For most of its existence, OWEB has awarded more at the beginning of the biennium than what was in its 'checking account.' This is standard practice given two factors: 1) Lottery's relative stability as a funding source, and 2) grant funds are not considered "spent" until billed, which occurs months or years after the award is made. Given the highly uncertain situation with Lottery funds now, it would not be prudent to invest more grant funds than are currently available.
- ✓ *Prioritize investments in project grants that also keep local staff and contractors employed regardless of category (open solicitation or focused investments).* As noted above, survey respondents identified a priority for implementing projects to keep their operations going. These type of grants also support contractors in local communities. In addition, PCSRF dollars remain stable and can be used only for restoration, design technical assistance and land and water acquisition projects.
- ✓ *Take a targeted approach to recommending spending plan amounts for each grant type*. An across-the-board cut does not recognize the nuances of the various programs.
- ✓ *Do not establish new grant types.* OWEB has 17 grant offerings that cover the range of needs for grantees. With the severe staffing limitations, staff are not available to design, test, and implement new grant programs. That said, if other agencies have funding to either support OWEB's work, or to help to keep staff employed managing grant programs, this would be considered.
- ✓ *Use quarterly board meetings to add funding and make necessary adjustments to the spending plan.* This approach allows the board to have quarterly conversations for both Lottery and potential stimulus or other funds that might run through OWEB.
- ✓ *Use PCSRF funding through existing grant offerings rather than a 'PCSRF-only' cycle.* While OWEB could implement a cycle that only uses PCSRF funding, there are enough projects in the current Open Solicitation (OS) offering and Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) to use the funding available from PCSRF.
- ✓ *Consider supporting organizations that may want or need to merge.* Many local organizations are struggling with funding, and may consider merging with other organizations. To the extent possible, OWEB should support these conversations.
- ✓ *Check with grantees before assuming they can still implement a project.* Much has changed since applications were submitted last fall. All grantees were contacted to ensure they could still complete the project at the cost proposed.

III. Options

Staff are presenting three options to the board. All three meet the values established above.

In all options, staff recommend the board fully award all staff recommended grants in the current OS grant cycle. For many other of the grant types not in OS, staff recommendations are the same in all three options. In all cases, a future OS grant cycle will focus only on restoration, technical assistance and stakeholder engagement. In all options, grant

offerings that are only one time per year (i.e., weeds, monitoring, land and water acquisition) will not have another grant cycle this biennium.

In all options, staff request the board fully fund its obligations to the FIPs, either by funding them completely this biennium (Option A) or by committing to full funding at the beginning of the 2021-23 biennium (Options B and C).

The greatest difference in the three options is how funding for FIPs and Small Grants are determined and the relationship between those, future OS cycles and when FIPs will receive their full awards.

Option A. All available funds are committed by funding all open solicitation grants recommended by staff this cycle, and by providing FIPs with the full amount awarded by the board in July 2019. Small Grants are reduced to half of the spending plan amount, less both the $350,000 'bonus' for small grants and what has already been spent ($600,000). Option A leaves no funds in the board's grant account, lengthening the time before the board could hold another open solicitation grant cycle – likely to February 2021. Since FIPs receive their full award amount for the biennium, the board would not need to provide funding to 'make FIPs whole' in the 2021-23 biennium.

Option B. Approximately $6.7 million would remain in the OS grant category. This is because the FIPs that have not spent all of their funding already are given only half of their remaining funding for the biennium. In this case, enough funds may be available in the grant account to hold an OS cycle by December 2020. In addition, this proposal increases Small Grants to half of the full spending plan amount (less the $350,000 bonus). Under this option, some of the funding that could be used for projects now would instead remain in the board's account for the next six months. And, the board would need to commit at the beginning of the 21-23 biennium to backfill the over $6.5 million to make the FIPs 'whole,' based on their board-approved budgets in 2019. This option does not consider where FIPs are in their process, nor what projects they may have coming this fall and winter that could be implemented.

Option C. This option takes a more nuanced approach. Staff have estimated how much FIPs are likely to spend before December in project grants, and have provided that funding amount in the spending plan. Funding for projects that were likely not to occur before next spring will be provided in next biennium's budget, a commitment that would need to be made by the board. This option leaves approximately $4.7 million available for future open solicitation granting. Small grants are provided a higher percentage of funding, approaching closer to the assumption for OS if another grant cycle occurs.

If lottery revenues continue to decline, the one challenge with any of these options is that staff may not have the capacity to manage an additional grant cycle. At that time, funds would continue to build in the board's account, and would be available when the agency could again be operational. This is the risk of the consideration above that recommends the board only award funds on hand.

IV. Recommendation

While any of the three options are viable, staff recommend the board approve Option C with a commitment to make FIPs 'whole' in the 2021-23 biennium. Staff believe this option results in the highest likelihood that funding will be spent on projects this year, while shortening the timeframe for a future OS grant cycle and still ensuring FIPs receive their full award with a supplement from the 2021-23 biennial budget.

Attachments

Attachment A. Spending Plan Options Summary
Attachment B. Spending Plan Options Table

Attachment A. Spending Plan Summary by Line Item

Open Solicitation-Restoration

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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

Using only cash on hand, Option A funds this grant cycle only. Additional funds earned through Lottery receipts would be added later in the biennium. If enough funds became available, another cycle would be held. In options B and C, some funds remain in the board's account to begin building a balance for another grant cycle, which would likely result in a subsequent cycle happening sooner. Option B leaves $5.6 million for a future cycle and Option C leaves just over $4 million.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$32.2 million	$24.152 million	$7.897 million	$13.3 million	$11.2 million

Open Solicitation-Technical Assistance

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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

This operates just like the restoration proposal above. Option A covers this grant cycle. Option B leaves $.825 million for a future cycle and Option C leaves $.525 million.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$4.1 million	$3.109 million	$0.975 million	$1.8 million	$1.5 million

Open Solicitation-Stakeholder Engagement

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.

Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

Again, this operates like the restoration proposal above. Option A covers this grant cycle. Because this is a smaller grant cycle, both Options B and C leave $.248 available for a future grant cycle.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$1.0 million	$0.755 million	$0.252 million	$0.5 million	$0.5 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

Open Solicitation-Monitoring

Open solicitation monitoring grants are offered once per year in the fall. 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

For all grant cycles that operate once per year (weed grants, land and water acquisitions and monitoring), staff propose fully funding the current cycle and no additional grant cycles beyond this current cycle in all options. Additional funds coming would likely be so limited that an additional grant cycle would fund only a small portion of grants proposed, causing unwarranted staff time for applicants.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$3.5 million	$3.5 million	$1.753 million	$1.753 million	$1.753 million

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 funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, and water leases.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

For all grant cycles that operate once per year (weed grants, land and water acquisitions and monitoring), staff propose fully funding the current cycle and no additional grant cycles beyond this current cycle in all options. Additional funds coming would likely be so limited that an additional grant cycle would fund only a small portion of grants proposed, causing unwarranted staff time for applicants.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$8.750 million	$8.593 million	$4.75 million	$4.75 million	$4.75 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

Weed Grants

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. Projects protect watershed health, native fish and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Projects can include necessary assessment, survey, outreach, and design activities.

Weed Grant Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

For all grant cycles that operate once per year (weed grants, land and water acquisitions and monitoring), staff propose fully funding the current cycle and no additional grant cycles beyond this current cycle in all options. Additional funds coming would likely be so limited that an additional grant cycle would fund only a small portion of grants proposed, causing unwarranted staff time for applicants.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$3.0 million	$1.369 million	$0**	$0**	$0**

****NOTE:** for weed grants, the balance is $0 because the grant cycle was already awarded in January.

Small Grants

OWEB small grant program funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. These small grant teams prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

In all three options, staff propose the board award a portion of the remaining funds but remove the 'bonus' that was proposed for the program of $350,000 for small grant teams who spent their funding early. These small grants can be key during an economic downturn to support farms doing small-scale conservation

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$3.15 million	$2.523 million	$0.8 million	$1.0 million	$1.5 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes

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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

In all options, staff propose not to spend further funds on these projects for the remainder of the biennium. While critically important, they are staff time intensive for OWEB and are less likely to help maintain staff in local organizations.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance (including restoration story holding account)	Option A	Option B	Option C
$1.278 million	$0.618 million	$0	$0	$0

Focused Investment Partnerships

FIP 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

In Option A, staff propose to continue with what the board committed to in its spending plan by fully funding the FIPs this biennium. While this is most equitable for the FIPs because some have already spent all of their funds, staff also recognize that some funds in FIPs will not be obligated immediately this fall. So, Options B and C provide less funding for the remaining FIPs, reserving those funds for a future open solicitation grant cycle. In Option B, that reduction is half of the remaining unobligated funds across the board. Option C takes a more nuanced approach, identifying how much is likely to be spent by each FIP this year, and reducing the funding accordingly. This approach has the best chance of getting dollars out the door this fall and winter, whether it is under open solicitation or focused investments. For either Option B or Option C, staff strongly recommend the board make the current FIPs whole immediately in the next biennium.

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
Deschutes $4.0 million	$3.765 million	$3.765 million	$1.883 million	$1.850 million
Willamette Mainstem $2.180 million	$1.960 million	$1.960 million	$0.980 million	$0.560 million
Harney Basin Wetlands $2.50 million	$1.70 million	$1.70 million	$0.85 million	$1.6 million
Sage Grouse $.474 million	$0.08 million	$0.08 million	$0.04 million	$0.08 million
Ashland Forest All-Lands $2.0 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million
Upper Grande Ronde $2.777 million	$2.657 million	$2.657 million	$1.329 million	$2.191 million
John Day Partnership $4.0 million	$0.892 million	$0.892 million	$0.446 million	$0.892 million
Baker Sage Grouse $1.715 million	$0.747 million	$0.747 million	$0.374 million	$0.375 million
Warner Aquatic Habitat $2.0 million	$0.287 million	$0.287 million	$0.144 million	$0.00 million
Rogue Forest Restoration $1.5 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million
Clackamas Partnership $3.455 million	$1.101 million	$1.101 million	$.551 million	$1.00 million
Total		**$13.189 million**	**$6.597 million**	**$8.548 million**

Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring evaluates the dedicated FIP funding to help board, staff, and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

This is another critical component of the state's ability to tell the story about monitoring for the Focused Investments. However, given the incredibly limited funding available for grants, staff propose not to spend remaining dollars on this category for the biennium.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$0.700 million	$0.550 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

Watershed Council and Soil & Water Conservation District 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. 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 Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

These funds were all awarded at the beginning of the biennium. Staff do not propose adding funds to this category.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$14.416 million	$0.166 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million

Statewide Organizational Partnership Technical Assistance

The Oregon Conservation Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network. 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

While OWEB's staffing resources will be more limited, it is important that local partners still have a resource available to help them in this incredibly challenging budget environment. The partnership has refocused its energies on assisting local partners with issues around COVID and employment, applying for federal loans, tracking stimulus opportunities and assisting those organizations who might have other challenges related to the impacts of the virus.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Rebalance #C
$0.500 million	$0.250 million	$0.175 million	$0.175 million	$0.175 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

Organizational Collaborative Grants

These 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

While staff do not propose any funding at this point in the biennium, as new funds become available to add to the spending plan in December, staff strongly recommend the board add funding to this category, but refocusing the offering specifically to those organizations who may need funding to merge with other organizations during this difficult time. Staff will put together a grant offering so if the board adds funding to their spending plan, grants would be received and reviewed, ready to be awarded if funds become available.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$0.200 million	$0.100 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million

Partnership Technical Assistance

Support existing partnerships to 1) generate a new or enhance an existing strategic action plan, 2) elevate the partnership's current level of performance, and 3) support partnership capacity.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

These funds have already been spent for the biennium. Staff do not recommend adding funds to this line item.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$0.779 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

CREP and CREP TA

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and the federal Farm Services Agency. 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

Due to the existence of a federal agreement for CREP, combined with the small dollar amount of the program and the challenges associated with suspending the federal grant agreement, staff propose to continue the CREP program. There are additional funds remaining in the CREP TA line item. Staff did not have a plan to spend those funds, and recommend no additional spending on this line item.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
CREP $0.750 million	$0.500 million	$0.500 million	$0.500 million	$0.500 million
CREP TA $1.375 million	$0.117 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

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. 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

While there were a few proposals in the works for Governor's Priorities, only one rises to the level of urgency needed in this downturn. The tide gate partnership had prioritized engineering tools to help expedite tide gate replacement designs. Local partners are working with an engineering firm to complete a model that will greatly expedite the process and had planned on an additional $120,000 to complete the process. Staff recommend funding be provided. If the tool is not completed, the first $100,000 investment would be wasted.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$1.00 million	$0.325 million	$0.120 million	$0.120 million	$0.120 million

Strategic Implementation Areas

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is leading the "Strategic Implementation Area" 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.

Spending Plan Rebalance Proposal Summary

Staff do not recommend funds be included in this line item at this time. However, staff will be discussing with the board the option to add funds at a future time. With staffing challenges, staff at ODA and OWEB would like to re-analyze where and how funds can best be used prior to coming to the board with an increased funding proposal.

2019-2021 Board-Proposed 2020 Amount*	Unspent Balance	Option A	Option B	Option C
$0.70 million	$0.225 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million	$0.00 million

* NOTE: The OWEB Board approved the 2019-2021 Spending Plan at the July 2019 board meeting. The proposed 2020 amount was planned to be added at the July 2020 board meeting.

2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Original 19-21 Spending Plan Totals (Year 2)	How much is left in holding account or spending plan	Option A FIPs whole	Amount Remaining in Holding or Spending Plan after June Awards	Option B (modified 50%) FIPs/OS @ 50%	Amount Remaining in Holding or Spending Plan after June Awards	Option C blended	Amount Remaining in Holding or Spending Plan after June Awards
Open Solicitation:								
Restoration	32.200	24.152	7.897	0.000	13.307	5.410	11.154	3.257
Technical Assistance								
Restoration TA	4.100	3.109	0.975	0.000	1.800	0.825	1.500	0.525
CREP TA	1.375	0.117	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.755	0.252	0.000	0.500	0.248	0.500	0.248
Monitoring grants	3.500	3.500	1.753	0.000	1.753	0.000	1.753	0.000
Land and Water Acquisition								
Acquisition	8.750	8.593	4.750	0.000	4.750	0.000	4.750	0.000
Acquisition TA	0.000							
Weed Grants	3.000	1.369	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Small Grants	3.150	2.523	0.800	0.000	1.000	0.200	1.500	0.700
Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278	0.618	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	**58.353**	**44.736**	**16.427**	**0.000**	**23.110**	**6.683**	**21.157**	**4.730**
% of assumed Total Budget	**56.11%**							
Focused Investments:								
Deschutes	4.000	3.765	3.765		1.883		1.850	
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	2.180	1.960	1.960		0.980		0.560	
Harney Basin Wetlands	2.500	1.700	1.700		0.850		1.600	
Sage Grouse	0.474	0.080	0.080		0.040		0.080	
Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.000	0.000	0.000		0.000		0.000	
Upper Grande Ronde	2.777	2.657	2.657		1.329		2.191	
John Day Partnership	4.000	0.892	0.892		0.446		0.892	
Baker Sage Grouse	1.715	0.747	0.747		0.374		0.375	
Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.000	0.287	0.287		0.144		0.000	
Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	1.500	0.000	0.000		0.000		0.000	
Clackamas Partnership	3.455	1.101	1.101		0.551		1.000	
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.700	0.550	0.000		0.000		0.000	
TOTAL	**27.301**	**13.739**	**13.189**	**0.000**	**6.597**	**0.000**	**8.548**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget	**26.25%**							
Operating Capacity:								
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	14.416	0.166	0.000		0.000		0.000	
Statewide org partnership support	0.500	0.250	0.175		0.175		0.175	
Organizational Collaborative	0.200	0.100	0.000		0.000		0.000	
Partnership Technical Assistance	0.779	0.000	0.000		0.000		0.000	
TOTAL	**15.895**	**0.516**	**0.175**		**0.175**		**0.175**	
% of assumed Total Budget	**15.28%**							
Other:								
CREP	0.750	0.500	0.500		0.500		0.500	
Governor's Priorities	1.000	0.325	0.120		0.120		0.120	
Strategic Implementation Areas	0.700	0.225	0.000		0.000		0.000	
Strategic Plan Implementation	0.500	0.465	0.000		0.000		0.000	
TOTAL	**2.450**	**1.515**	**0.620**		**0.620**		**0.620**	
% of assumed Total Budget	**2.36%**							
TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**103.999**	**60.506**	**30.411**		**30.502**		**30.500**	
		Goal:	**30.500**		**30.500**		**30.500**	

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Agenda Item E 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 E – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) 2021-2023 Solicitation
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report recommends the board postpone the 2021-2023 FIP solicitation due to Oregon lottery revenue declines because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

II. Background

OWEB solicits FIP applications each biennium. The solicitation period for 2021-2023 FIP awards opened in January 2020, with required consultations between interested partnerships and OWEB staff occurring in the spring, and applications due June 30, 2020. Following application submittals, the timeline allows for a rigorous review and evaluation process, interviews with applicant partnerships by the Focused Investments Committee, board action to select awardees, and a six-month start-up phase for partnerships to work with OWEB staff to develop partnerships agreements, prior to availability of funds in July 2021.

III. Status of Current Solicitation

Nine partnerships completed the required preliminary consultation with OWEB staff. Given that the board was scheduled to act on spending plan changes that may impact the FIP program, staff recommended that partnerships pause their work developing FIP applications until the board decides how to address revenue shortfalls. The rationale for this recommendation is to prevent a great deal of unnecessary work by applicants should the solicitation be paused.

IV. Effects of Spending Plan Changes

Agenda Item A presents options for changes to the spending plan based on available revenues. Two of the options include reductions to the 11 current FIPs with the intent to make those FIPs whole in the next biennium, while the third option would fully fund the current FIPs, but significantly reduce open solicitation funding. In that option, should revenues recover in the next biennium, there will be a need to address a backlog of open solicitation projects due to the reduction this biennium. In all of these scenarios, there is likely to be demands on existing grant programs that make it unlikely that the board would

have funding available for a new round of FIPs at the beginning of the next biennium, particularly given the uncertainty about when lottery revenues might recover.

Should lottery revenues recover, the board can activate the solicitation process such that funds could be awarded midway through the 2021-2023 biennium, as occurred during the initial FIP solicitation in 2015.

V. Recommendation

Since it is unlikely that sufficient funding will be available at the beginning of the next biennium, staff recommend the board postpone the current FIP application deadline until at least June 30, 2021.

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Agenda Item L 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 L– Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Fall 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 45 restoration grants, 19 technical assistance grants, 18 monitoring grants, and 4 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Fall 2020 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

A total of 150 applications were received requesting $18.2 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, one application (220-6032) was 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 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, which are provided in Attachment C. 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 that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. The Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering does not include any projects that meet this criteria. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is $8,783,345.

IV. Funding Recommendations

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

Table 1: 2019-21 Spending Plan and Fall 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	$8,047,622	$23,152,378	$7,897,069	$15,255,309
Technical Assistance	$3,100,000	$991,132	$2,108,868	$975,053	$1,133,815
Monitoring	$3,500,000	$0	$3,500,000	$1,753,452	$1,746,548
Stakeholder Engagement	$1,000,000	$245,429	$754,571	$251,689	$502,882
TOTAL	$38,800,000	$9,284,183	$29,515,817	$10,877,263	$18,638,554

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 D 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. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations
C. Evaluation Criteria
D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

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Agenda Item L-1 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 L-1 – Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report recommends an effective date of April 22, 2020 for open solicitation projects awarded at the June 10-11 2020 meeting.

II. Background

OWEB grants operate on a reimbursement basis. Grantees can bill for eligible costs beginning with the effective date of the grant award.

III. Current Board Awards

Item L recommends the board award $10,877,263 in open solicitation funds for 90 applications. Board award for these projects was delayed from April to June to better understand the impacts of the lottery revenue declines caused by the pandemic shutdown. Due to circumstances beyond the control of grant applicants, project costs may have been incurred prior to the June grant award date.

IV. Staff Recommendation

To allow full grantee reimbursement for project costs, staff recommend the board award funds for applications as described in Item L with an effective date of April 22, 2020.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
October 28, 2019 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	8	1	5	9	23
Region 2	7	2	13	12	34
Region 3	5	3	2	13	23
Region 4	6	2	5	7	20
Region 5	3	0	7	15	25
Region 6	6	0	7	12	25
Totals	35	8	39	68	150

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	341,189	33,967	270,814	1,799,516	$2,445,486
Region 2	900,647	185,307	686,224	2,852,707	$4,624,885
Region 3	639,396	224,434	76,605	2,768,218	$3,708,653
Region 4	836,864	92,672	270,743	1,611,090	$2,811,369
Region 5	126,646	0	291,762	1,256,565	$1,674,973
Region 6	945,330	0	439,230	1,586,860	$2,971,420
Totals	$3,790,072	$536,380	$2,035,378	$11,874,956	$18,236,786

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	7	5	71%
2	9	7	78%
3	11	7	64%
4	7	7	100%
5	12	11	92%
6	9	8	89%
Total	**52**	**45**	**87%**

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	5	3	60%
2	12	8	67%
3	2	2	100%
4	4	3	75%
5	6	3	50%
6	5	4	80%
Total	**34**	**23**	**68%**

Monitoring

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	5	4	80%
2	4	3	75%
3	2	2	100%
4	3	3	100%
5	3	3	100%
6	3	3	100%
Total	**20**	**18**	**90%**

Stakeholder Engagement

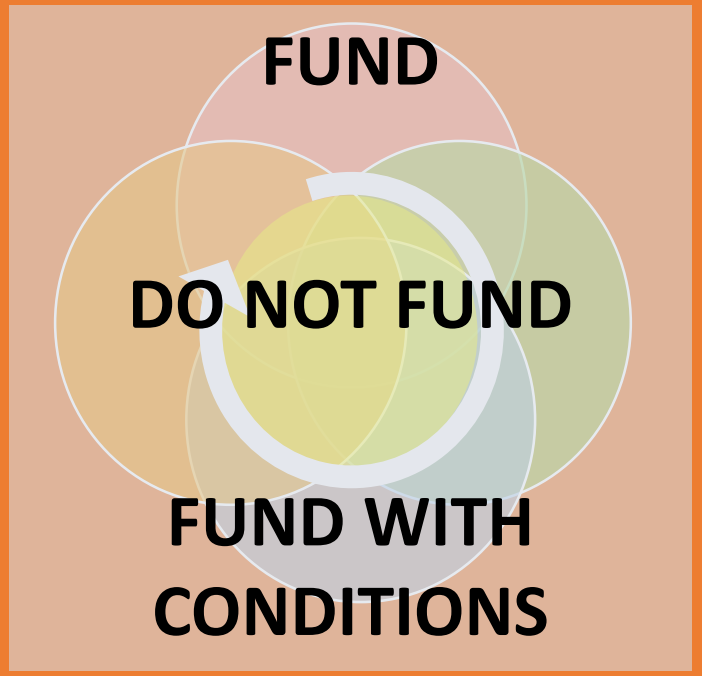
Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	1	1	100%
2	2	1	50%
3	2	2	100%
4	0	0	-
5	0	0	-
6	0	0	-
Total	**5**	**4**	**80%**

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Stakeholder Engagement
1	$1,293,067	$ 185,106	$100,828	$ 33,967
2	$ 1,398,257	$ 76,605	$ 540,761	$ 54,778
3	$ 1,686,316	$149,929	$ 135,949	$ 162,944
4	$ 1,611,090	$ 157,762	$ 285,428	$0
5	$ 745,939	$ 138,835	$ 126,646	$0
6	$ 1,162,400	$ 215,728	$ 569,918	$0
Total	**$7,897,069**	**$975,053**	**$1,753,452**	**$251,689**

Open Solicitation – Restoration Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize

CRITERIA
How well project meets criteria for project evaluation & preferences, including:
- Causes over symptoms of disturbance
- Whole watershed approach over site-specific
- Collaboration over single-party

CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS
Certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives

BENEFIT TO OREGON PLAN
Benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality

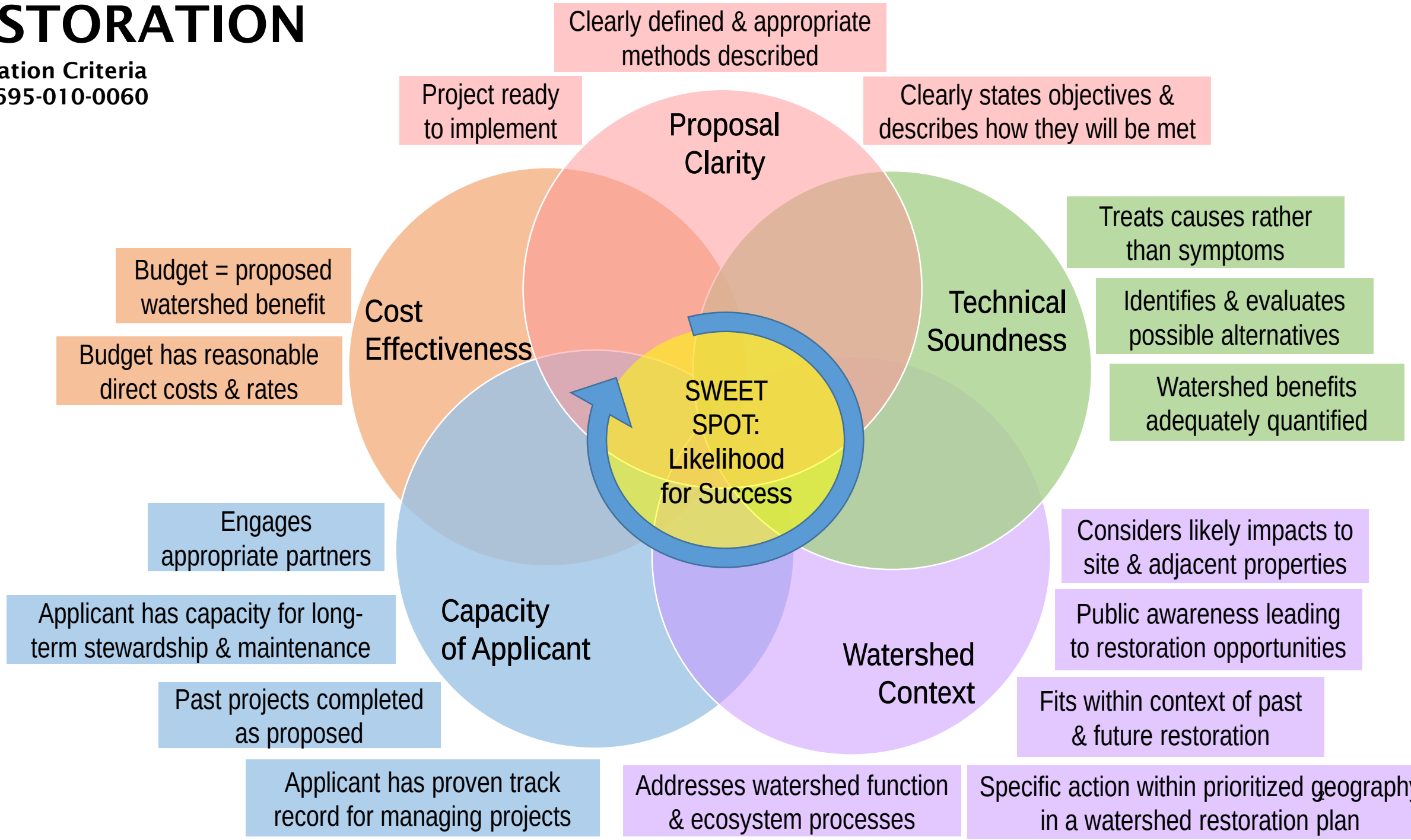
COST BENEFIT
Project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

RESTORATION

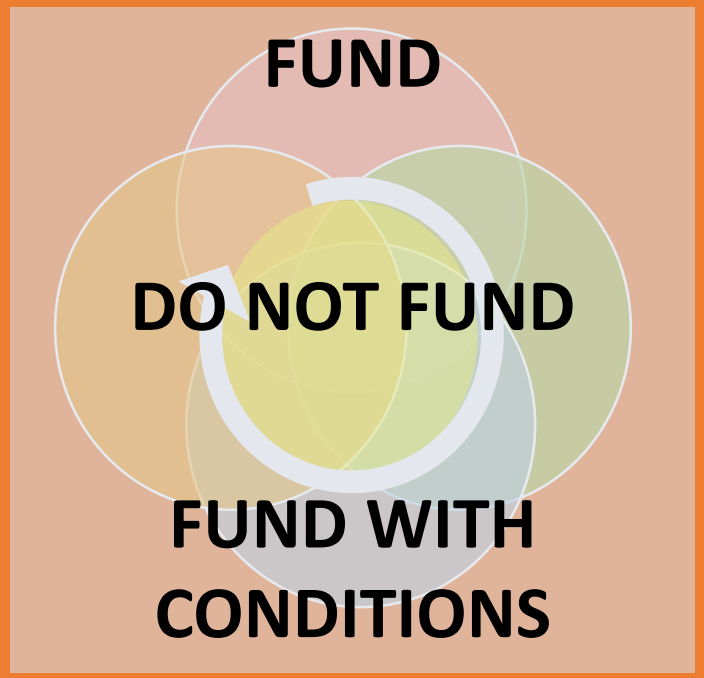
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-010-0060



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

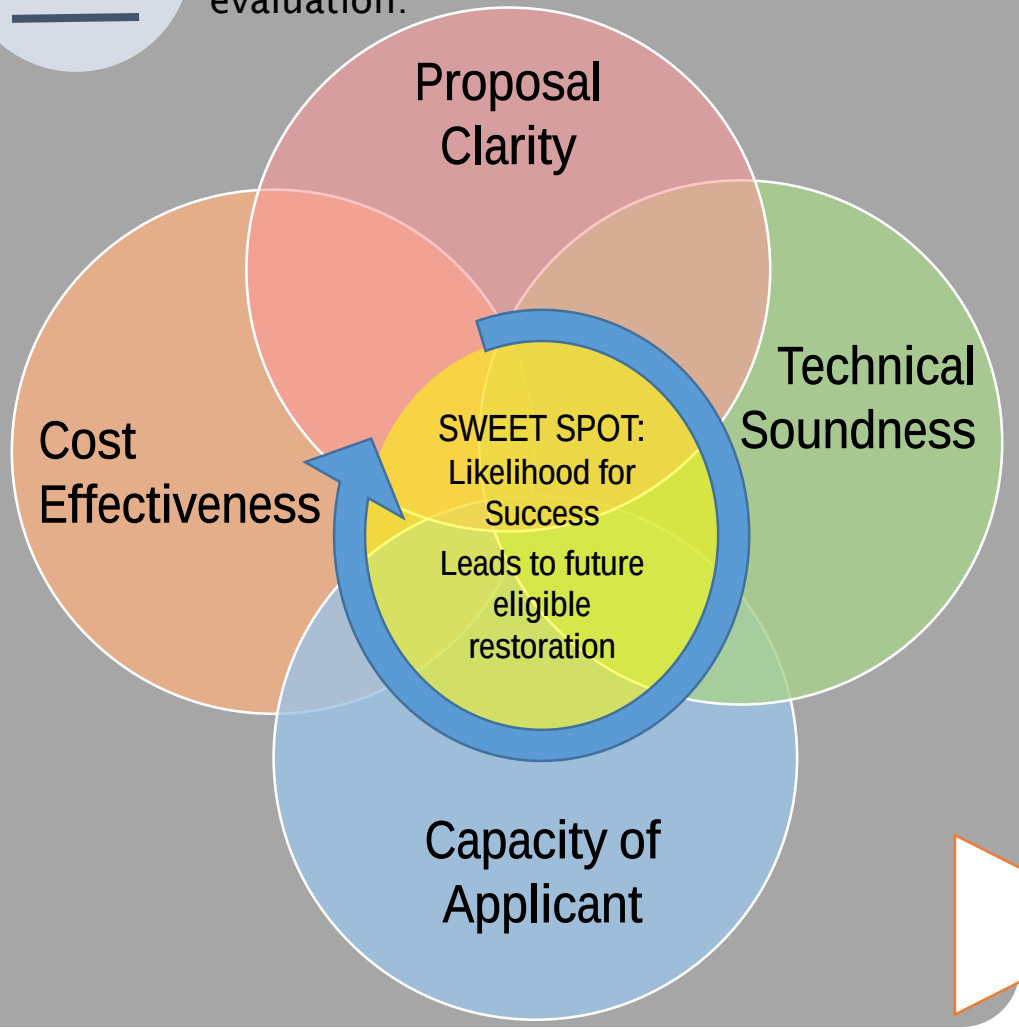
Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize

CRITERIA
How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

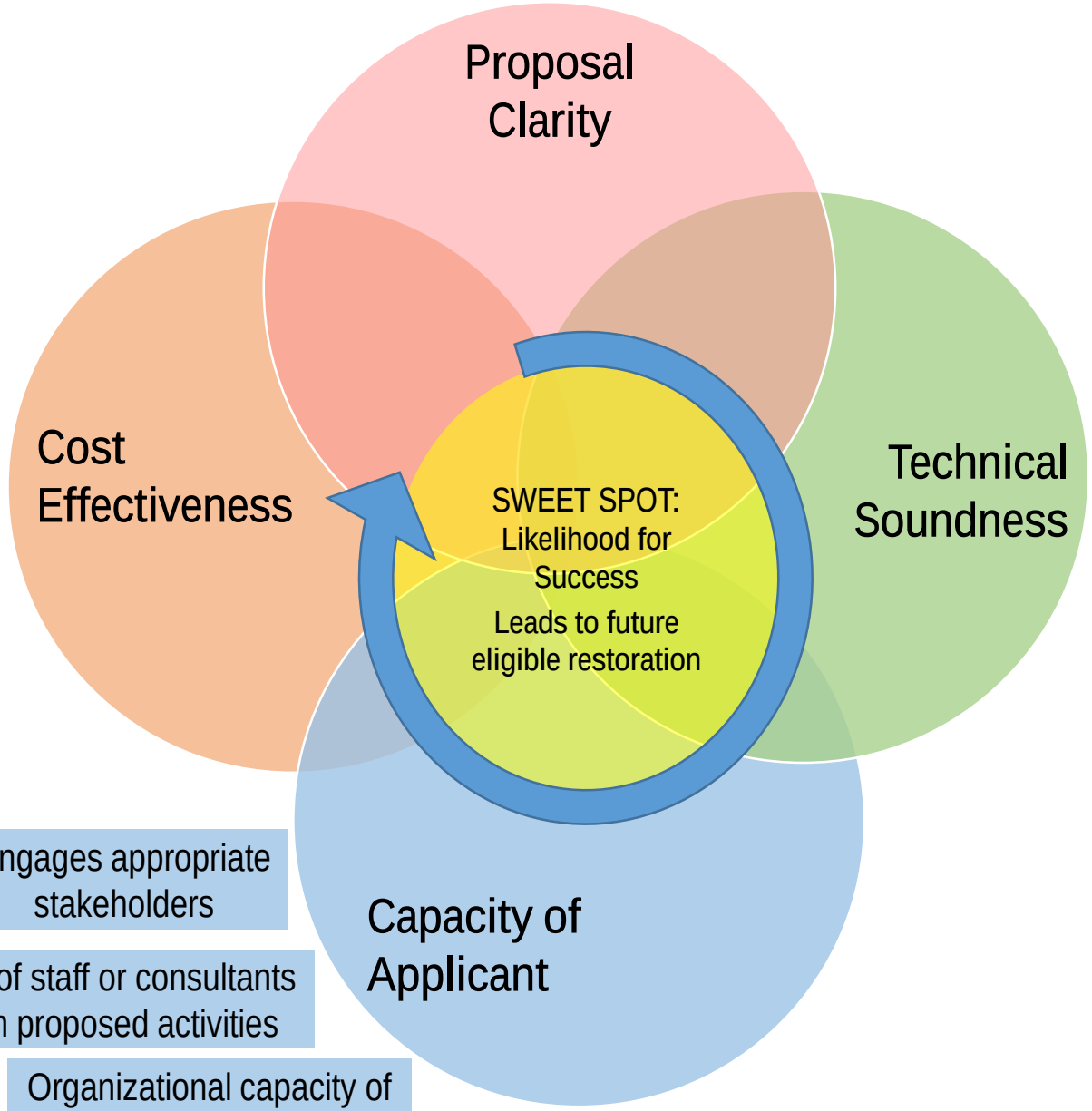
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045

Technical Design & Engineering = project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe

Resource Assessment & Planning = information about existing water quality or habitat conditions and processes at an identified scale, and relates those conditions and processes to actions that will directly lead to desired future conditions within a specified timeframe

Describes a clear need



Cost aligns with work necessary to accomplish project objectives

Engages appropriate stakeholders

Qualifications of staff or consultants to accomplish proposed activities

Organizational capacity of applicant

Technical Design & Engineering

- Addresses limiting factors in existing conservation or recovery plan
- Describes alternative analysis that demonstrates a range of options were considered
- Appropriate data will be collected to inform designs
- Professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be used

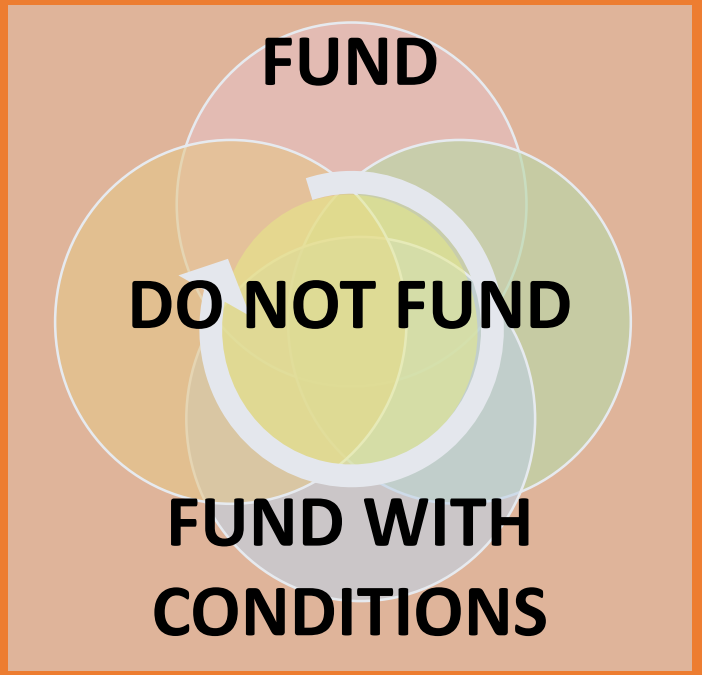
Resource Assessment & Planning

- Scope & scale is feasible, & partners have demonstrated ability in collaborative work at this scale
- Process by which data will be managed & shared with partners
- Professionally accepted methods & parameters will be used

Open Solicitation – Monitoring Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

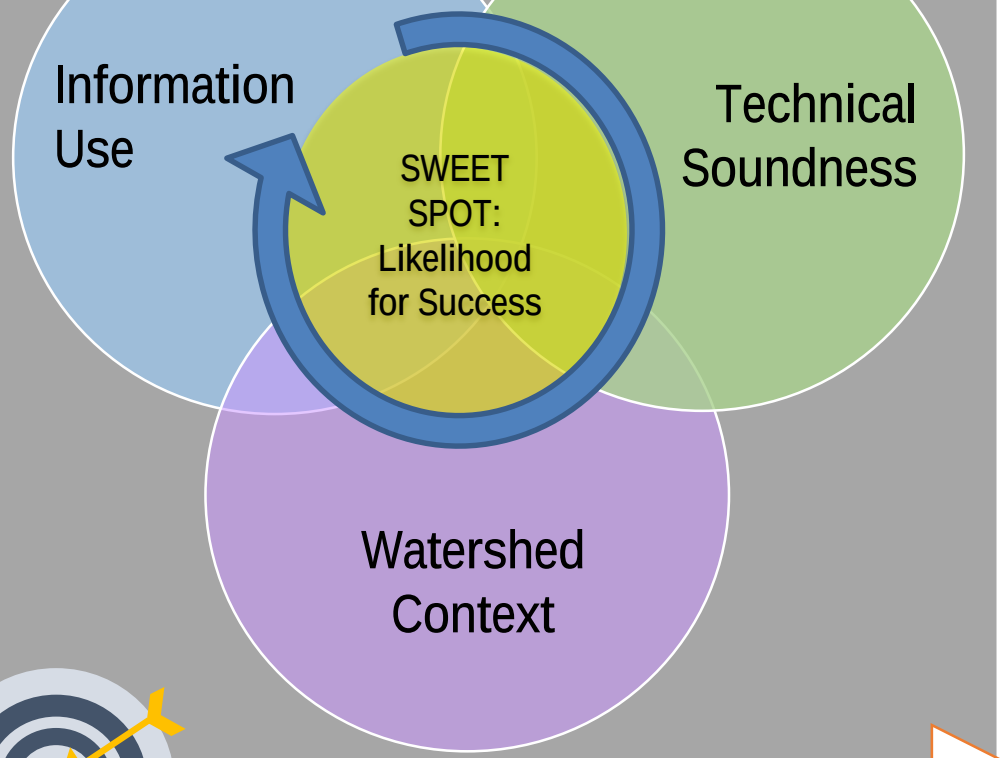
Recommend



Statewide & Regional Teams review & evaluate each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize

CRITERIA
How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

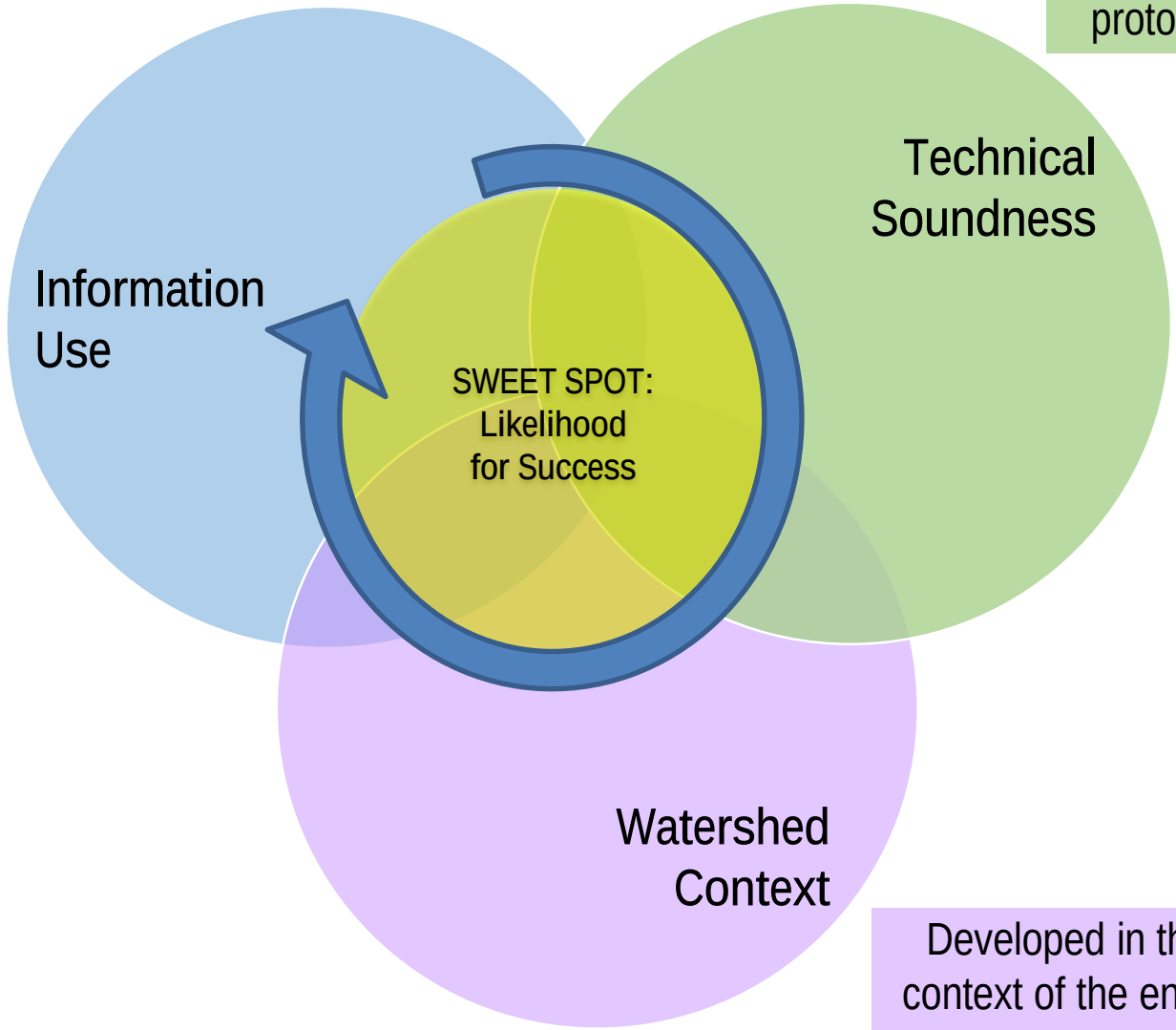
MONITORING

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-025-0040

"Watershed Monitoring Project" means a project that identifies conditions in the watershed. It may be for the purpose of gathering baseline data on current conditions, for evaluation of the specific effects of management actions, or for comparing similar watershed components before and after a project.

Use information to implement or direct projects to enhance or sustain health of watersheds

Acknowledge that the results will be available to a state database



Implement appropriate protocols

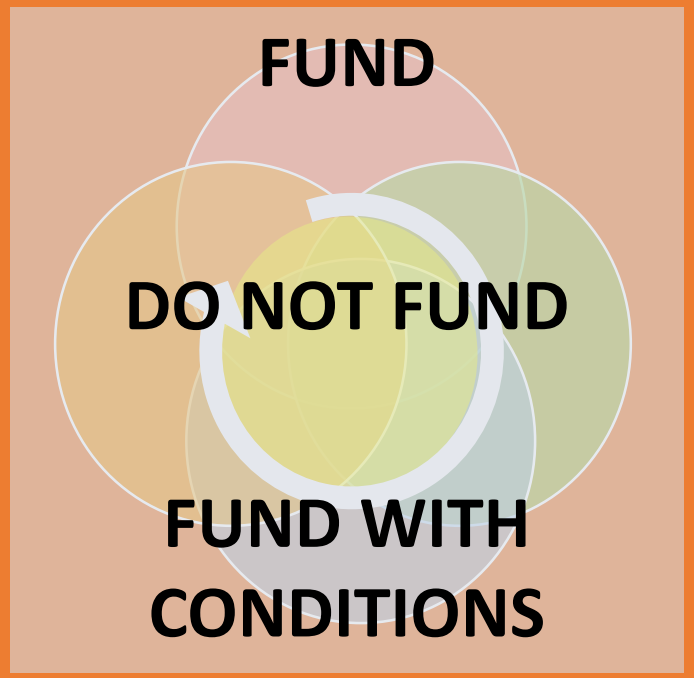
Demonstrate knowledge of state and/or federally accepted monitoring protocols

Developed in the context of the entire watershed

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

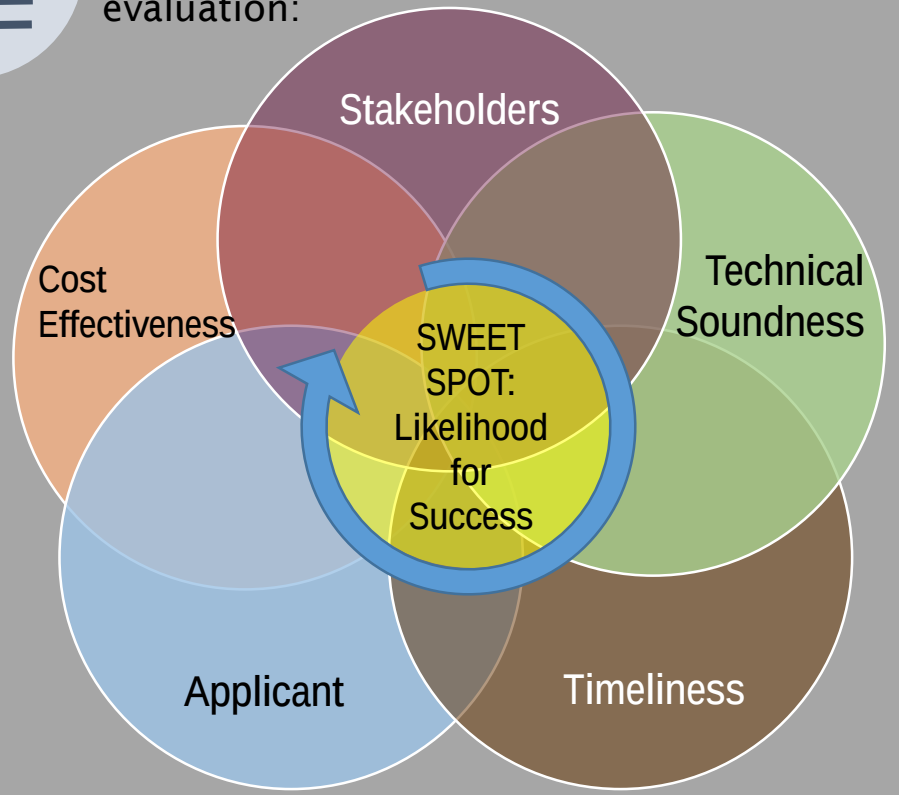
Recommend



Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize

CRITERIA
How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS
Based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

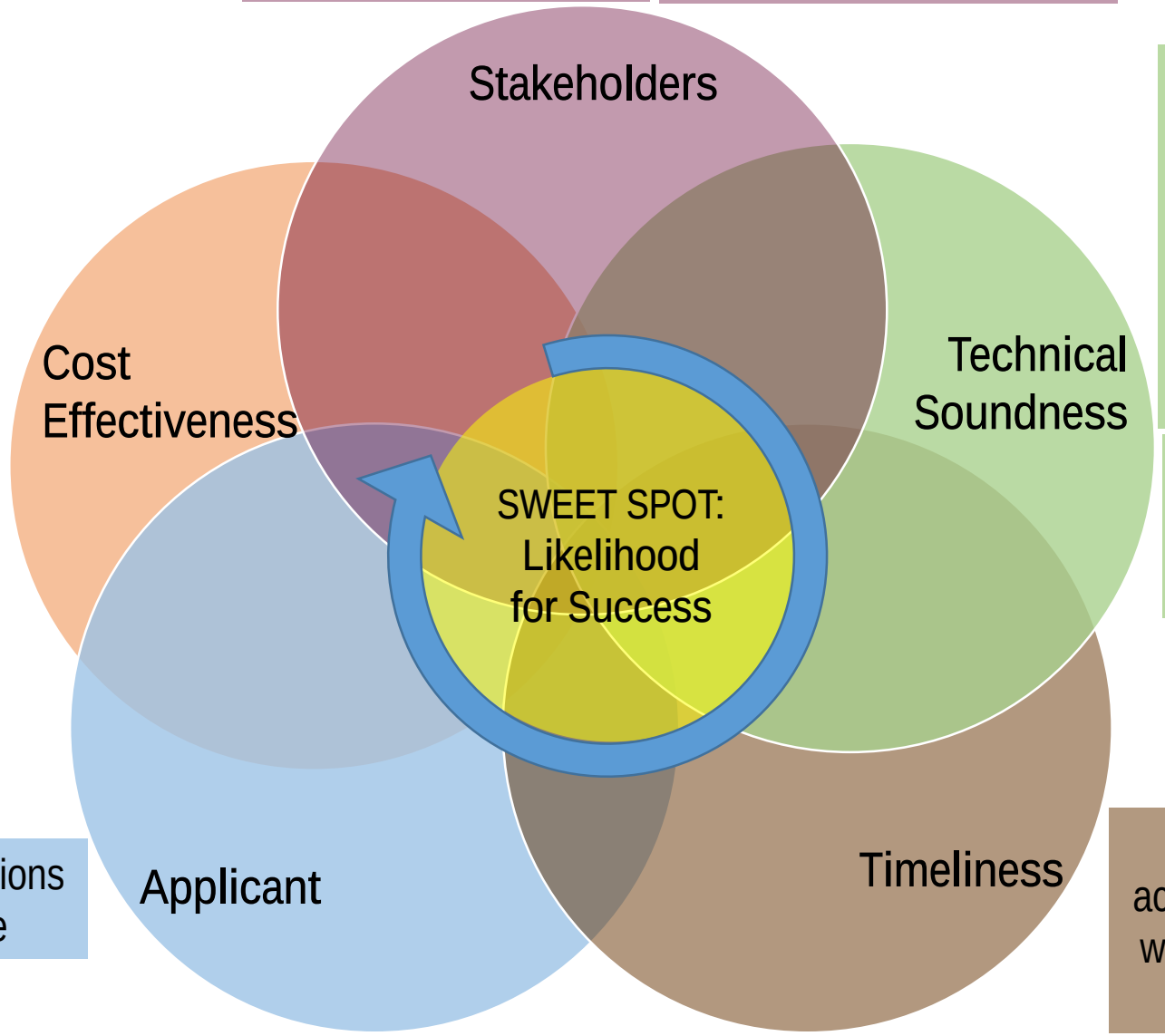
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-015-0070

"Stakeholder Engagement Project" means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefit of a specific eligible restoration or acquisitions project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are NOT ELIGIBLE

Applicants engage with appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography

Likely effectiveness of multidirectional communication among the applicant & stakeholder



Expected outcomes of resulting restoration or acquisitions include protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and or water quality or quantity

Evidence base linking engagement to eligible project types

Shows qualifications & experience

Resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program will lead to timely development of eligible projects

North Coast

Southwest

Willamette Basin

Central Oregon

Eastern Oregon

Mid-Columbia

North Coast - Region 1 Fall 2019 Applications



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2019FallCycle\Projects\Region1_RTM_apps_11x17_2019Fall.mxd
ESRI ArcMap 10.6, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20191106

Grant Types

- Restoration
- Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring

Previous Grants: 1998 - Spring 2019

- Restoration
- Land Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

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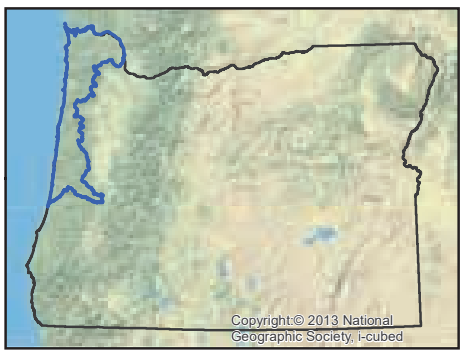

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-1029	MidCoast WC	Big Creek Floodplain Restoration	Instream, floodplain, and wetland function will be improved by removing fill material, grading the streambank, and placing large wood fish habitat structure in Big Creek, a direct ocean tributary in Lane County north of Florence.		267,771	Lane
220-1025	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Clear Creek Fish Passage Restoration	The only remaining barrier to fish passage will be replaced on Clear Creek, a tributary of the Nestucca River in Tillamook County. Clear Creek provides habitat for ESA-listed coho salmon, chum, steelhead, Chinook, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey.		259,163	Tillamook
220-1026	Scappoose Bay WC	Brush Creek Large Wood and Fish Passage	Habitat for lower Columbia River fish species will be restored by placing large wood structures instream, addressing a fish passage barrier preventing fish access to upstream habitat, and restoring native trees and shrubs plant communities along the streamside on Brush Creek, a tributary of Scappoose Creek.		264,280	Columbia
220-1023	Necanicum WC	Coho Creek Fish Passage Project - Seaside	The last remaining barrier will be addressed on Coho Creek in the Necanicum River watershed, located within Seaside city limits in Clatsop County, which will improve fish passage to stream habitat and restore full tidal exchange to a tidally-influenced wetland.		355,979	Clatsop
220-1028	MidCoast WC	North Beaver Creek Riparian Restoration	Riparian, wetland, and floodplain function will be restored by planting native trees and shrubs within large stream buffers on a former agricultural property on North Beaver Creek, a direct ocean tributary in Lincoln County.	$19,047 increase for more plant stewardship	145,874	Lincoln
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					**1,293,067**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-1024	North Coast WS Assn	Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning	A legacy forest road along Big Creek in the Nikolai-Wickiup watershed will be decommissioned to restore floodplain connection with the creek and prevent sediment from entering the stream. Large wood will also be installed instream to improve habitat complexity for coho, steelhead, and cutthroat.		172,580	Clatsop
220-1027	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Neskowin Fish Passage Improvement Project	Fish passage will be improved in the Neskowin watershed by replacing non-functional tidegates and an undersized culvert with bridges on two stream crossings. The bridges will be constucted as part of a road upgrade for a new emergency egress road out of the city of Neskowin in Tillamook County.		237,420	Tillamook
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT					**1,703,067**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-1030	Columbia SWCD	Calhoun-Rock Creek Restoration	66,659	Columbia
220-1031	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Seeley Creek Habitat Project	48,837	Benton

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-1032	Westwind Stewardship Group	Coastal Prairie Restoration at Westwind	A restoration strategy will be developed for rare coastal prairie habitat at Westwind, a conservation property in Lincoln County adjacent to the Salmon River estuary.		37,875	Lincoln
220-1034	Scappoose Bay WC	Raymond Creek Floodplain Design	An alternative analysis will be conducted and designs developed for restoration actions on Raymond Creek, a major tributary in Scappoose Bay in Columbia County. Summer rearing habitat will be improved and fish passage barriers addressed to benefit Lower Columbia native fish.		74,961	Columbia
220-1033	Lower Nehalem WC	Alder Creek Habitat Enhancement	Project designs will be developed to restore instream and wetland habitats on a conservation property located within the lower Nehalem watershed in Tillamook County. Restoration alternatives include developing tidal channels, adding instream large wood fish habitat structures, and restoring streamside plant communities.		72,270	Tillamook
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					**185,106**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description		Amount Recommended	County
220-1036	Upper Nehalem WC	Clear Creek Fish Passage/Habitat Design	Fish passage designs will be developed for five stream crossings in the Clear Creek basin, a tributary of the Nehalem River in Columbia County. The crossings are currently barriers to fish migration and their replacement will increase access to instream habitat for fish species, including Oregon coast coho salmon.		41,158	Columbia
220-1035	Columbia SWCD	Conyers Confluence Area Enhancement	An alternatives analysis will be conducted and designs developed to restore rearing and foraging habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead in Conyers Creek, a tributary of the Clatskanie River in Columbia County.		44,550	Columbia
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT					**270,814**	

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**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-1045	North Coast Land Conservancy	Rainforest Reserve	Stakeholder engagement will gain community and financial support to acquire the Rainforest Reserve, a 3,500-acre property in Clatsop County; which will conserve rare coastal habitats, improve water quality, and support coastal biodiversity.		33,967	Clatsop
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff					**33,967**	
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					**33,967**	
Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**			**Amount Requested**	**County**
None						

Region 1 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-1040	North Coast WS Assn	NCWA Monitoring 2020-2021	Temperature monitoring will continue in four watersheds in Clatsop County, including Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nickolai-Wikiup, and Ecola Creek.		14,317	Clatsop
220-1037	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program	Water quality monitoring will continue in four key subbasins in Columbia County. The basins provide habitat for state and federally listed species of salmon and steelhead, and the data will help in addressing impaired water quality impacting these fish populations.		25,025	Columbia
220-1038	Siuslaw WC	Siuslaw Coho Partnership Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Phase 1	Continuous water quality monitoring within the Siuslaw Coho Partnership will be coordinated among partners at locations throughout the Siuslaw watershed. The data will be incorporated into State of Oregon databases and made accessible to the public.		18,577	Lane
220-1042	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Expanded Monitoring	Temperature and bacteria water quality data will be collected in priority reaches of the Nestucca, Neskowin, and Sand Lake watersheds to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects.		36,831	Tillamook
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff					**94,750**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**		**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-1044	Lincoln SWCD	Mid Coast Monitoring Project Status & Trend 2019	Long-term fish spawning ground surveys on key reaches in the MidCoast watersheds will be continued. Data collection is focused on early component Chinook, chum, fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead populations.		66,277	Lincoln
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT					**161,027**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**			**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-1039	Siuslaw WC	Siuslaw Coho Partnership Effectiveness Monitoring Phase 2			74,692	Lane
220-1041	Lincoln SWCD	Mid Coast Monitoring Project AQI 2019			66,407	Lincoln
220-1043	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Agnes, Baldy, Logan Creeks and Ocean Outfalls Baseline Data Acquisition 2020-2021			39,063	Lincoln
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award					**1,606,890**	**15%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award					**10,877,263**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1023-17360
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 flow conditions and impair natural channel processes impacting ESA listed coho, Chinook, chum, 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 1.4 miles of stream habitat and restore full tidal exchange to the site's tidally influenced stream-wetland complex. Project partners include: City of Seaside and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration builds upon previous OWEB investments in fish passage upstream of the project site, and the road crossings to be removed are the last remaining barriers in the system.
- Replacing these fish passage barriers will result in 1.4 stream miles opened for passage and connectivity with wetlands both upstream and downstream of the crossing.
- The project provides habitat connectivity with an upstream tidally-influenced wetland that has an alder-slough sedge-skunk cabbage plant community, which is considered globally rare.
- The work will benefit juvenile Oregon coast coho salmon and other native fish species by providing access to rearing habitat. Coho Creek has a thriving coho population that could be negatively impacted if the crossing were to fail.
- This project may be a starter project that leads to additional restoration within the City-owned wetlands upstream.
- Since the creek is used by the adjacent schools as an outdoor classroom, restoration of full fish passage at this location will complement and enhance community engagement efforts around watershed function and health.

- There is a committed partnership around the project, including the City of Seaside who has allocated funding in the current city budget for the project. Delaying implementation further will put this funding at risk.

Concerns

- The site is not a complete fish passage barrier, which reduces the overall ecological benefit from this investment.
- The City's plans for managing the upstream tidal wetland are unknown. The project would be strengthened by a commitment to future restoration and protection of this area.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration of full fish passage to Coho Creek in the City of Seaside will improve access to rearing and spawning habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon and build on past OWEB investments in this watershed. There is community support for the project because of the significance of the stream to the school district. This project has a high likelihood of success with the assembled partnership and is a reasonable investment for the proposed watershed benefit.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$355,979

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$355,979

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1024-17362

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Big Creek Road Decommissioning

Applicant: North Coast WS Assn

Region: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $172,580

Total Cost: $257,190

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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. Camp 7 Spur is a 1.2 mile stretch of legacy logging road adjacent to Big Creek that encroaches on the floodplain. 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 and is an area of high intrinsic potential habitat. This project proposes to 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, 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 and landowner willingness to move forward with implementation. OWEB funds will allow us to install large wood structures along this stretch of spawning habitat that will no longer be accessible on the ground after abandonment. 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 road in the riparian area, which will decrease its impact on fish and wildlife and reduce the amount of sediment that enters the stream.
- The habitat upstream of the hatchery is of high quality for cutthroat trout, and lamprey also exist in the system.
- The stream lacks large wood structure needed for instream habitat complexity, which is a limiting factor for this watershed. A planned timber harvest in the basin will provide the necessary material for the large wood placements.

- Lower summer flows in the area will reduce instream impacts during project implementation.
- The landowner letter of support indicates they are engaged and committed to a successful restoration project. The landowner will oversee project implementation and has relevant qualifications and experience.

Concerns

- The permitting approach is not described and the fish salvage plan is not well detailed in the application.
- Not all of the concerns from previous application reviews are addressed. The designs still lack detail and specifications about the fill material to be removed and where it will be placed. The objectives also remain unchanged; more details would be helpful to clarify project activities.

Concluding Analysis

This project will address limiting factors in the Nicolai-Wikiup watershed and is located within a priority area to improve habitat for lower Columbia fish species. This application is a resubmittal from previous iterations that were not recommended for funding, and this proposal addresses many of the concerns identified in previous reviews. For example, dimensions are now provided for the fill material and it appears that the technical providers and project managers have more clarity around the plans for implementation. While the designs are still basic, there is sufficient detail to determine that the project is likely to succeed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$172,580

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1025-17363

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Clear Creek Fish Passage Restoration

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $259,163

Total Cost: $497,088

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

- Previous application review comments are addressed.
- 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. This is also only one of two tributaries in the Nestucca utilized by chum.

- Clear Creek is an important source of cold water refugia in the Nestucca watershed. The river has higher water temperatures that are a water quality limiting factor downstream of the site; this project will provide access to cooler water upstream.
- In addition to fish passage, the project will also improve watershed conditions by restoring sediment transport and large wood movement that are important for building stream habitat complexity.
- There are strong partnerships established in support of the project that include the County and 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 the design approach includes climate change considerations.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar types of fish projects in the basin.
- The project is cost-effective for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The structure is only a partial barrier to most aquatic species and is a water velocity barrier to salmon. The overall ecological benefit of the investment may be limited since some passage does exist at the site.

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 culvert is still passable at certain flows currently, it is a velocity barrier for juveniles at high flows and prevents access to critical cool water habitat upstream. The Nestucca River is water quality limited, which increases the importance of Clear Creek as refugia for fish. The designs for the project are technically sound and the project team experience in implementing similar work indicates this project is likely to succeed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$259,163

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$259,163

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1026-17398

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Brush Creek Large Wood and Fish Passage

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $264,280

Total Cost: $333,675

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 will also address fish passage concerns by replacing an undersized and perched culvert with a channel-spanning bridge. The project originated 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 2020, replace a culvert with a bridge, and plant 5000 native confers, small trees and shrubs during winter 2020-2021. Project timing is important due to nearby scheduled 2020 logging which will allow shared resources to reduce costs. 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 for these species.
- Improving habitat complexity and restoring fish passage will address multiple limiting factors within Brush Creek.
- 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 affecting juvenile fish within the reach.
- Partnerships strengthen the project and the applicant has effectively worked with the landowner on a solution to the fish passage barrier.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar projects.

- The design-build approach for the fish passage project elements is technically sound for the low-gradient reach. The proposed bridge will allow for 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

- No significant concerns were noted during review.

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. Comments from the previous application review are addressed with more details provided in the application regarding the planting plan and species diversity. There is a high likelihood for achieving a successful outcome.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$264,280

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$264,280

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1027-17404

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Neskowin Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $237,420

Total Cost: $547,729

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 flow through the community of Neskowin and merge 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 drains Hawk Creek and one culvert drains a small wetland channel. Fish passage and natural stream function are 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. The Neskowin wetland complex extends for 250 acres beyond the crossings.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 dampen flood peaks, reduce water velocities, store 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, and the replacement of the crossing structures would add to this functionality.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 local flood risk and increase resiliency.Project partners include: Tillamook County, OR Dept of Fish & Wildlife, OR Parks & Recreation Department, US Forest Service, and private landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Improving fish passage will increase access to habitat farther upstream in the watershed. The project will also improve connectivity to a nearby marsh that has fish rearing habitat.
- The project is cost-effective for the proposed work.
- Working within the Neskowin stream system will potentially benefit coho populations by adding diversity to the gene pool.

- The applicant has experience implementing similar types of projects in the watershed.

Concerns

- Hawk and Butte Creeks have dependent populations for coho. Dependent populations are small and isolated, and they persist by attracting strays from other basins. As a result, these creeks are sometimes not considered priority locations to restore fish habitat.
- The proposed project is part of an emergency egress road construction project that is likely to significantly impact wetlands, which reduces the overall ecological benefits resulting from restored fish passage. The design approach may be missing an opportunity for taking a more holistic approach to restoration for the area that could benefit multiple native habitats while addressing infrastructure needs. The scale of the current design for constructing bridges is necessary for the proposed carrying capacity of the new road infrastructure, but is beyond what would be needed for a balanced project with habitat protection and enhancement components.
- The project link with the emergency egress road work creates uncertainty for whether an investment of conservation funds can achieve meaningful ecological benefit at a reasonable cost.
- The project will not be able to achieve the 1.5:1 active channel width ratio necessary to meet federal fish passage standards and still be cost-effective.
- The land use immediately upstream is a golf course, which has limited ecological value for fish species.
- Without an alternatives analysis, it is difficult to ascertain the cost benefit of the chosen project design.

Concluding Analysis

This fish passage project involves constructing two bridges as part of an emergency egress road project planned in the City of Neskowin. The project will improve fish passage for a dependent population of coho that has not been viewed as a priority in the past, but dependent populations are included as a NOAA recovery action if resources exist. An OWEB investment will build in fish habitat benefits into a road construction project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$237,420

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1028-17428

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Beaver Creek Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $126,827

Total Cost: $240,144

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

North Beaver Creek lies within the 32,000 acre, 5th field watershed in Lincoln County near the town of Seal Rock. Its headwaters are located within the protected Siuslaw National Forest and it joins South Beaver Creek one mile from its ocean terminus in Ona Beach State Park. Despite the protections in the headwaters and on private and state protected areas near its mouth, agricultural practices in the intervening low gradient stream reaches have degraded habitat for federally listed coho salmon and other aquatic organisms. Streams have been channelized and straightened, wetlands drained, riparian trees removed, and non-native species have become dominant. Accordingly, water quality is poor in these reaches and cover is limited. This project is part of a six landowner, 36.7- acre effort to improve floodplain and riparian conditions in this basin. Funding from OWEB will be used on the furthest downstream 18.9-acre property, to restore riparian, floodplain and wetland function through a planting plan utilizing >200 ft wide buffers that will provide shade, long-term input of large woody debris to the system, as well as provide a base of food and dam building material to encourage beaver activity. Enrollment of this project property in the Conservation Reserve and Easement Program (CREP) shows that the landowners are committed to conservation management. Project partners include private landowners, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. Additional partners, notably the USFS's Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program (hereafter "Stewardship project") and matching funds are in hand to improve riparian conditions on the additional 17.8 upstream acres on North Beaver Creek, Peterson Creek, and Bowers Creek. Together, this work provides an opportunity to regain significant natural function to help link the protected headwaters and lowlands in this key watershed with an independent coho population.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The goals and objectives are clear and well-described in the application.
- The project stretch of Beaver Creek will benefit from a healthier riparian buffer by reducing stream temperature in the future and promoting native biodiversity on-site.

- A diverse list of plant species are proposed for planting, and the exclosures and buffer design are reasonable. The plan for plant protection is well-designed and appropriate for the site, given the heavy elk use present in the Beaver Creek area. The large buffer size increases the ecological benefits for the project costs.
- The project provides opportunity for raising awareness that could lead to future restoration by leveraging the CREP program in an area that has had little interest in this program. Successful implementation of CREP could lead to future participation that will extend the benefits from this investment.
- The applicant has a proven track record and has engaged the appropriate partners in the project.
- The landowners are engaged and committed to restoration on their property.

Concerns

- The plan for scalping reed canary grass is not likely to be effective at the 3-4” depth proposed, and will likely exacerbate the reed canary grass issue on site. Scalping reed canary grass has been shown to be effective for site preparation at depths of 12-18” because this depth gets below the extensive rhizome system of the plant. Mowing without scalping would likely be more effective than the proposed scalping.
- A DSL General Authorization permit will likely be required for the proposed scalping activities, but this is not mentioned in the application.
- The proposed plant establishment may not be sufficient to achieve a free-to-grow state. With the proposed site preparation and the conditions on site, 5 years is recommended.
- The CREP match contribution is for future payments to the landowner, which is not eligible as match because it will not be accrued by the end of the grant. However, the remaining match is sufficient to meet the required 25% for OWEB grants
- The native seed species list is not provided with the application making it challenging to evaluate its appropriateness for the site.

Concluding Analysis

Beaver Creek in Lincoln County has a thriving coho salmon run and has long been a restoration priority for local organizations. This project will plant a nearly 19-acre parcel in native trees and shrubs, with the goal of improving wildlife habitat and addressing stream temperature issues on the creek. The applicant is encouraged to consider alternatives for managing reed canary grass during site preparation and contacting DSL to determine whether a permit is needed. With the condition of increasing the years of plant establishment from 3 to 5, the proposed riparian buffer goals and objectives are achievable and will provide significant ecological uplift for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Increased with Conditions

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

$145,874

Review Team Conditions

Increase recommended amount to increase plant establishment from 3 years to 5 years, the two additional years shall use the same techniques described for years 1 to 3.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Staff verified with applicant the costs associated with additional plant establishment work.

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$145,874

Staff Conditions

Increase recommended amount to increase plant establishment from 3 years to 5 years, the two additional years shall use the same techniques described for years 1 to 3.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1029-17442
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Big Creek Floodplain Restoration
Applicant: MidCoast WC
Region: North Coast
County: Lane
OWEB Request: $267,771
Total Cost: $475,269

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The planned restoration work is on Big Creek, an ocean tributary flowing directly into the Pacific Ocean, about 10 miles south of the town of Yachats. The project includes about 0.6 stream miles and 16 floodplain acres upstream from where Big Creek crosses under Highway 101 within Carl G. Washburne Memorial State Park. The site, now owned by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), has been degraded by land clearing and grazing, stream straightening, removal of large wood from the stream, invasion by Japanese knotweed, floodplain fill, and over two feet of stream incision. These actions have greatly impacted instream complexity, floodplain and wetland connectivity, and riparian vegetation; all factors that limit Oregon Coast Coho (OCC) and other salmonid production. This proposed restoration project seeks to improve instream, floodplain, and wetland function through 14 acres of floodplain grading, floodplain fill removal, instream material placement to remedy channel incision, and placement of large woody debris. Large woody debris placement will include both 10 instream log structures and placement of over 200 pieces on the Big Creek floodplain. This increased large wood loading will further increase connectivity and side channel development over time. Riparian planting and seeding will improve the functioning of the riparian zone and enhance a pollinator corridor between two known reproduction sites for the endangered Oregon silverspot butterfly. Project partners include OPRD, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, Siuslaw SWCD, Oregon Department of Transportation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration approach as proposed is holistic and suitable for the site. The designs include enhancement of habitats for both aquatic and terrestrial species, including Oregon coast coho salmon and the Oregon silverspot butterfly.
- The designs are technically sound and appropriate alternatives were evaluated. The expected ecological benefits will support overall watershed function in addition to providing species-specific benefits.
- Big Creek supports populations of steelhead, Chinook salmon, and eulochon, all of which will benefit from habitat improvements resulting from the proposed activities.

- The project team has assembled the right partners, and bringing ODOT to the table to remove the fill located in the project area is a significant accomplishment that will provide additional ecological benefit.
- Knotweed treatments conducted by the landowner have been highly effective and the timing of implementing a floodplain restoration project will capitalize on the momentum generated by this completed work.
- The project area is protected through a previous OWEB-acquisition grant and this work will build on this prior conservation investment.
- The wood for the project will be donated and is of appropriate size to place in the stream for restoring watershed function.
- The project will serve to increase awareness of watershed restoration projects because the location is highly visible.
- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar projects and capacity to implement the proposed work.

Concerns

- There may be a lost opportunity for additional ecological uplift because the design approach does not consider a large-scale process-based restoration strategy. However, the project scale is appropriate for achieving the proposed restoration goals in the identified watershed while balancing reasonable costs.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed floodplain restoration on Big Creek will restore and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife by reconnecting the stream's floodplain through strategic grading and large wood placement, and establishing native plant communities targeted toward pollinators. The effort will build on previous investments by many agencies in the Big Creek watershed and incorporate the long-desired removal and relocation of over an acre of ODOT rock fill from the immediate floodplain.
The selected design is expected to be effective at this site based on lessons learned from nearby restoration projects. The proposed approach and partners involved indicate the project has a high likelihood of success for providing significant ecological benefits for the cost. The landowner is encouraged to consider designing and installing appropriate signage to increase community engagement around watershed health, given the highly visible location of this project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$267,771

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$267,771

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1030-17470
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Calhoun-Rock Creek Restoration
Applicant: Columbia SWCD
Region: North Coast
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $66,659
Total Cost: $301,695

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located in Columbia County on lower Rock Creek, a Nehalem River tributary. Numerous issues within the Rock Creek watershed, such as decreased floodplain connectivity, degraded riparian habitat, in-stream habitat simplification, and reduced large wood input, have been identified by a limiting factor analysis (Trask et al 2011). Lower Rock Creek is also listed as a 303(D) impaired water body for elevated temperature by the Oregon DEQ. Similar to the wider watershed, current and historic land uses have degraded the project reach in-stream, riparian and floodplain habitats. Modified flows, and conversion of multi-canopied riparian and floodplain habitat to single stratum pasture, have resulted in increased solar radiation, accelerated streambank erosion and channel degradation promoting channel simplification and floodplain abandonment. For this project the Columbia SWCD is partnering with the NOAA-Wild Salmon Center and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to address, within the project reach, increased thermal loading and the limiting conditions detailed by Trask et al 2011. Consequently, the project intends to enhance in-stream habitat complexity through placement of edge-oriented large wood structures and key pieces, restore riparian and floodplain connectivity and structural complexity by lowering an unnaturally steepened bank and re-establishing multi-canopied riparian and floodplain vegetation. Placement of edge-oriented large wood structures and key pieces will increase in-stream habitat complexity by encouraging pool formation, and gravel retention within scoured-bedrock exposed channel bed areas, and development of off-channel habitat to provide lateral margins for high flow fish refugia. Recovery of multi-canopied riparian and floodplain habitat will increase bank cohesion, reduce solar radiation and sediment reaching the stream, and provide sources for long term large wood recruitment.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Rock Creek is a high priority location to improve habitat for salmon, especially fall Chinook.
- Rock Creek has water quality concerns, specifically temperature, that will be addressed by actions such as the planting proposed in this application. The creek is also the drinking water source for the City of Vernonia.
- The landowners are supportive and engaged in restoration on their property.

Concerns

- The planting plan lacks detail and clarity needed to understand technical soundness of the approach, and includes conifer species that are not native to the area as well as extensive herbicide use upstream of the City's drinking water system.
- The project designs lack clarity because only working copies are provided with the application. On the site visit, it was indicated that the designs changed since application submittal. The most current designs drop several of the originally proposed large wood structures, which reduces the potential ecological benefit that could be gained from the investment.
- The primary focus of the project appears to be bank stabilization rather than restoring watershed function. As a result, the project approach treats a symptom rather than the root cause of watershed impacts and project implementation may push the erosion problem elsewhere.
- The proposal to tip trees from the riparian area into the creek may not be technically sound, given the smaller diameter of these trees compared with the size of the active channel width. Since this large wood proposed for tree tipping is undersized for the size of the stream, it will likely not provide benefit to the site for long because high water flows will move it downstream.
- The proposed buffers are not very wide, which limits the expected ecological benefit of the proposed work for the cost.
- The designs miss the opportunity to reactivate side-channels and reconnect the floodplain, and as such the project is not likely to have significant benefit to fish habitat conditions in Rock Creek.

Concluding Analysis

Rock Creek is a high priority location to improve habitat conditions for fish populations in the upper Nehalem watershed and the project site has potential for restoration. The proposal misses an opportunity to significantly address watershed limiting factors on the site because the design focuses mainly on bank stabilization instead of considering strategies for reconnecting the floodplain with the stream and improving riparian conditions. Given the limited ecological benefit possible with the proposed designs, the project is not cost-effective for the expected outcome.

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1031-17475
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Seeley Creek Habitat Project
Applicant: Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation
Region: North Coast
County: Benton
OWEB Request: $48,837
Total Cost: $62,037

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Seeley Creek is a tributary of the North Fork of the Alsea River located roughly 2 miles northeast of the town of Alsea and provides approximately 3 miles of anadromous fish habitat. Fish species present in the watershed include ESA-listed coastal Coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and pacific/brook lamprey. Seeley Creek has been identified in the ODFW's Coho Conservation Plan (2007) as good Coho habitat potential but lacks complexity, over winter habitat, and large woody debris. The proposed restoration section of Seeley Creek is owned and managed by industrial timberland (Weyerhaeuser), is surrounded by young timber and clearcut, and is dominated by alder and reed canary grass in much of the riparian. A habitat assessment conducted by ODFW's habitat program in 2006 categorized the wood volume as low. The Seeley Creek Habitat Project is proposing to use ground based heavy equipment to place 154 pieces of large wood (57 key pieces with a minimum 24'' diameter, 97 filler pieces with a 16'' minimum diameter) into a 1.1 mile section of Seeley Creek spread over 26 identified sites. In addition to the large wood treatment, a unique side channel re-connection is planned to be completed during the same working period. This section of Seeley Creek contains a historic log pond adjacent to Seeley Creek that was connected with a man-made side channel in 1998 to promote off-channel habitat and provide additional juvenile fish rearing. The pond and side channel are currently dysfunctional but have great restoration potential by removing two concrete inlet/outlet structures and allowing the stream to function naturally. A riparian planting component is also planned to promote conifer growth and large wood recruitment for the long term. Project partners include: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, and Weyerhaeuser.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Seeley Creek is a priority location to improve habitat for salmon populations in the Alsea watershed.
- The proposal for large wood placement strives to achieve NOAA benchmarks for large wood in a river system, and the wood that will be used is appropriately sized for Seeley Creek.
- The project site is located just above a county park, which could allow public access to the project area and support ongoing local educational activities focused around fish and watersheds.
- The applicant is experienced and has completed similar projects in the past.
- A knowledgeable ODFW biologist will assist with project design and implementation.

- The project is cost-effective for the work proposed.

Concerns

- The application lacks design details needed to evaluate the technical soundness of the design approach, including information on the stream gradient, floodplain details, topography, bank-full width, and stages for floodplain connectivity.
- The plans for addressing the pond and its impacts are not well-developed in the application. For example, juvenile coho may be stranded in the pond and the application does not indicate how this will be addressed.
- The proposed planting density at 50 trees per acre is low for the site. Limited success could occur with low proposed density for a planting within the reed canary grass dominated areas. The plant list also lacks species diversity.
- The application identified a number of past failures with implementing previous restoration projects on the site, but does not address why those efforts failed, nor discusses how the new proposed work will use lessons learned to achieve success.
- Recent project management resulting in past projects not being completed as proposed may indicate that the applicant has limited capacity.

Concluding Analysis

This project will address limiting factors in the Alsea watershed by improving instream habitat complexity and enhancing rearing habitat for fish. The plan for the large wood placements is technically sound and has the support of an experienced project manager. However, the designs for the alterations to the old artificial pond are not clear, and the application lacks detail needed to evaluate the likelihood of achieving the stated ecological outcomes. The planting plan is also limited in detail and may not be robust enough to be successful in the reed canary grass dominated portions of the project reach. A future application should include more details regarding the characteristics of the stream reach and the designs for the pond alterations in order to provide the information necessary for determining whether the proposed restoration is likely to achieve the stated goals and objectives.

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1032-17380

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coastal Prairie Restoration at Westwind

Applicant: Westwind Stewardship Group

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $37,875

Total Cost: $48,390

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Westwind is located on the central Oregon Coast, within the Pacific Northwest Coast ecoregion. The physical setting is at the mouth of the Salmon River, on the south side of the river opposite Cascade Head. The property has approximately 1 mile of shoreline along the Pacific Ocean, and 2.7 miles bordering the Salmon River and its estuary. All adjacent land is owned and managed by the US Forest Service, Oregon State Parks (beach), and Lincoln City (as protected Open space). The Property is located within the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area (CHSRA). Located in the Southwest corner of the Westwind property is a small coastal prairie that is surrounded by rocky cliffs and a mature Sitka/Hemlock forest. The Baseline Documentation and OWEB Conservation Easement identifies this site, known as Iris Meadow, as remnant upland prairie habitat in fair condition and highly threatened due to invasive species and altered successional processes. It has substantial native diversity and abundance, including a rare species (Sidalcea hirtipes) and potential for other less common species. There are very few relatively intact coastal meadows left, and Iris Meadow is a critical site - it serves as a representative site for what species are found in a coastal prairie and a source site for native seed collection.Westwind and its partners at the Institute for Applied Ecology will attempt to restore this isolated parcel of land - all on Westwind's property - into a model of native plant and animal restoration with an eye on management regimes that propagate native organisms and promote the natural functions of the coastal headland prairies. We are also exploring options for coastal prairie restoration at the Fraser Farm site adjacent to the Salmon River estuary and current upland timbered sites that were historically prairie habitat.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal has clear goals, objectives, and specific actions.
- The work proposed is a component of the management plan for Westwind and will promote restoration of coastal prairie habitat on the property, a priority for the coast. The work will benefit plant species of concern, including bristly-stemmed checker-mallow, Sildacea hirtipes.
- Iris Meadow, the focus of the work, may be one of the last remnants of coastal prairie in the immediate area.

- The Iris Meadow site is relatively remote and future restoration treatment will likely have a longer standing positive effect due to the location's isolation preventing potential impacts from invasive species and recreation.
- The technical assistance proposed will help the larger prairie restoration community learn how to implement successful restoration projects on the coast.
- The inclusion of the 67-acre Fraser Farm area into the alternatives analysis creates a larger opportunity for coastal prairie restoration on the property.
- The selected technical provider has the most experience implementing this type of work in Oregon. The proposed technical approach is thorough and appropriate for the project's goals.
- The project is cost-effective because the restoration potential will be evaluated on 70-acres of the property.

Concerns

- The Iris Meadow site is only 3-acres in size, and its small size is difficult to ascertain from the application.

Concluding Analysis

Technical assistance is sought to develop restoration plans for high priority coastal prairie locations on the Westwind property, which encompasses the headlands and sand spit in the southern portion of the Salmon River estuary. The Westwind property was acquired in part with an acquisition grant from OWEB, and this work will build on that investment. There is a high likelihood of success for the project to have a positive impact on rare coastal habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,875

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$37,875

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1033-17389
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Alder Creek Habitat Enhancement
Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC
Region: North Coast
County: Tillamook
OWEB Request: $72,270
Total Cost: $91,620

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. It is estimated that the Nehalem River has lost 55% of its area due to modifications to support agricultural and residential uses.This area has been set aside by the landowner (Lower Nehalem Community Trust) for conservation. Additionally, there are several habitat types located on the project site. Restoration in each habitat type would provide easily accessible examples of restoration activities that could then also be implemented on other properties. 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. These designs will address restoration of tidal channels, the addition of in stream wood, riparian vegetation restoration, removal of infrastructure from the flood plain, and lowland prairie restoration. 4. Proposed Partners:Lower Nehalem Community TrustTillamook Estuaries Partnership Lower Nehalem Watershed CouncilNatural Resource Conservation ServiceOregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clear and demonstrates willingness to actively implement restoration on the conservation property. This iteration of the application is improved from previous submissions with goals, objectives, and actions that are specific and can lead to a technically sound restoration project plan. The design process and expectations of a technical service provider are better developed and refined.
- The applicant has coordinated with Tillamook Estuary Partnership (TEP) and NRCS, which addresses prior review team concerns about a lack of engaging stakeholder input.
- The site location provides a potential for fish and wildlife habitat development in the lower Nehalem watershed. The project area is adjacent to other conserved properties that may be valuable as restoration sites.

- 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 project location is highly visible and a restoration effort could provide opportunity to raise public awareness.
- The applicant has the organizational capacity for managing the proposed technical assistance with a Board of Directors that are committed to the project and engaged in the community.

Concerns

- The vision for restoring habitats on the property is still unclear. There are a diversity of habitats and options the applicant wants to pursue. However, it is unclear from the application how the applicant plans to strategically sort and elevate priority actions so that the right habitats are targeted first.
- Additional details on design specifications would be helpful to understand the expected restoration project that will result from this technical assistance.
- The project lacks a technical advisory team to guide the project. Given the easement on the property, it is important to involve NRCS and other natural resource agencies in the design process.
- The cited actions from the recovery plan are for freshwater streams only, estuarine actions should also be taken into account for this project location.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance work will evaluate restoration options for the Alder Creek Farm property in the lower Nehalem watershed. This site is a visible location to restore fish and wildlife habitat in the region, and the applicant's Board and project partners are engaged and committed. While some project details remain to be developed, the proposed technical assistance will engage a qualified technical provider to complete needed restoration planning that will benefit habitat resources on this conservation property. The applicant is encouraged to (1) use adjacent reference sites, site history, and current sea level rise information to help guide the design process, (2) look at Tillamook County Land Use Planning rules to determine whether there are any constraints for active restoration at the project site, and (3) communicate and coordinate with NRCS from project concept to project completion.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$72,270

Review Team Conditions

Prior to first payment request, a letter must be submitted from NRCS confirming their participation in the project and commitment to provide input to the technical assistance products.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$72,270

Staff Conditions

Prior to first payment request, a letter must be submitted from NRCS confirming their participation in the project and commitment to provide input to the technical assistance products.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1034-17421
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Raymond Creek Floodplain Design
Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC
Region: North Coast
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $74,961
Total Cost: $114,461

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This technical assistance project is located on Raymond Creek, a tributary to South Scappoose Creek, Scappoose Bay and the Lower Columbia River (LCR). The site is approximately 3.5 miles upstream of the City of Scappoose, in southern Columbia County. Written reports and oral histories indicate that all fish species have declined dramatically in the watershed, including in Raymond Creek. LCR Coho, Steelhead and Cutthroat were all historically abundant in Raymond Creek, and were observed in limited numbers during ODFW surveys (SBWC Watershed Assessment, 2000). Rural residential development has led to poor instream and riparian conditions, including eroding and undercut banks, fish passage concerns, stream channelization, cattle grazing and crossings, lack of large wood and lack of riparian vegetation (ODFW Aquatic Inventory, 2009). Local landowners have expressed concerns due to recent flooding, leading to this proposal. The project will analyze hydrologic and geomorphic conditions, conduct two-dimensional modeling, develop engineered designs for reducing the number of crossings and restoration designs for adding improvements to instream and riparian conditions. The project will work with landowners on alternative analyses, and permitting agencies to find the best alternative for implementing restoration actions. Refined designs will be submitted to permitting entities. Project partners include landowners, Columbia County, ODFW, Lower Columbia Engineering and the SBWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal has clear goals and objectives.
- Landowner participation within the project reach is impressive with five landowners committed to the project, and there is a possibility of engaging more landowners through the technical assistance work.
- The resulting restoration project will benefit native fish. Surveys in Raymond Creek identified 1.1 coho parr/square mile in the summer, which is a significant figure for this particular watershed.
- The road crossings are all partial barriers to fish migration and removing them will improve passage to upstream cold water refugia higher in the watershed.
- The likelihood of future restoration is high because a broad partnership supports the project.
- Proposed riparian buffers are substantial, and removing livestock from the creek will provide water quality benefits.

Concerns

- Line items in the budget for engineering costs are listed as lump sums, which lacks detail needed to evaluate whether costs are reasonable or are possibly over-inflated.
- One of the major project elements is raising a bridge in the center of the project reach. This action may not provide the intended flood relief and ecological benefits due to the characteristics of the floodplain at this location. Raising the bridge may lead to building a berm in the floodplain that could have unintended impacts.
- The proposed technical assistance will plan future restoration that reactivates the floodplain in a developed area. This can be challenging because it requires designing around pinch points in the floodplain, such as crossings or other infrastructure, which may lead to additional stream channel scour. However, building floodplain water storage where feasible and restoring access to cold-water refugia addresses limiting factors for the Scappoose Watershed.
- It appears a technical provider for the project has been pre-selected and may not have a geomorphologist on staff. The applicant is encouraged to ensure that the selected provider engages additional technical expertise as needed to address hydrological concerns identified during the project.
- Potential partners with technical expertise and resources that could benefit the planning process are lacking, such as NRCS who may be able to bring access to on-farm conservation programs.

Concluding Analysis

Technical assistance will produce construction-ready designs that address a series of fish passage barriers and enhance floodplain habitat on Raymond Creek in the Scappoose Bay watershed. Raymond Creek is a high priority location within this watershed to improve habitat for lower Columbia River fish species. There are some identified site constraints that may complicate design work, but the project has broad community support and is an opportunity to complete restoration in a visible location that benefits both fish and rural residents.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount

$74,961

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,961

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1035-17462

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Conyers Confluence Area Enhancement

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $44,550

Total Cost: $56,675

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Project location is at confluence area of Conyers Creek and Clatskanie River (~RM 1). Recent strategic action planning documentation is pointing to the importance of low gradient floodplain habitats for rearing and foraging needs of juvenile salmon and steelhead populations for Lower Columbia River watersheds. Lower section of Conyers creek is an example of high ecological value restoration opportunity in its proximity to its confluence with the lower Clatskanie river. It is positioned at the head of tidal influence which are known to play an important transition area for needs of juvenile and adult salmon and steelhead as they enter the estuarine environment.Technical services are needed to support feasibility investigation of project concepts to improve instream habitat complexity and function of adjacent floodplain wetlands. Scope of these services include field data collection, geomorphic and hydrological assessment, flood risk analysis, alternatives analysis, and design. Effort is meant to compliment previous restoration efforts in the area that have been completed and being planned in the form of fish barrier removal and streambank enhancement. Given its location within the City of Clatskanie urban boundary, project will also benefit from design elements that examine adaptation strategies in light of increased coastal storm events from climate change. Environmental education efforts are also part of this project to continue Watershed Council partnership with high school students stewardship activities in the form native riparian plantings and overall experiential learning programming occurring in the areas watersheds. Project partners include City of Clatskanie, Columbia Soil and Water District, local landowners, and Clatskanie High School environmental education program.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site is a highly visible location in the town of Clatskanie. A restoration project here could serve to raise awareness about watershed health.
- The location at the confluence of Conyers Creek and the Clatskanie River is a high priority location for species recovery of lower Columbia fish species, particularly for juvenile life stages. The Lower Columbia River Recovery Plan identifies the Lower Columbia River coho, Lower Columbia River Chinook, Lower Columbia River steelhead, and Columbia River chum populations as a priority.
- There are many opportunities for a wide variety of restoration elements at the site.
- There are no barriers downstream in the system preventing fish from accessing the project area.

Concerns

- There is no defined project area or map provided in the application. There are at least eight taxlots present in the immediate area; however, only two landowners are confirmed for participating in the project.
- The project goals and objectives are unclear in the application, and the budget provides costs as lump sums. It is difficult to determine whether project costs align with the proposed work without clear project objectives and budget details.
- There is significant erosion happening at the lower end of the project reach. Design alternatives that address the site constraints around the bridge and downstream impacts could be challenging to develop.
- The applicant has reduced capacity to implement the project with no full-time staff dedicated to the council at this time.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in a critical site for restoration at the confluence of a major tributary with the Clatskanie River, and restoration here could address limiting factors identified for lower Columbia River fish. Although there is some uncertainty about the nature of landowner support for a project here, the site has potential for future restoration that will result in meaningful ecological uplift in a priority area if landowner participation is broad and demonstrates a clear commitment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$44,450

Review Team Conditions

Prior to first payment request, a project area map and landowner agreements must be provided from all landowners located within the project area.

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1036-17490

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Clear Creek Fish Passage/Habitat Design

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $41,158

Total Cost: $52,006

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

UNWC will work in partnership with Weyerhaeuser and ODFW to strategically improve fish passage and natural stream conditions in the Clear Creek basin (Upper Nehalem River tributary). Fish passage and habitat deficiencies have been identified at 5 road/stream crossings (NCAP analysis) and 4 aquatic anchor habitats (NSAP analysis) within the project footprint area respectively. Weyerhaeuser will contract with McGee Engineering and River Design Group to survey, design, and develop engineered redi-set plans to construct unconditional native migratory fish passage at 5 road stream crossings (sizing the new crossings to a minimal 1.5x active channel width). Each crossing will include stream simulation design where necessary. Project partners will collaborate on the design process to improve aquatic anchor habitat (anadromous winter and summer rearing refuge and spawning habitat, floodplain connectivity, sediment storage and natural valley storage capacity) thru strategic placement of 60 complex large woody debris (LWD) structures (15 per treatment reach). Plan sets developed by this technical assistance work will be used to secure funding, solidify partnerships, and bring these proposed improvements to fruition.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear Creek is a priority location for addressing limiting factors for salmon in the upper Nehalem watershed. A resulting restoration project will have benefits to juvenile life stages and restore habitat complexity.
- The applicant is taking a thoughtful approach to improving stream crossings and attaining watershed benefits by pursuing technical assistance prior to restoration. There is a substantial amount of sediment upstream that requires careful design considerations to insure its movement does not habitat aquatic habitat.
- Focusing work in upper tributaries of the watershed has downstream benefits by contributing to the restoration of sediment transport processes.
- Restoring fish passage to the tributaries will provide high flow refuge to Oregon coast coho and other fish.
- Adjacent stands will be harvested soon and there is a possibility the wood can be utilized for habitat structures in a future restoration project.
- The cost for the engineering work appears reasonable and the budget is appropriately detailed.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from more information on future land management in the context of the entire watershed to better understand how a watershed restoration project fits into long-term goals for managing the forest property.
- Some of the smaller streams in the project area may not be fish-bearing and the ecological benefit of restoring passage is marginal.

Concluding Analysis

Technical assistance will produce project designs that address the goal of restoring fish passage and habitat complexity in the Clear Creek basin on the upper Nehalem. With the catchment entirely managed by one landowner, it presents an opportunity to systematically address limiting factors for fish across the entirety of the Clear Creek watershed. Restoration here could support watershed processes and also provide important refuge habitat for juvenile coho seeking an escape from high velocities or high water temperatures. The ecological benefit may be limited given that some of the crossings may not provide access to fish-bearing streams. However, there is potential for a meaningful restoration project and with the experience of the project team, the project's likelihood of success is high.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$41,158

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1037-17378

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Continuing Columbia SWCD Water Quality Monitoring Program

Applicant: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

Region: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $25,025

Total Cost: $47,452

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, the Columbia SWCD and partners request $25,025 to continue water quality monitoring in four key subbasins in Columbia County. We have been collecting these data since 2017, and this grant will support year four of five planned data collection years. Monitored watersheds 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 be used to fill data gaps, build a dataset that provides an understanding of ambient conditions and potential problems. This understanding will allow us to address limiting factors to improve watershed conditions.This project will build on existing data from 2008-2010 (Scappoose/Milton) and 2017-2019 (all subbasins) and collect samples in discrete upper and lower watershed locations to measure bacteria, temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and pH. 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. We will produce a water quality report, that will inform the Columbia SWCD's Annual Report, which is distributed to the community to educate and engage them in conservation, restoration, and best management practices. Project partners include: Columbia SWCD, Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, Scappoose Bay Watershed Council, and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application made a clear need for the data to continue to be collected for a variety of purposes, including informing future restoration and development of TMDLs.
- The applicant has an existing Sampling and Analysis Plan and proposes to work with DEQ to revise it to reflect proposed monitoring efforts.
- The additional parameters proposed to collect are appropriate.
- The applicant plans to continue coordination with the SWCD to collect and share data with DEQ and local stakeholders.

- The letters of support provided by the SWCD and Scappoose Bay Watershed Council demonstrate the need for and intent to apply this information.
- The OPMT appreciated incorporation of the land-cover analysis to help interpret the data.
- The application proposes to collect data for a reasonable cost and provides significant match to offset the total request for funding from OWEB.
- This project is in Year 4 and has considerable momentum, given the established sampling sites.
- The applicant has the expertise to complete this work and a good track record of collecting and reporting data, as evident by the uploaded 2017 monitoring report.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application had conflicting information regarding if this monitoring would provide four years of data for all the sub-watersheds identified.
- The OPMT expressed concern that having 5 years of data may not be enough to establish a discernible trend.
- The application was not clear as to why the applicant is proposing to collect additional turbidity samples during the summer months.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to check in at Year 5 to refine monitoring priorities and next steps to ensure sufficient data exists to establish trends.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The data being collected fills an important data gap identified by natural resource agencies.
- The applicant is working effectively with DEQ on the project, and all data will be submitted to the AQWMS database.
- Data collection for most parameters is proposed at appropriate time intervals.
- The applicant responded to previous review team comments by removing the macroinvertebrate surveys from the project while adding bacteria sampling.
- The proposal provides a summary of preliminary findings from the previously funded monitoring grant, which is helpful in determining utility of continuing the work.
- The project is viable long-term due to an effective partnership that has a proven track record and organizational capacity to utilize the data. The partners have a history of ensuring data analysis is completed, and results are shared with conservation and restoration organizations working in this region.
- The applicant is currently using the data from this ongoing monitoring effort to inform restoration work on the ground.

- There are monitoring sites located downstream of a proposed restoration project. Comparing this data with other projects in the watershed will provide information useful in evaluating the success of planned restoration.

Concerns

- The proposed grab samples may have limited utility.
- It would be preferable to increase the rate of bacteria sampling to five times each 90 days.
- DEQ prefers to have eight years of data collection prior to establishing a trend. However, the long-term goals of this project is to collect only five years of baseline data, which may be inadequate for establishing a trend.
- Additional samples are needed to establish whether the state standards for bacteria are met.

Concluding Analysis

Continuing this monitoring work in the Lower Columbia region is important for collecting adequate baseline information and filling identified gaps in water quality data. Since there is a history of the partners meeting monitoring goals and objectives, there is a high likelihood of success they will continue to collect baseline water quality data. This effort is cost-effective and will achieve year four of a total of five planned years of data collection.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$25,025

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$25,025

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1038-17400

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Siuslaw Coho Partnership Coordinated Water Quality Monitoring Phase 1

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $18,577

Total Cost: $39,609

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project expands on a concept successfully demonstrated by two members of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP, Partnership) since 2016. Since then, the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) and Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) have partnered on continuous water quality monitoring in SWCD priority streams at 15 locations and submitted the data to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Data is then uploaded to the Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) where it can be viewed, graphed and downloaded. AWQMS automatically migrates the temperature data to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Quality Exchange (WQX) in the form of daily statistics such as minimum and maximum. We are proposing to expand the pilot project to three additional SCP organizations: Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI); the United States Forest Service Siuslaw National Forest (USFS); and the Bureau of Land Management Siuslaw Resource Area (BLM). Primarily continuous stream temperature data will be collected at 67 total sites with SCP partners performing the field work and SWC managing the data. This project addresses the need for agencies to cooperate in the planning and collection of water quality data to increase efficiency, coverage, and create economies of scale. The monitoring project proposed here will standardize the SCP data into one convention already being used by the State of Oregon and make it accessible to the public in interactive maps and databases online.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application references several assessments and planning documents that identify water temperature as a limiting factor and the need for data sharing and improved accessibility.
- The effort to expand collaboration and standardize water temperature monitoring protocols across several organizations in the Siuslaw River watershed is extremely valuable.
- This project will result in data being shared with DEQ and wider audiences, due to the data being uploaded to a central database.
- The applicant has an existing Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) approved by DEQ; this can serve as a good starting point to develop a new SAP that includes the additional agencies interested in participating.
- The application contains support letters from the participating organizations, reflecting their commitment to the project to increase coordination of monitoring and sharing of the data.
- The budget is reasonable, includes a break-down of costs for various tasks, and demonstrates match commitments of partners.

- The applicant has good experience in successfully implementing an initial version of this project in cooperation with the Siuslaw SWCD.
- The applicant has a good track record with collecting continuous water quality data and reporting it to OWEB in final completion reports.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application timeline and objectives do not account for the time and effort needed to 1) develop a monitoring plan and SAP with DEQ, and 2) determine how to incorporate the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Siletz and Lower Umpqua Indians continuous and discrete water quality monitoring data.
- It was not clear why the water quality data collection was being limited to June and October.
- The application did not provide a description of how the data will be analyzed and reported by sub basin or parameter, given that a broad area is covered by the monitoring and a variety of data types will be collected and compiled.
- The application lacks a detailed description of what future decisions the data will help inform, thus it was not clear if this work will inform future monitoring, management, and/or restoration actions.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ early in the project to develop the SAP.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will continue long-term water temperature monitoring, and supports TMDL goals in high priority watersheds.
- Monitoring efforts are coordinated with the Coho Business Plan.
- Increased coordination among all partners involved in water quality monitoring in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes watersheds will improve efficiency and consistency among efforts across disparate land ownerships.
- A significant amount of water quality information will be collected in a basin with diverse management. This effort should produce baseline data over the long term and help to inform restoration.
- The applicant has a proven track record in collecting and analyzing water quality data.
- Data collection is proposed at an appropriate frequency and with relevant methodology.
- The data from the basin will be entered into the state AWQMS database.

Concerns

- Sampling 67 monitoring sites will require a significant amount of staff time to manage, and will produce a large amount of data to handle and analyze.

- Shifting the sampling time range to May through October would increase the likelihood for the data to capture early water temperature issues that may arise in portions of the watershed.
- Many of the sampling sites are directly associated with restoration areas and may not provide information about overall watershed conditions. Integrating different locations outside of restoration project reaches may be needed to identify watershed trends.
- The applicant is relying on AWQMS for data analysis, which may not be effective for using the data to inform future restoration. Additional analysis outside of AWQMS may be needed.

Concluding Analysis

There are many active partners within the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes watersheds collecting water quality data. This project will effectively coordinate all of these monitoring efforts across land ownerships and provide the Siuslaw Coho Partnership with the capacity to collectively input the data into the AWQMS database. The benefits of increased coordination will improve the cost effectiveness of monitoring projects in the basin, as well as consistency with how data is handled and analyzed. The applicant is encouraged to expand the sampling timeline to May through October.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$18,577

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$18,577

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1039-17411

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Siuslaw Coho Partnership Effectiveness Monitoring Phase 2

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $74,692

Total Cost: $120,025

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP, Partnership) completed two Strategic Action Plans (SAP) for the recovery of threatened Oregon Coast (OC) Coho Salmon populations in the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes watersheds. This partnership planning effort was funded largely from OWEB to create the partnership framework and create recovery plans for the threatened species informed by NOAA's recovery plan for OC Coho released in 2016. The SAPs represent over 3 years of modeling, planning and coordination among the 10 partnership members to identify and prioritize over 100 restoration projects which we believe represent the most strategic and best opportunities we have to recover OC Coho in our watersheds. In 2019-2021, planned SCP projects will add large woody debris to approximately 23.5 stream miles and reconnect over 400 acres of floodplain. Though these types of projects have become common in the Pacific Northwest, their implementation varies by agency and individual expertise, and evaluation of the habitat and biological responses to the restoration is limited. As the lead organization of the SCP, the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC) is proposing to continue effectiveness monitoring of SCP projects by conducting phase 2 of Aquatic Habitat Inventory (AQI) and riparian vegetation transects in SCP priority stream reaches. This effectiveness monitoring is the result of the development of a monitoring framework proposed in the last chapter of the SAPs developed by the SCP as a way to inform adaptive management. In 2019, over 11 miles of pre-implementation habitat surveys were completed in the Upper Indian Creek sub-basin as part of phase 1 of this project. Linking responses in physical and riparian conditions to our restoration actions will enable adaptive management to ensure we are protecting and restoring the natural processes for the conservation and recovery of OC Coho. Data and knowledge gained will better inform restoration priorities in the Siuslaw.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring project will help address information needs related to Oregon coast coho.
- Effectiveness monitoring data will provide information to understand outcomes of current and planned restoration actions and could inform future restoration planning efforts.
- The habitat monitoring methods follow established ODFW protocol, and will utilize staff that are already familiar with these methods.
- The applicant will attend annual ODFW trainings to stay current with the monitoring methods.

- There is a clear monitoring study design to collect 1 year of pre- and post-project data and revisit the monitoring 5 years post-project to understand changes to instream habitat and riparian vegetation.
- The applicant proposes to build on previous data that have been collected before restoration projects were implemented.
- The application includes an objective and a deliberate task in the timeline to revisit the monitoring plan to determine if there is a need to modify it with input from agency partners.
- The application includes an objective to annually review priority areas and discuss what the monitoring data is showing, thus informing decisions in an adaptive management framework.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The OPMT questioned the value of the first year of post-project data, given that past monitoring reports indicate it takes several years for habitat to respond to the restoration actions.
- At different locations in the application, there was a lack of detail about the riparian monitoring transects.
- The riparian methods were difficult to locate using the reference provided in the application.
- The application lacked a letter of support from USFS to understand how they would utilize the data to be collected.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The AQI survey methods proposed are technically appropriate.
- The proposed monitoring work is based upon the Strategic Action Plan recently completed by the Siuslaw Coho Partnership.
- The applicant is coordinating effectively with state agencies and other regional partners to develop a monitoring strategy.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks clarity and supporting rationale for the proposed work.
- A well-described vision of how the proposed monitoring work will inform the actions of the Partnership is needed to understand the purpose of the project. It is unclear whether the need for restoration effectiveness monitoring or the Strategic Action Plan is driving the monitoring approach, and how this is informing the logic pathway for identifying the parameters and protocols for this project. Additional information is needed to understand the rationale for what is being monitored and why.

- Extensive data will be collected one year after restoration project implementation on a broad scale. This timeline does not match the watershed system response to restoration. As a result, data collected at this interval is unlikely to inform whether restoration actions are effective if there is not a significant flood event within the first year. Repeat monitoring should ideally be triggered by flow events, such as a bankfull or five-year flood event, rather than a time interval after restoration.
- There are no reference reaches proposed for survey, which would be useful in interpreting the data collected within the restoration reaches.
- Riparian monitoring is proposed but only limited detail is provided. It is unclear what protocols will be utilized and how monitoring only one year after implementation will contribute meaningfully to the data set. The proposed AQI survey work will not provide information on planting success. Riparian monitoring should focus on survival and invasive plant cover in the first three years after restoration to monitor plant establishment, and data at five and ten years can provide information on trends.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed monitoring plan collects habitat data at three intervals- pre-project, one-year post-project, and five-years post-project implementation. The majority of the work proposed under this funding request is pre- and one-year post project. While the pre-project data proposed is likely appropriate and relevant, the usefulness of the one-year post-project interval may be limited. Changes in channel morphology associated with the restoration work may not be apparent after such a short time interval, and the cost of performing this year of survey may outweigh the potential benefits gained from the data. If a future application is submitted, the applicant is encouraged to include more details about the vision for the monitoring plan, more details about the riparian monitoring, and rationale of the proposed timing of post-project data collection.

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1040-17414
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: NCWA Monitoring 2020-2021
Applicant: North Coast WS Assn
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $14,317
Total Cost: $19,417

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 which was begun in 2016 and 2017 respectively over an additional two year period ending in the fall of 2021. DEQ prefers an eight year period of monitoring for stream temperature. Oregon DEQ has major data gaps in these watersheds and our continuous temperature monitoring assists DEQ in establishing TMDL data. NCWA is currently using the data to help inform restoration decisions in our Chum SAP and Landowner Outreach programs.Temperature results are analyze and reported back to NCWA by DEQ. We are just getting the numbers from our data loggers reported to DEQ for 2019 and they have promised results for 2018 by the first of November. In comparing the information in our reports from 2016 and 2017 we saw major changes in water temperature at 2 of our 22 sites; Young's River doubled the days of exceedance in 2017 and the Skipinon site had half the number of days of exceedance.This Project will:1. Collect time-series temperature data from 4 identified watersheds during the summertime months2. Deploy loggers at 22+ established sites 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 members (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 application makes clear the need for data collection to continue to support a variety of purposes, including informing future restoration and development of TMDLs.
- The application had a good plan for information sharing information with DEQ, making it available on their website, and providing local presentations to watershed councils and via a lecture series.
- This project has potential to help recruit landowner participation in coordination with their Chum Strategic Action Plan and landowner outreach programs.
- The applicant has a completed Sampling and Analysis Plan that has been approved by DEQ.

- This project is a continuation of ongoing monitoring efforts, and the applicant has a good track record of data collection and presentation of results to a wide audience (e.g., example poster product).

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application had conflicting information about the exact number of sites to be monitored.
- There was a lack of concrete description about how this monitoring will help recruit landowners.
- The application timeline and objectives do not include data analysis and completion of a final report to OWEB, which is required to finalize the grant.
- There was a lack of detail about what efforts relate to the Chum SAP and how this project will contribute to those efforts.
- The application lacked letters of support to understand how data can contribute to local partners' interests.
- With the exception of the match source, the application did not describe that grantee will be working with high school students or explain how they will be trained to ensure data quality is maintained.
- It was unclear if the applicant is ready for landowner outreach since the application lacked detail about the specific actions they plan to undertake.
- The maps did not well describe where monitoring was occurring, since the stream layers were missing.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Check the insurance requirement to cover liability requirements for working with children.

• There is value in targeting outreach efforts in all areas, including areas where water temperature is below thresholds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is an ongoing effort with a track record of success. Previous data collected has been of high quality and was analyzed and presented well.
- The applicant has coordinated with DEQ's volunteer monitoring coordinator and other relevant state agencies. DEQ processes the data and the council presents the data to the community.
- The data has relevancy by informing restoration actions, and has also been utilized in presentations to ODA and stakeholders through the Agricultural Water Quality Plan public process.
- Data collected will be used in the applicant's strategic action plan for community outreach and landowner coordination.
- The applicant organization has an outreach coordinator who has worked effectively with landowners in the watershed, and this data will contribute to that work.
- The information collected will contribute to the Chum Strategic Action Plan currently in development for the watershed.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were noted during review.

Concluding Analysis

This ongoing temperature monitoring has consistently produced high quality data and proved to be useful in community outreach. The work is also relevant to several ongoing planning and restoration efforts in the watershed, including the chum reintroduction in the lower Columbia River watershed. Consistency in field staff collecting the data contributes to a high likelihood of success for this continued monitoring over an additional two years.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$14,317

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$14,317

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1041-17455
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Mid Coast Monitoring Project AQI 2019
Applicant: Lincoln SWCD
Region: North Coast
County: Lincoln
OWEB Request: $66,407
Total Cost: $89,203

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 populations and life-cycle patterns. Consequently, many ongoing and proposed watershed enhancement and restoration projects within the Mid Coast focus on improving the health and fitness of coho and other salmonid populations. 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 the effectiveness of restoration goals after projects are completed. Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District's Mid Coast Monitoring Project (MCMP) has been a long-term data collection program in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River Basins, along with many ocean outfall creeks. Partners include ODFW, the Confederated Tribe of Siletz Indians, Mid Coast Watersheds Council (MCWC), USDA-NRCS, Salmon-Drift Watershed Council, Siletz Watershed Council, and private landowners. This project proposes monitoring habitat conditions as pre- and post-project Aquatic Habitat Inventory (AQI). These data can be used to monitor the effectiveness of stream restoration work and enhancement projects. The collection of data before a project is implemented is vital in establishing baseline conditions for stream habitat which can then be used in assessing the effects of restoration and enhancement, such as LWD placement, culvert replacement, and riparian plantings. Habitat data collected by the MCMP crew is also used as a monitoring tool to determine the utility of sites and to 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 application proposes to continue monitoring multiple restoration projects implemented by various organizations across several sub-watersheds.
- The application includes a thorough description about how data will be managed, analyzed, and reported to determine whether restoration is improving aquatic habitat.
- The application described how the local partners use data to plan future restoration projects and to understand the outcomes resulting from completed restoration projects.
- The application materials and attached letters of support demonstrate partners' interest in the data.
- The applicant has a good track record of collecting habitat data in coordination with several partners.

- The costs are reasonable and a reasonable amount of matching funds are contributed.
- The uploaded report was helpful to understand how the historic data have been analyzed to understand restoration effectiveness.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The description of monitoring methods lacked detail and cited an outdated version of the protocol.
- It was not clear how the monitoring program has evolved over time to ask more targeted questions, in an effort to better understand the mechanisms of success or why habitat improvements may not have been realized.
- It was unclear how previous review comments were addressed in the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Prioritize and rank sites to repeat monitoring of restoration that was implemented over a longer period of time, and standardize when repeat surveys will occur to ensure habitat changes are described through time.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The monitoring team is trained annually by ODFW personnel in Corvallis. Previous data collected is consistently of high quality.
- AQI data has informed prioritization of work locations and stream restoration methods over time.
- The data has helped ODFW and other conservation partners engage with various landowners in the watershed.
- State agencies with reduced budgets over the last decade have greatly benefited from the ability of the Mid Coast Monitoring Project to complete survey work that otherwise would have been discontinued.
- A report is included in the application that summarizes results and accomplishments of the program over the past couple decades, this is something that was requested in previous application reviews.

Concerns

- OPMT noted that protocols referenced in the application are outdated.
- Capacity of the applicant is uncertain because long term staff that previously implemented this monitoring work are no longer with the organization. The capacity of current staff to implement the monitoring protocols is unknown.
- Additional detail explaining how the monitoring effort connects with developing the Coho Strategic Action Plan in the Siletz basin would be helpful for understanding how the data could be used.
- After many years of data collection and the long-awaited 20-year summary report, it is unclear how the collected data has translated into actions within the watershed.

- Very few products, such as reports or other engagement tools have been made available from this data collection efforts over the years despite the abundance of information collected.
- The data may have limited utility in refining the locations of proposed projects due to the broad geographic focus of this monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis

This long term monitoring project has been ongoing for over 20 years and has provided data that is continually utilized by ODFW and other partners. Previous work by the surveyors involved has created many in-roads with landowners that otherwise may have been challenging to engage. However, there is uncertainty about how the data is utilized and informs on-the-ground restoration actions within the project area watersheds. The included report provides some of that information, but it is unclear how local partners are effectively using the data to plan work. There has also been a lack of outreach products and community engagement around the data. The application would have benefited from details about the plan to complete monitoring work given recent staffing transitions as well as a clearly articulated vision for the continuation of this work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1042-17471

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Expanded Monitoring

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Region: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $36,831

Total Cost: $72,378

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project proposes to collect temperature and bacteria monitoring data in priority reaches of the Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake watersheds during 2020-21, with future phases planned for an additional minimum of two years and potentially six additional years to capture data over a statistically significant timeframe needed for robust trend analysis. The monitoring program's goal is to fill a data gap on bacteria loads and stream temperatures in key locations to inform prioritization and planning for restoration projects. Existing water quality data collected by state and federal natural resources agencies and NGOs over the years (1998 to present) indicate that surface waters in these basins are water quality limited the following ways:1. Many mainstem stream reaches exceed the state temperature standard and are too warm to protect salmon and trout. However, limited information is available for the tributaries.2. Fecal bacteria concentrations in Nestucca Bay are occasionally too high to allow human contact with the water as well as too high to protect human consumption of shellfish harvested from the Bay. 3. Fecal bacteria concentrations in Sand Lake and at Neskowin beach are frequently too high to allow human contact with the water, resulting in beach closures for Neskowin. The current and historic data demonstrate that water quality problems exist, but the data are not high resolution enough to make decisions on prioritizing restoration in specific tributaries. This project is coordinating with TEP/DEQ's existing Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program (VWQMP) to select sites that complement the existing program and expand monitoring to priority tributary streams. Project partners include field and technical volunteers, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Tillamook Estuary Partnership (TEP).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will collect information that is important to identifying sources of bacteria that can inform watershed management.
- The applicant is working with DEQ/Tillamook Estuaries Partnership to ensure sites are selected appropriately and that data will be shared to inform TMDL implementation effectiveness.
- The data will be made more widely available to non-technical audiences using the online platform “SWIM GUIDE.”
- The applicant will develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan in coordination with DEQ.

- There were several letters of support from a wide range of local, state and federal agencies expressing interest in this data.
- The timeline and costs seem reasonable to initiate this project and disseminate the results.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear if the water temperature monitoring data would be analyzed along with another data set to identify where restoration activities are most needed to address degraded riparian areas.
- It was not clear if the applicant plans to link water temperature data analysis with the bacteria data to help meet their overall goals of understanding conditions and informing restoration.
- The application did not describe the lab methods for bacteria sample analysis. The development of a monitoring program to collect and analyze water samples is a significant effort, and it was not clear how the applicant will incorporate quality assurance and quality control measures with the volunteers and staff in a way that ensure data will be accurate.
- The application may have under-estimated the volunteer coordinators hours to successfully implement this project over the time frame proposed.
- The applicant is new to OWEB monitoring grants, so does not yet have a proven track record.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to ensure the bacteria sample analysis methods are described in the SAP and training about properly processing and analyzing the water samples is completed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is well-coordinated among state agencies and other partners. DEQ's Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator has been engaged and provided input into the monitoring approach.
- The proposed monitoring work will fill important data collection gaps over the landscape and inform bacteria-related water quality in the area.
- The geography for data collection is located in the southern portion of Tillamook County, adjacent to the long-established water quality monitoring efforts to the north. This work will coordinate with monitoring efforts in the area and extend them to the south.
- The applicant has collected relevant water quality data in the past that informed management in the area, particularly within the Sand Lake watershed.
- The data collected will contribute to and inform progress of the ODA North Coast Water Quality Management Plan.
- The data will be submitted to the Swim Guide database, a popular interface for recreationists to learn about local water quality conditions.
- Data will be provided to the Tillamook Estuary Partnership (TEP) and DEQ to complete a trend analysis that will be used to inform conservation and restoration efforts in the work area. This use of the data by partners further leverages the benefits of this monitoring investment.

Concerns

- The proposed data collection has significant overlap with existing efforts, particularly with those of the BLM. Some of the proposed survey locations are duplicate to ones already monitored by the BLM. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with BLM, USFS, and others implementing monitoring work in the area to avoid duplicate efforts.
- The proposed schedule for auditing the data is not adequate. Auditing should be once per month instead of once over the monitoring season as proposed.

Concluding Analysis

This new monitoring effort in the Nestucca and Neskowin watersheds will contribute to an identified data gap in water quality within the region and expand on more established monitoring efforts to the north. The information collected in the tributaries will be especially helpful since most of the existing information is centered on mainstem river locations. The expansion of bacteria monitoring to the south will also help bring new water quality monitoring volunteers on board with the establishment of a new lab that will reduce travel time for the southernmost data collection sites in Tillamook County.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,831

Review Team Conditions

Identify overlap with other monitoring work in the watershed and revise the monitoring plan accordingly, and submit BLM/USFS data to the DEQ database when relevant instead of collecting duplicative data.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,831

Staff Conditions

Identify overlap with other monitoring work in the watershed and revise the monitoring plan accordingly, and submit BLM/USFS data to the DEQ database when relevant instead of collecting duplicative data.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1043-17479

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Agnes, Baldy, Logan Creeks and Ocean Outfalls Baseline Data Acquisition 2020-2021

Applicant: Salmon Drift Cr WC

Region: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $39,063

Total Cost: $98,319

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (SDCWC) proposes collecting additional 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 they relate to federal and state water quality standards, including those directly related to salmonid life cycles. Watersheds include Baldy Creek, Agnes Creek, and Logan Creek plus outfalls at numerous sites along the seven miles of beaches of Lincoln City. Notably, our work has a statewide and international interest. Streams and outfalls monitored discharge directly into the Cascade Head Marine Reserve and/or Protected Areas. These state designations are similarly also within the recently reauthorized UNESCO Cascade Head Biosphere Reserve. 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. In addition, the program addresses the need of additional outreach as we partner with a wider demographic of society, specifically local youth, to achieve our water quality monitoring objectives. Project partners include Oregon DEQ, Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund, Neighbors for Kids, Career Tech, Surfrider Foundation, Robertson Environmental, and the City of Lincoln City.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The monitoring need for these smaller coastal drainages is identified through watershed assessments, given the lack of monitoring data about these areas.
- This project is a continuation of a previously OWEB funded monitoring project and the applicant plans to work with DEQ to amend its current Sampling and Analysis Plan.
- The monitoring project will help inform the beach closures that have happened periodically due to high levels of bacteria.
- The costs seem reasonable and the budget details the expenses and match contributions.

- The applicant has a good track record conducting other similar water quality monitoring projects.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The plans referenced in the application are over a decade old, so it was unclear if the gap for monitoring data still exists.
- The application does not describe how the ocean outfalls are connected to the watershed as a whole, which made it difficult to understand if these outfalls are simply urbanized runoff streams or if they are natural drainages that can be managed to minimize water quality impacts to the beach/near shore water.
- It was not clear what has been achieved in the current open monitoring grant that demonstrates a need to fund another year, given that the SAP has not yet not been developed or approved at time of application review.
- There is not a detailed description of monitoring methods and the citations and links provided are either broken weblinks or do not provide a link to sampling methods. There is no mention of methods to process and analyze water samples for bacteria.
- The sampling frequency will not allow both of the current bacteria standards to be calculated. One of the water quality standards requires a minimum of five samples in a 90-day period for calculating the criteria, therefore the applicant will only be able to calculate the single sample maximum.
- It is unclear if the data will be applied in a meaningful manner. The application lacks detail about how data will be provided to and considered by landowners and municipalities to help inform restoration. The application instead describes working with students/children, and making the information available by posting it on the applicant's website, sharing with OWEB, and sending data to DEQ.
- There is a mention of a technical advisory committee in the budget to serve as match, but there was no mention of this group's role in the application.
- The letters of support did not demonstrate coordination with local governments, which is what would be expected since these are urban streams.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The methodology and frequency for the bacteria data collection is appropriate.
- Ocean outfalls are not well-understood and are of interest because of the high bacteria concentrations that can be present.
- The applicant has a track record of collecting high quality data that is always submitted to DEQ.
- The monitoring has relevant value from a water quality and community awareness perspective.
- The application describes the connection of bacterial contamination from the ocean outfalls to adjacent river systems.

Concerns

- The other proposed data parameters beyond bacteria will not be collected at intervals frequent enough to provide meaningful understanding of water quality trends over time.
- An inventory of outfalls and creeks in the watershed is lacking. Without an inventory, it is unclear why the chosen outfalls are prioritized for data collection. More information about how these outfalls are important from a watershed context perspective is needed to understand the priority of this work. Considering all the other monitoring efforts in the region, this work may be a lower priority due to its minimal potential for informing future restoration that provides ecological benefit.
- The partnership with Lincoln City is not well-described in the application.
- It is unclear how the proposed monitoring relates to watershed health beyond human health and public safety.
- Data collected and presented from prior efforts would provide helpful context for understanding how the information is used.

Concluding Analysis

This project will continue previously OWEB funded efforts to collect baseline water quality information from several ocean outfalls in Lincoln City. The work clearly has a strong connection to human health, but benefits to ecological health in the context of the larger watershed are unknown. A description of the work completed to date along with a summary of preliminary data collected and any early findings indicated by this data is needed to evaluate the benefit of continuing this work. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide additional information on the logic pathway between collecting data with a primary focus on public health that could raise public awareness and informing actions that provide watershed health 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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1044-17489
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Mid Coast Monitoring Project Status & Trend 2019
Applicant: Lincoln SWCD
Region: North Coast
County: Lincoln
OWEB Request: $66,277
Total Cost: $104,343

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 Creek Watersheds Council, Siletz Watershed Council, Lincoln SWCD, and private landowners. This grant would continue long-term spawning ground surveys on key reaches in the area, including early component Chinook, chum, fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead. Information on early component Chinook in the Siletz and Alsea Rivers is a top priority as these populations may be genetically distinct and are being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. All of these surveys complement ODFW and other efforts to track salmonid population dynamics by providing monitoring on populations and streams that would not have otherwise been collected. 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. MCMP will continue to work closely with partners in filling information gaps and explore collaborative efforts in the region, such conduct water quality (temperature/dissolved oxygen) in partnership with DEQ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application clearly identifies the monitoring need to inform conservation and recovery planning and TMDL development.
- The water quality data will help fill data gaps during the spawning period in reaches that support spawning habitat.
- This data can inform management of the micro-hatchery that the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians operates on Dry Creek.
- This application will support the collection of spawning data to maintain a long term data set.

- The applicant has a good track record of collecting and sharing similar data with ODFW and making it available to interested parties.
- The applicant provided numerous letters of support from local partners that described their interest in the data.
- The OPMT specifically saw value in the early run spring Chinook and chum surveys.
- The application describes their outreach and public engagement activities to inform a variety of audiences.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks a detailed description of the water quality monitoring methods and how the data will be shared with DEQ.
- The application does not clearly describe how all of the data are managed and the plan for comprehensive analysis and reporting.
- The timeline and budget do not include details to understand if data analysis will occur and a final summary report will be written, which is required for OWEB project completion reporting.
- While the data likely will be valuable and useful to the partner agencies and cooperators, there is no indication that the applicant and core partner have a plan in place to complete analysis of the data to inform restoration and management activities.
- There was no clear indication about how the applicant is working with ODFW to prioritize the monitoring efforts to focus on critical uncertainties based on past monitoring efforts or emerging needs.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to update the SAP, including identifying appropriate monitoring sites and data-collection frequency and ensuring data are reported to DEQ to meet OWEB reporting requirements.

• Incorporate past review team comments on data management, analysis and reporting.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The monitoring project has a long track record of success, and has continued to contribute to long-term datasets in areas that would not normally be surveyed due to state agency budget cuts.
- The applicant is implementing appropriate survey protocols.
- The monitoring work has generated a long-term dataset that has facilitated data-driven restoration efforts with ODFW.
- In addition to providing information about surveyed streams, the data may help understand fish returns and ocean survival.
- The data generated provides additional value by informing ODFW fisheries management decisions.

Concerns

- The proposed water quality monitoring in the Yachats basin, a new component of this project, is not well-described. It is unclear whether the appropriate water quality monitoring protocols will be implemented.
- After many years of data collection, it is unclear how this data is utilized to prioritize restoration projects.
- Capacity of the applicant is uncertain because long-term staff that previously implemented this monitoring work is no longer with the organization. The technical capability of current staff to implement the monitoring protocols is unknown.

Concluding Analysis

For the past two decades, this monitoring effort has provided long-running spawning surveys that otherwise would have been dropped due to agency budget cuts. ODFW relies heavily on the data collected to make management decisions. There is also applicability to larger fish populations outside of the Mid-Coast as the data provides some insight as to how well fish are thriving in the ocean.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$66,277

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-2019 Fall Offering
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 220-1045-17487
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Rainforest Reserve
Applicant: North Coast Land Conservancy
Region: North Coast
County: Clatsop
OWEB Request: $33,967
Total Cost: $59,960

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Unprecedented in Oregon, the proposed Rainforest Reserve will conserve 3,500 acres of coastal rainforest and rocky bald habitat, magnifying the conservation value of adjacent Oswald West State Park, the proposed Arch Cape Community Forest and Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, to create a 32-square-mile sea-to-summit conservation area. The Rainforest Reserve contains the headwaters of three drinking water sources—Asbury, Shark and Ecola creeks—serving the communities of Arch Cape and Cannon Beach, plus a large portion of Arch Cape Creek, an important coastal salmon stream.Opportunities for permanent protection of Oregon coastal rainforest are rare, particularly in Clatsop County, where the vast majority of forestland is managed for repeated timber harvest. Conservation of the Rainforest Reserve will provide an opportunity to steward the forest to late seral conditions, protect drinking water sources, conserve endemic species, and protect adjacent conserved lands by limiting edge effects.The Rainforest Reserve builds upon decades of work by state and local agencies and organizations. Project partners—Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, Arch Cape Water and Sanitary District, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department—continue to support the momentum of this effort.NCLC is seeking OWEB funds to engage with a wide array of stakeholders in order to develop the financial support needed to acquire the Rainforest Reserve by the end of 2021. Engagement will include Rainforest Reserve tours, funder meetings, and community presentations. Tours and presentations will emphasize the importance of biodiversity and drinking water conservation and will explain how this project supports these community values. OWEB's stakeholder engagement funding will allow NCLC to broaden support for the project by cultivating project ambassadors and motivating funders, ultimately enabling NCLC to acquire the proposed Rainforest Reserve and manage the land to benefit both humans and wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant has pulled in all of the relevant stakeholders necessary to build a coalition in support of the future acquisition project.
- The local community is engaged and appears to be supportive of the land acquisition project.
- The plan to engage stakeholders is presented with clear and specific goals and objectives, and the need for this type of work is well-articulated in the application. The project is well thought out with details on stakeholder identification, project timing, costs, and measures of success.

- The Rainforest Reserve has some very rare habitat types that harbor rare plant communities, including rocky balds and alpine forests. Acquisition of this property will benefit coastal biodiversity and offers a unique opportunity for landscape conservation because large tracts of forest are rarely available in this area for protection.
- Acquisition of this property will ensure that the entire watershed of Ecola creek, a high quality fish habitat stream, is protected.
- The project property contains the drinking water source for the local community of Arch Cape. Protecting this area will have water quality and quantity benefits.
- The applicant is qualified and has a track record of doing implementing similar stakeholder engagement work.
- The plan for engaging stakeholders is clear and the budget is detailed and cost-effective.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were noted during review.

Concluding Analysis

The Rainforest Reserve acquisition project is an effort to conserve and protect a large parcel of land in Clatsop County that will support the connectivity of critical habitats by linking the basaltic ridge with the coastal shore. This acquisition project has been in development for decades and is coming together at this time because most of the required funds have been obtained and the groundwork has been laid with community partnerships. This stakeholder engagement work will provide the necessary momentum for the project team to continue to build the community support necessary to bring this complex and highly-regarded conservation land acquisition project to fruition.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Review Team Recommended Amount
$33,967

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$33,967

Staff Conditions

None

Southwest - Region 2 Fall 2019 Applications



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20191106

Grant Types

- Restoration
- Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring

Previous Grants: 1998 - Spring 2019

- Restoration
- Land Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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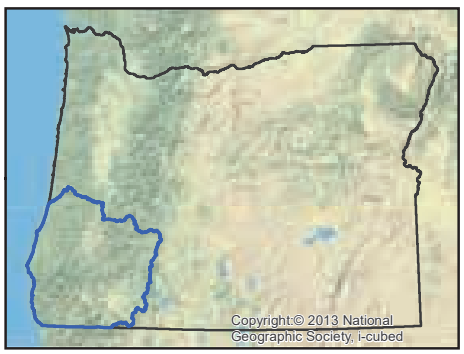

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-2033	Curry SWCD	Rogue River Estuary 2020	Instream fish habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity will be improved through the placement of large wood in floodplains and sloughs and restoring native plant communities on The God Wants You Slough, located near Gold Beach.		313,261	Curry
220-2036	Coquille Watershed Association	Twelvemile Creek Restoration	Instream habitat will be improved for coho through the placement of large wood fish habitat structures and boulders along six miles of stream in Twelvemile Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork Coquille River near Camas Valley.		155,081	Douglas
220-2038	Coquille Watershed Association	Lower North Fork Riparian Restoration	Streamside areas on four properties will be restored to improve water quality by installing wildlife-friendly fencing that excludes livestock access from the river and planting native tree species along the North Fork, a main tributary of the Coquille River near the town of Myrtle Point.		281,382	Coos
220-2034	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Windy Creek Instream Restoration	Instream fish habitat will be improved on Windy Creek, a tributary to Cow Creek near Glendale, by placing large logs and trees on a stream mile to benefit native coho salmon and steelhead.		72,809	Douglas
220-2035	Coquille Watershed Association	Woodward Creek Restoration	Woodward Creek, a tributary to the North Fork Coquille River, will be restored by placing large wood fish habitat structures instream, installing barriers to restrict illegal recreational activity, replacing failing culverts, and partially decommissioning a valley bottom road to improve water quality and conditions for coho.		273,063	Coos
220-2031	Illinois Valley WC	Page Creek Aquatic Complexity and Passage	Fish passage and instream habitat will be improved by removing a diversion dam and placing large habitat wood structures in Page Creek, a tributary to the lower East Fork Illinois River near Cave Junction. The dam will be replaced by a roughened channel designed to allow for both fish passage and irrigation water withdrawal by the landowner.		93,197	Josephine
220-2040	Coos Watershed Association	Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration	Large wood structures will be placed in four miles of Marlow Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Millicoma River near Coos Bay, to improve instream habitat for coho salmon. Additionally, two miles of stream will be made accessible to salmon by improving passage through a boulder falls and water quality will be improved by improving a road to reduce sediment runoff into the stream.		209,464	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					**1,398,257**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2041	Coos Watershed Association	Williams River Habitat Connectivity Project	Fish passage through a historic rock quarry site will be improved by widening the existing channel to provide access to 21 miles of habitat for coho salmon on the Williams River, the largest tributary to the South Fork Coos River.		151,155	Douglas
220-2042	Elk Creek WC	Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration	Large wood fish habitat structures will be placed in over a mile of stream of Ellenburg Creek, a tributary to Sand Creek near of Drain, to improve instream habitats important for coho salmon.		190,904	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT					**1,740,316**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-2032	The Freshwater Trust	Little Butte Creek River Mile 13 Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	400,357	Jackson
220-2037	Curry SWCD	Greggs Creek Fish Passage and Stream Restoration	50,378	Curry
220-2039	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	South Smith River Wetlands Phase 1 and 2	661,656	Douglas

Region 2 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2045	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	McKee Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Study Phase2	Preliminary designs will be developed to improve fish passage at the McKee Dam, an active water diversion structure and fish passage barrier on the Applegate River in Jackson County.		54,783	Jackson
220-2049	Curry SWCD	Pistol River Hydraulic Model	A hydraulic model will be developed for the lower Pistol River to identify causes driving severe bank erosion and sedimentation into the stream and inform potential remediation and restoration actions to address these problems.		43,068	Curry
220-2047	Curry SWCD	Spatial datasets to inform planning on the South Coast	Spatial data layers that depict project partners' organizational objectives related to restoration, conservation, and assessment of natural resources across nine coastal watersheds largely within Curry County will be developed to create an implementation strategy for prioritized projects across the region.		28,518	Curry
220-2052	Coos Watershed Association	Project Design For Habitat Improvement in Large Streams	Large wood placement design alternatives will be developed for Lower Williams River, the largest tributary to the South Fork Coos River that provides important spawning and rearing habitat to fall chinook, coho, and steelhead. A hydraulic analysis along with collaboration with other groups that have experience with developing instream structures in large streams will inform project designs.		74,648	Douglas
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					**201,017**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**		**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2053	Coos SWCD	Winter Lake Phase 3: Hydrologic Enhancement Design	Engineered designs will be developed to replace undersized culverts and install swale channels and grassed waterways that enhance the capacity of the agricultural lands located behind the China Camp Creek tidegate restoration project. This will support coho juveniles during winter months and pasture grass production in summer months.		74,946	Coos
220-2050	The Freshwater Trust	Lower Ashland Creek Habitat Enhancement	Restoration alternatives and project designs for streamside and instream habitat will be developed to improve salmon habitat and water quality along lower Ashland Creek, a tributary to Bear Creek in Ashland.		49,658	Jackson
220-2054	Coos Watershed Association	South Fork Coos River Road Assessment and Project Development	A road inventory will evaluate approximately 240 miles of roads using a protocol designed by the US Forest Service to identify road conditions impacting areas that drain directly to the South Fork Coos River and its tributary systems, and develop an action plan to address the issues.		65,118	Coos
220-2046	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Slate Creek Fish Passage Project	Engineered designs will be created to improve fish passage at the Slate Creek Dam, a channel-spanning fish passage barrier on Slate Creek in Josephine County.		35,470	Josephine
220-2048	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	South Smith River Wetlands Phase 3 Technical Assistance	A new tide gate structure will be designed to improve fish passage along with tidal channel and dike work needed to improve the ecological conditions of wetlands on two properties in the lower Smith River.		74,300	Douglas
220-2044	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Elkton Reserve Restoration Project	Field surveys needed to revise a management plan will be completed to guide stewardship for the multiple ecological values present on The Elkton Reserve property, located on the mainstem of the Umpqua River near Elkton.		37,486	Douglas
220-2043	Coquille Watershed Association	Big Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development	Project partners will assess watershed condition to develop, prioritize, and design habitat and water quality restoration projects on Big Creek, a tributary of the Middle Fork Coquille River.		55,146	Coos
220-2055	Curry SWCD	Donaldson Creek Fish Passage Design	Project partners will collect topographic, hydrologic, and archaeological data to develop alternative conceptual stream channel designs that restore fish passage between Willow Creek and Donaldson Creek near Langlois.		44,525	Curry
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT					**637,666**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-2051	Elk Creek WC	Big Tom Folley Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan	48,558	Douglas

Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-2064	Coquille Watershed Association	South Fork Coquille Watershed Stakeholder Engagement	Project partners will engage with landowners in the South Fork Coquille River basin to build interest and support for developing restoration actions that address watershed problems.		54,778	Coos
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff					**54,778**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description		Amount Recommended	County
220-2063	Illinois Valley SWCD	Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization for Fire and Fish	Landowners in the Illinois River Watershed will be engaged by project partners to develop interest in potential actions that improve fire resiliency and stream habitats on their properties.		130,529	Josephine
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by RRT					**185,307**	

Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
None				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2057	Coquille Watershed Association	Lower Coquille Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring	The effectiveness of two tide gate replacement and habitat restoration projects in the Coquille River will be evaluted to improve the understanding of how juvenile coho respond to these projects and inform future efforts.		166,890	Coos
220-2056	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Ramp Effectiveness Monitoring 2020- 2021	Pacific lamprey movement and habitat use within the Eel Lake Basin will be examined to evaluate the functionality and usability of a new lamprey ramp.		69,362	Coos
220-2061	Coos Watershed Association	Coho Life History and Migrations in Tide Gated Lowland Coastal Streams 2020-2022	Coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories, habitat use, and migration monitoring will continue in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary, to qualify and quantify the ecological benefits of tidal habitat restoration.		304,509	Coos
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff					**540,761**	
Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**		**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-2059	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2020-21	Summer stream flows and water temperatures at sites across the Umpqua basin will be sampled regularly as part of a long running data collection program that provides information needed to maintain required minimum flows for aquatic resource protection and data interested stakeholders.		75,399	Douglas
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT					**616,160**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**			**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-2058	Curry SWCD	Sullivan Gulch Bottomlands Monitoring for Current Functions and Restoration Effectiveness			23,837	Curry
220-2060	Smith River WC	Smith River ARIS Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring			87,932	Douglas
220-2062	Rogue Basin Partnership	Rogue Basin Partnership Fish Passage Monitoring Program			172,718	Josephine
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award					**2,194,813**	**20%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award					**10,877,263**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2031-17359
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Page Creek Aquatic Complexity and Passage
Applicant: Illinois Valley WC
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Josephine
OWEB Request: $93,197
Total Cost: $185,360

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Lower East Fork Illinois River subwatershed, Page Creek joins the EF Illinois River 11 miles south of Cave Junction within the community of Takilma in Josephine County. The project reach is publicly owned, managed by the USFS.OWEB TA Program funding was secured to develop a restoration alternatives design that delivered recommended restoration actions addressing and resolving aquatic organism passage and channel complexity/altered habitat limiting factors for ESA-listed SONCC coho salmon, Pacific lamprey and KMP Steelhead that inhabit Page Creek. This proposal seeks to implement the recommended alternative design developed as a result of that OWEB TA grant.The project reach is high intrinsic potential for SONCC coho salmon. Heavily modified, the channel is straightened, incising, and simplified, lacking instream structure. Additionally, Page Creek experiences serious fish passage issues during the irrigation season from a flashboard dam at the lowest portion of the project reach. The dam presents a 5-foot-high complete barrier to all life stages of coho and steelhead. Page Creek is a primary salmonid contributor, supporting SONCC coho salmon, KMP Steelhead, and Pacific lamprey in addition to resident cutthroat and rainbow trout. The Illinois River SONCC coho salmon population is designated as core, functionally independent at high risk of extinction (NOAA, 2014). The recommended activities of this proposal address two recovery action implementation schedule targets and strategic actions of the Final Recovery Plan (NOAA, 2014) and priority restoration actions of the FS's WRAAP for the East Fork Illinois River watershed (USFS, 2014).Restoration actions proposed include replacing the flashboard dam with an engineered roughened channel and constructing 11 instream large wood structures along a one-half mile reach. Partners include the USFS, city of Cave Junction, OR-WA DWPP, and an affected private landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is the result of an OWEB Technical Assistance grant (#218-2029).
- The design engineer overseeing project implementation has relevant experience using roughened channels to provide fish passage.
- The large wood designs are appropriately sized for the stream and will improve the existing simplified instream conditions by increasing stream habitat complexity.

- Addressing fish passage in the Rogue River watershed is a high priority and this project will provide juvenile fish access to cool water refugia.
- The project builds on past and future restoration. One of the two culverts upstream of this site was removed in 2019, the other is slated for replacement in the near future.
- Previous review comments are addressed. The resubmitted application improved in organization and clarity, and project design information needed to understand technical soundness is also included.
- The landowner is engaged and highly supportive of the project.

Concerns

- It is difficult to discern the expected quantified watershed benefits due to inconsistencies across the application. For example, there are different quantities identified for stream habitats with moderate to high intrinsic potential and potential stream miles that will be made accessible to fish.
- The project design approach does not address the hydrological condition that is a limiting factor for coho, and instead focuses on treating a symptom rather than the cause of a watershed health problem. The stream was moved into a new channel in the early to mid-1900s. LiDAR could indicate a more effective placement for the stream to flow based on the location of its historic channel. However, current land management precludes attempting to place the stream back in its original course.

Concluding Analysis

The Illinois River system is a stronghold for ESA-listed coho and this cold water stream provides critical habitat. The site has an intact riparian plant community with diverse species and age classes. The project will improve fish access to one mile of stream and improve instream habitat conditions in the project reach for salmonids and other native fish species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

$93,197

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$93,197

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2032-17370

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: $400,357

Total Cost: $489,824

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 threatened 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 riparian shade. The proposed work will include placement of 6 large wood structures to increase fish and wildlife habitat and reduce erosion by stabilizing a portion of exposed bank. Riparian revegetation will occur on 3.9 acres, with seven years of plant establishment and noxious weed suppression. Native plants will provide shade, reduce bank erosion, filter nutrients, and support large wood recruitment in the future. Primary project partners are TFT, the Rogue River Watershed Council, the City of Medford, and private landowners. The project is part of a larger effort being undertaken in partnership with the landowners, US Forest Service and City of Medford, and will complement a project previously funded with an OWEB Restoration Grant on an adjacent site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project builds on similar riparian and streambank restoration work in the area.
- Streambank erosion and steep vertical banks in the project area has led to simplified riparian conditions. The riparian restoration proposed will improve site conditions and benefit stream health.
- The watershed provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho and is an area for which a Coho Strategic Action Plan is being developed.
- A thoughtful approach to riparian restoration is proposed by including regeneration of native plants, addressing invasive plant species, and proactively addressing the degraded site conditions present in portions of the project area. The application also includes design information for the large wood structures.

Concerns

- The site orientation is likely to limit any shade benefits resulting from the riparian planting because the streambank aspect may prevent direct stream shading.
- The large wood structures will primarily provide bank stabilization. While the proposed work will provide some instream habitat benefits for juvenile winter high flow refugia, summer stream temperatures are high in the project reach and likely to be lethal for rearing salmonids that are encouraged to hold in this area over the winter.
- The large wood specifications may be sized too small for the stream size and inadequate for providing long term habitat benefits because it can more readily break down. A significant amount of the log length will be buried into the streambank, which could increase their integrity but also reduce any benefits to stream habitat.
- Landowner support for the project is not readily evident.
- The application lacks details on how livestock exclusion will be implemented and managed.
- The application does not include information on whether potential impacts to adjacent properties were considered, such as whether water will be pushed into neighboring properties.

Concluding Analysis

The resubmitted application presents a thoughtful and honest assessment of the project site and approach. Actions to improve water quality, such as restoring the riparian area, are important in this water quality limited system that provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho. However, the project cost is high for a limited watershed health benefit. With a design approach focused on stabilizing banks instead of restoring stream processes, the proposed restoration focuses on symptoms instead of addressing causes of watershed health impacts in an area with limited potential for providing summer fish habitat due to lethal stream temperatures.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2033-17409
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Rogue River Estuary 2020
Applicant: Curry SWCD
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Curry
OWEB Request: $313,261
Total Cost: $403,220

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Rogue basin is 226,668 acres and empties into the Pacific Ocean at Gold Beach, Oregon. On the south shore at river mile 1.5, God Wants You Slough is the most densely vegetated tidal slough in the estuary; connected at the downstream end to the Rogue River Estuary. The slough provides over-wintering habitat for coho salmon, and critical summer rearing habitat for steelhead, cutthroat, Pacific lamprey, and Chinook salmon. This area is also used by terrestrial wildlife and waterfowl. Due to the high intrinsic potential of the area for anadromous fish production and the need to improve stream complexity, the slough has been identified as high priority for instream restoration and conservation.Lack of instream complexity and floodplain connectivity is highlighted as a key stressor for all coho populations in the Rogue. This limiting factor also impacts suitable habitat for steelhead, Chinook, amphibians, reptiles, and beaver in the Basin. The actions proposed to reduce the limiting factor of structural complexity and connectivity is to add large wood to floodplains and sloughs to provide habitat complexity, and to revegetate riparian areas with native species in order to provide a long term source of wood, floodplain roughness, and diversity as well as overhanging cover to slow the rate of water warming and support insect production for fish. Goals include increasing number of smolts found in GWY slough, improved condition factor of smolts found in GWY slough, and to improve salmonid habitat. These goals should be achieved through the following objectives: - Increased habitat complexity and structure through the placement of large wood- Increased floodplain connection through the creation of alcove(s)- Increased roughness, long-term source of wood, overhanging, cover, and diversity through the removal of invasive weeds and the revegetation of the riparian areasPartners include ODFW, USFWS, Oregon Stewardship, and Freeman Rock.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clear project objectives and designs.
- The resubmitted application addresses previous review concerns by seeking a Technical Assistance grant (#218-2017) to develop designs.
- A multi-agency and stakeholder technical review committee will help develop and review design options.

- Project designs are provided by a firm with relevant technical expertise. The designs incorporate stout logs and use an innovative pinning technique for anchoring wood structures. This technique has not been truly tested, however, it appears promising for addressing challenges associated with working in an estuary environment.
- The designing process utilized LiDAR imagery, which provides accuracy in developing surface elevation models.
- The project will incorporate post-implementation monitoring of the wood structures, smolt usage, and water temperatures that will be compared to baseline, pre-project monitoring data.
- The work will promote floodplain connectivity and provide habitat complexity currently lacking in the area. The habitat structures and revegetation work will promote needed rearing habitat for ESA-listed coho and benefit water quality. The area will see periods of total inundation in winter that will benefit juvenile salmonid rearing.
- The project area is highly visible and has public access via a trail system. The restoration work provides a public outreach and community involvement opportunity in an area already utilized by local students for natural resource education.
- The site supports a diversity of birds and wildlife, including an active beaver population.
- The anticipated project schedule is likely to be met, in part because a programmatic permitting process is already underway.

Concerns

- Some logs may move downstream at higher flows because the log structures will not have buoyancy checks on them.
- It is uncertain if the structures will capture smaller materials.
- The project timeline could be impacted if implementation is not well aligned with harvest scheduling that is providing logs for the project.

Concluding Analysis

The Rogue River estuary is relatively small, and a significant amount of historic habitat has been lost due to land use practices. Restoration investments in smaller estuarine systems in the younger Klamath Mountain Province have been small compared to those in the more Northern larger estuarine systems. Since coho depend on estuaries for rearing, creating habitat opportunities in the Rogue River estuary is an important opportunity to restore this critical habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount

$313,261

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$313,261

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2034-17415
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Windy Creek Instream Restoration
Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $72,809
Total Cost: $109,511

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in Windy Creek, a tributary to Cow Creek in the Middle Cow Creek 5th Field Watershed just northeast of the rural community of Glendale in Douglas County. Windy Creek provides habitat for winter steelhead, coho salmon, Pacific lamprey, cutthroat trout and other native fish. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Surveys and 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, salvage logs from the Milepost 97 fire 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 resubmitted application addresses previous concerns raised about improving project outreach.
- The project implements recommended actions identified in several assessments and action plans by targeting a stream system with high intrinsic potential for coho but are deficient in aquatic habitat for overwintering juvenile ESA-listed coho.
- The design approach is technically sound and the project has a high likelihood of meeting its objectives. The planned wood structures include large numbers of individual pieces of wood of an appropriate size for the system and will improve over-wintering habitat.
- The project partners are experienced in this type of work.
- There is a great deal of partner support and involvement in the project as articulated in the numerous letters of support in the application.
- Large beaver complexes are present on ODF ownership just upstream of the project area as well as downstream areas on private lands.
- There is a likelihood for natural future wood recruitment into the stream.

- Site access and the rehabilitation of excavator access routes is well thought out.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is a well thought out, technically sound project with a high likelihood of meeting objectives. The proposed work addresses watershed limiting factors and complements other restoration efforts within a basin that has high intrinsic potential for coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$72,809

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$72,809

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2035-17420
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Woodward Creek Restoration
Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $273,063
Total Cost: $490,184

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Woodward Creek is a major tributary to the North Fork Coquille River (NFCR) 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 watershed is suffering from the legacy of historic land use practices. 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 Dept. 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 with 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 Coos Bay BLM and Drinking Water Providers Partnership will accomplish the remaining deliverables in this holistic approach.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resubmitted application addresses previous review concerns about the culvert design and use of slash materials.
- The project partners are committed to stopping off-road vehicle use in riparian and stream areas. The proposal takes a comprehensive approach in 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. Some of the ATV barriers are already installed and so far motorized vehicles are not passing. Monitoring will continue to occur to ensure project effectiveness.
- The North Fork Coquille River is the drinking water source for the City of Myrtle Point. The project will help address 303(d) listed water quality issues, including sedimentation and water temperature.

- 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.
- Road surveys are planned for 2020, which is timely to ensure project tasks stay on schedule.

Concerns

- There is a lack of detail regarding the $25,000 road decommissioning activity.
- The application lacks information regarding the BMPs and road stabilization tactics that will be used to prevent sediment from entering the stream.

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. The logs to be placed instream have been staged and the project is ready for implementation. Off-road vehicle activity has been a long-term concern that requires a combination of approaches. The ecological benefit will be high for the cost. Increasing public awareness will be a key component in achieving long-term success.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$273,063

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$273,063

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2036-17423
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Twelvemile Creek Restoration
Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $155,081
Total Cost: $310,426

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will restore channel complexity and floodplain connection in Twelvemile Creek, a 24,000-acre drainage to the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR). The MFCR has the potential to provide year-round rearing habitat for coho, Chinook, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey but lack of spawning habitat in tributaries continues to be a watershed issue. Primary limiting factors affecting spawning habitat in Twelvemile Creek include a lack of stream complexity and poor water quality. Historically, Twelvemile Creek was clear-cut and subjected to stream cleaning. As a result, most of Twelvemile Creek and its major fish bearing tributaries have disconnected floodplains, large sections of bedrock substrate and lack sufficient large wood structures (LWD) and spawning gravel. To address these limiting factors, CoqWA, Roseburg BLM, ODFW and Roseburg Forest Products are working towards a shared goal of improving spawning and rearing habitat for native fish in the Twelvemile Basin. Phase 1 Project components include placing boulders and LWD into Twelvemile Creek and its tributaries. Roseburg BLM is funding wood placement on BLM property and OWEB has funded a TA for road surveys and restoration design. Funds from this solicitation will be used to place log and boulder structures into tributaries and the main-stem of Twelvemile Creek on private lands owned by timber companies, complimentary to the BLM's restoration actions. Together these actions will place wood and boulders into 19 sites in the main-stem of Twelvemile Creek, large wood into 14 sites in tributaries and directionally fell trees at 25 sites. Phase 2 restoration will address road improvements and sediment abatement actions identified during the GRAIP analysis (funded by the OWEB TA grant) to improve water quality.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly presents the issues, objectives, and solutions.
- The large wood design is technically sound, and the sites selected are well-suited for wood placement. The boulders incorporated into the design will be a similar size to boulders found naturally instream.

- Twelvemile Creek is the highest coho tributary in the Middle Fork Coquille River. Besides coho, the stream is also important for lamprey. The stream has high intrinsic potential with good spawning habitats. There is a passage impediment downstream of this site on Twelvemile Creek, located on the Middle Fork Coquille River, that is triggered during low flow periods. ODFW is aware of this structure and is working to address this passage issue.
- The project builds on watershed assessment work for this sub-basin conducted by the applicant. Future project phases will look at addressing sediment inputs from nearby roads.
- The applicant has a proven track record with implementing these types of projects and has put together a partnership of agency technical experts to support project design, funding, and implementation.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified in the review.

Concluding Analysis

The project is based on previous watershed assessment work. The effort engages the right partners necessary to develop and implement the project work successfully. The proposal presents a very clear and technically sound project with a high likelihood of achieving success in a cost-effective manner. The stream is important for both coho and lamprey, and these efforts will improve and increase habitat availability for these species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$155,081

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$155,081

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2037-17431

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Greggs Creek Fish Passage and Stream Restoration

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: $50,378

Total Cost: $72,503

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed project would occur on Greggs Creek, which is a 4.3 km coastal tributary approximately 13 km north of Gold Beach and within Curry County. Greggs Creek has high potential habitat value for coho salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and lamprey, and given its close proximity to the Rogue River, provides critical connectivity to Rogue River fish populations. Undersized culverts were installed at the stream crossing with Greggs Creek Road and over time, the culverts have reduced gravel transport downstream and deposited excess bedload upstream of the crossing. This bottleneck has created a five-foot vertical difference between the channel elevation immediately above and below the crossing. Excess bedload further upstream has raised the streambed elevation, while lack of bedload downstream has incised the channel into the floodplain up to five feet. This vertical instability in the streambed forms a complete barrier to adult fish passage, degrades habitat quality by altering the distribution of sediment, disrupts lateral connectivity of the stream with its floodplain, and poses a significant risk of fill failure. The lack of large wood in this system further degrades habitat quality, since natural wood accumulations would promote gravel and nutrient retention, and form complex pools and off-channel habitat. The proposed restoration would address the primary limiting factors of habitat access, sediment imbalances, and lack of large wood, by restoring fish passage and natural flow conveyance, and adding large wood to stabilize sediment and create instream habitat structure. To do so, we propose to to replace the undersized culverts with a 56-foot span railcar bridge, install 12 grade control log structures up- and downstream of the road crossing, and install five habitat log structures downstream of the crossing. Partners include private landowners, ODFW, NOAA, and Coquille Indian Tribe.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly lays out the project objectives and need to provide fish passage at this location.
- There is clear landowner support and ownership in the project as evidenced by project match.
- Downstream landowners were contacted and are comfortable with potential channel aggradation that may occur.

- Replacing the undersized, failing culverts with a bridge will provide for natural stream geomorphology to occur by allowing the stream to move more freely in its floodplain. The railcar bridge will likely provide an adequate spanning size to cross the stream. Grade structures will be placed above and below the bridge to prevent the stream from downcutting.
- The work will follow Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species (SLOPES).

Concerns

- It is unclear whether a design alternatives analysis was considered.
- The application lacks information about site conditions needed to better understand the technical soundness of the design approach, such as the active channel width. Also, it is unclear if the design takes into consideration how the relatively weak sandy loam soils affects substrate stability given the amount of water seepage into the area.
- Spruce wetland areas located on the edge of the floodplain terrace could potentially be hydrologically disconnected or dewatered as a result of the proposed actions. It is unclear from the application whether the project design considers potential impacts to these wetlands. It is important to ensure the spruce are protected.
- The grade control structure design needs additional consideration to ensure they effectively function as expected. The applicant is encouraged to consider how the water velocity may displace the size of sediment particles and create scour into the streambed, which could reduce the extent to which the grade control structures maintain the channel gradient.
- Engineered surveys need to be incorporated due to concerns about public safety regarding the bridge placement.
- Additional information on the quality of upstream habitat and fish presence and distribution in the area is needed to understand how providing passage to upstream habitat benefits native fish species. Also, it is unclear whether there are other passage issues downstream of the project site.
- The overall project cost seems low for the proposed work compared to similar projects in the area.

Concluding Analysis

Gregg’s Creek is a direct ocean tributary located near Euchre Creek, North of Gold Beach. This creek would support a dependent rather than an independent population of coho, which is a lower priority population. Brook lamprey have been spotted in the stream, and resident trout and steelhead likely utilize the system. The application does not provide enough details regarding design considerations, including potential impacts on other resources in the immediate area, to understand technical soundness of the project. A technical assistance grant may be the best approach to fully examine the site and determine the soundest course for addressing the culvert issues.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2038-17452

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower North Fork Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $281,382

Total Cost: $355,032

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 resubmitted application addresses previous review concerns by incorporating appropriate measures to identify any potential archeological resources.
- The North Fork Coquille River is the drinking water source for the City of Myrtle Point. The watershed is also a focus area for the Coos SWCD and is listed on the DEQ 303(d) list for temperature, bacteria, and dissolved oxygen. The resulting restoration will address water quality impairments, which in turn address limiting factors for ESA-listed coho.
- Project partners have recruited multiple landowners into one project, which demonstrates effective communication and coordination that will result in cost savings and implementation efficiencies.

- The project is highly visible and may encourage additional project interest in an area where landowner engagement has been challenging. The current list of participating landowners were engaged primarily through word of mouth.
- Each property has an individual conservation plan and sites designs tailored to the individual properties.
- The planting and plant stewardship plans are reasonable for the sites and have a high likelihood of supporting the trees to a “free-to-grow” stage.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were noted in the review.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal demonstrates the progress made by project partners toward implementing a comprehensive approach to restoring water quality in a system important both for coho habitat and to the adjacent community as their drinking water source. Success here could lead to additional restoration opportunities in the watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$281,382

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$281,382

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2039-17459
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: South Smith River Wetlands Phase 1 and 2
Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $661,656
Total Cost: $1,327,217

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

A concerted, strategic effort has been underway in the tidally influenced areas of the Umpqua River to restore natural drainage, enhance wetlands for winter rearing, increase fish passage and improve water quality to this critical area for anadromous fish. Building upon the success of prior wetland enhancement development work on the Glover Ranch in the lower Smith River, PUR and its partners have developed three more phases of similar project work. South Smith River Phase 1-3 are projects located directly across the river from the Glover Ranch. Phase 1 of the project is the Boniface/Vitek wetland enhancement. A failing 6' tidegate will be replaced with three 7' tidegates, 2,300 feet of dike repair is needed to protect the tidegates, 7,705 feet of channels will be regraded to drain properly and a bridge will be placed for farm access on the 82 acre wetland. Each winter, the Muted Tide Regulators (MTRs) will be set to flood 10 acres at each high tide to provide rearing habitat for juvenile fish. The second phase of work is tidegate replacement, channel and dike work on the 85 acre Perry wetland located at the confluence of Otter Slough and the Smith River. A rusted and failing 6' tidegate will be replaced with four 7' and one 5' tidegates. Each winter, the MTRs will be set to flood 12 acres at high tide. Phase 3 work is focused on restoring fish passage, regrading wetland channels, repairing dikes, installing farm crossing bridges and restoring instream fish habitat in Brainard Creek across three owners. Preliminary designs indicated the need for geotechnical and structural engineers and is currently being developed under an OWEB technical assistance grant. Project partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Smith River Watershed Council and private landowners. Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service will provide technical input to the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will address two failing tide gates and provide access to over-wintering tidal habitat important to juvenile ESA-listed coho by building connectivity between the estuary and the wetlands. A water management plan will be implemented that will facilitate in the creation of 15 wetted acres during winter months.

- The project builds on past and future tide gate and habitat enhancement work in the area, including the Glover Tide Gate Restoration Project (220-2011). The site is also adjacent to wetland habitat owned and managed by ODFW.
- The work will support agricultural working lands and build on lessons learned from the Glover Tide Gate Restoration Project.
- The project partners are developing a strategy to address failing tide gates in the Umpqua estuary and are quickly building landowner interest and support in the area for similar restoration work.

Concerns

- One of the participating properties is currently for sale. It is unclear whether this will affect project implementation at this site or the long-term management of the property that ensures the watershed investment is maintained.
- It is unclear whether the required match will be secured because it is dependent on securing funds for phase three of this three-phased project. Phase two is also currently on hold due to land owner concerns. As a result, the project may not be ready for implementation.
- It is unclear how the proposed water level will affect the pasture grass production used for livestock grazing.
- It is difficult to determine whether the extent of proposed riprap is necessary and reasonable to repair the levee because final design of this project component cannot be completed until the levees are mowed in order to visually see their condition.
- It is unclear whether the design addresses potential water drainage issues that could occur due to the connection of the channel draining the properties to both of the current tide gates. It would have been helpful to have information on the water levels and how the infrastructure will work to understand the technical soundness of the design. Inundation mapping of proposed flooded areas would also be helpful for understanding the expected project outcomes.

Concluding Analysis

The lack of detail and uncertainty related to project design, long-term stewardship of restored habitat, securing match through other project phases, and overall readiness makes it difficult to determine the likelihood of success for this project. The applicant should consider seeking a technical assistance grant to address concerns related to the design and approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2040-17476
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Marlow Creek Habitat Restoration
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Coos
OWEB Request: $209,464
Total Cost: $309,249

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 have 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 andrearing habitat, 2) improve passage through an artificial mainstem boulder falls near the 4.5-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 project objectives are clearly articulated in the application.
- 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 an active working relationship among partners through their involvement in design, implementation, and funding. Restoration actions in Marlow Creek are consistent with recommendations identified in the draft The Coos Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan.
- The project continues the restoration momentum on this stream by building on completed instream and passage restoration work downstream.

- The existing riparian area has the potential for recruitment of large wood. The Elliott State Forest comprises the upper portion of the system and provides assurance that the riparian forest will remain intact. There may also be future opportunities to convert aging alder stands into conifer stands.
- Marlow Creek is the only consistent stronghold for chum salmon in this system.
- Project partners have established a proven track record for implementing instream habitat enhancement and fish passage improvements.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were raised during the review.

Concluding Analysis

The project 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 proposed restoration will enhance a functioning system rather than restoring one that is in danger of declining, which is likely to increase Marlow Creek's productivity for ESA-listed coho and other aquatic species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$209,464

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$209,464

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2041-17480
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Williams River Habitat Connectivity Project
Applicant: Coos Watershed Association
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $151,155
Total Cost: $485,818

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Williams River is the largest tributary to the S Fork Coos River in the Coos basin, providing critical spawning and rearing habitat for coho, chinook, steelhead, and other aquatic species. In the 1960's road building and quarry operations constrained the channel against a bedrock hillslope, which increased the stream gradient creating the Falls. These falls restrict salmonid access to 21 miles of rearing and spawning habitat. The Federal Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho identified access to high quality habitats supporting winter rearing of juveniles as a major limiting factor. The Falls are the highest priority barrier remaining on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority List in the Coos basin. This project addresses limiting factors by reconnecting salmonids to 21 miles of habitat and restoring natural processes that will improve water quality and stream complexity. In this project, CoosWA proposes a multi-faceted approach including: 1) widen the channel of the falls nearly 40 feet and reduce velocities to restore salmonid access to 21 miles of critical rearing and spawning habitat, 2) move the 5000 Road 50 feet to increase the distance between the road and stream and 3) revegetate the riparian area with native trees and shrubs to reduce the transport of fine sediments and increase shade. Additionally, these activities will allow natural stream processes to reestablish and restore deposition and retention of gravel and wood to the downstream reaches. OWEB funds will be used for project management, travel, supplies, contracted services, and indirect costs. Weyerhaeuser, WSC, NWFW, ODFW, and OYCC will provide match to cover project designs, permitting, road relocation, contracted services, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The fish passage barrier is the final barrier in the system, and restoring passage will build upon other fish passage projects. The project will facilitate passage for multiple species, including Chinook and ESA-listed coho, it is anticipated that juvenile rearing will benefit the most from the project.
- Extensive instream habitat restoration and road improvement work will reduce sediment inputs both upstream and downstream of the site.
- The restoration work will improve juvenile fish access to cool water refugia during summer months. Removing the barrier could mitigate climate impacts by allowing fish easy access to cooler, preferable stream habitats.

- Project partners have experience in implementing challenging fish passage projects.
- The application demonstrates effective working partnerships and commitments 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.
- Additional information on sediment abatement measures during and post construction would have been helpful. It was uncertain if only seeding and mulching will be enough to minimize sediment inputs.
- The cost-effectiveness of the watershed health benefit gained is uncertain for addressing a partial barrier at the proposed cost.
- It remains unclear whether the project is “shovel ready” because consultation with NOAA and ODFW has not yet occurred. There is the potential that designs could change as the proposal moves through this consultation process.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed approach to improve fish passage at the site should lessen steep gradients and flow velocities, 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 provide connectivity between upstream and downstream habitats. The project is identified in the draft coos Watershed Coho Strategic Action Plan.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$151,155

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2042-17503

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $190,904

Total Cost: $253,904

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Ellenburg Creek is a tributary to Sand Creek in the Lower Pass Creek subwatershed of the Elk Creek 5th-field watershed of the Umpqua Basin, north of Drain, Oregon . Elk Creek is an important coho spawning and rearing watershed with more miles of "high intrinsic potential" coho habitat (172 miles) than any other 5th-field in the Umpqua. It was designated a Tier 1 Key Watershed in the Northwest Forest Plan, and ranked #1 for restoration by the Umpqua Basin Watershed Council (1998). Ellenburg Creek has nearly three miles of high intrinsic potential coho spawning and rearing habitat per ODFW. 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 very few pieces of large wood to retain gravel, aggrade the channel, or create deep pools, all essential for juvenile coho survival. The Ellenburg Creek Instream Restoration project will place 213 key logs, and 100 whole trees with root wads, at 28 sites in 1.5 miles of Ellenburg Creek. Trees with rootwads will augment the five existing structures from a prior project. Large woody debris 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. Cross sections will be established at three sites to monitor project effectiveness. Project partners include BLM (watershed assessment funding), ODFW (instream habitat designs), NOAA Fisheries (fish passage technical guidance), Seneca Jones Timber Company (donated trees with rootwads) and two private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resubmitted application addresses previous review concerns related to the site #28 design.
- The project was identified through a recent rapid bio assessment, 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 project could lead to additional downstream landowner interest in similar project work.
- The designs have a high level of clarity with photos, drawings, and an explanation of the purpose of each structure. NOAA staff previously reviewed and approved these designs.
- The potential for habitat improvements providing a watershed health benefit is high for the investment.

- The project approach is technically sound and has a high likelihood for success.

Concerns

- The time budgeted for project management seems high for a fairly straightforward scope of work compared to similar projects. A breakdown of hours per task would help in understanding this cost.
- Instead of providing links in the application to additional information, integrating critical information from those other locations into the application narrative is necessary for proposal clarity and an effective evaluation of the project.
- The diameter of the wood is smaller and consists of younger stock, which means it will have a shorter lifespan in the stream. While there is still a high likelihood of success in achieving project goals in the short to moderate term (15-20 years), the lifespan of the wood will not last as long as projects incorporating larger diameter wood placements.

Concluding Analysis

The project reflects a successful working relationship between project partners and landowners. The design approach is technically sound and will benefit habitat for ESA-listed coho. The applicant is still encouraged to work with the landowners to reduce sediment runoff into the stream systems from the road.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$190,904

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2043-17375

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Big Creek Watershed Assessment and Project Development

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $55,146

Total Cost: $80,018

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 3 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, this project will continue their approach of first assessing and building strategic plans for sub-basins before engaging in restoration efforts.
- The project involves the right partners and necessary skills sets needed for success. The watershed association is growing in capacity and has established a track record for implementing projects.

- The expected deliverables have a high likelihood of resulting in priority driven, on-the-ground actions that will 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 by coinciding with planning efforts by area land managers and presents an outreach opportunity with the local community. The information will be shared with agencies, including ODFW and other stakeholders.

Concerns

- Previous review concerns related to the macroinvertebrate surveys are not addressed, the objectives for this project element and how this information will aid in developing prioritizing restoration actions remains unclear. Looking at presence/absence of macroinvertebrates will not help prioritize actions because this information is more of a verification tool that provides a snapshot of stream conditions. The applicant is encouraged to engage the DEQ Volunteer Monitoring Program in designing the approach for using macroinvertebrate surveys to achieve the goals for this technical assistance project.
- The timeline for DEQ 319 funding is not realistic, which could affect the proposed project timeline. Funds cannot be obtained prior to getting a watershed based TMDL plan in place, and 2021 is the earliest this could occur.
- Additional information is needed to understand the road survey project components, including the total number of road miles in the network, locations of roads (e.g. valley floor), a list of areas prioritized by the roads ecological impact, and a map that provides a visual tool of this information to help better understand the needs and priorities. Also, information describing the effectiveness of surveying portions of the roads with the Geomorphic Road Analysis Inventory Package (GRAIP) process and then extrapolating the data to the full road network is needed to understand the technical soundness of this approach.
- The budget has permit fees associated with county land use, floodplain certification, and DEQ 401 water quality certification, but it is not clear why these were necessary to implement this project.

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 likelihood of success for delivering future impactful and implementable restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

$55,146

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2044-17384
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Elkton Reserve Restoration Project
Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $37,486
Total Cost: $80,986

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, a Northern Spotted Owl nest site 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 501c3 South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership also is a partner.While the HFRP is focused on a single species, the management plan for the Reserve also recognizes other ecological values. Riparian zones along the two perennial streams are mapped as discrete management units, for example. Culvert replacement in 2003 reestablished Coho spawning in Whitehorse Creek and later also removed a fish passage barrier on the other perennial 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 work under this grant would conduct the field surveys necessary to support a subsequent application for implementation of the proposed actions.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resubmitted application addresses previous review comments by investigating avaliable resources from USFS and ODF regarding existing forest stand assessment information.
- The landowner is committed to long-term restoration on their property, and approaches current land use management in a very conscience manner by seeking to maximize the property in maintaining and protecting the multiple habitat types on site.

- 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 develop the expansion of the existing Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) easement held by NRCS. The resulting process will preserve the HRFP values of the easement and allow the planning process to move forward with a high likelihood that resulting management plans will result in implementable restoration activities that benefit a broad range of ecological values on the property.
- In addition to the HRFP, there is a stewardship agreement with ODF and a Safe Harbor Agreement for spotted owls with USFWS.
- The application links the importance of the work to building climate change resiliency.

Concerns

- It was unclear based on contradictory information in the application whether the final technical assistance product will result in an additional technical assistance application to support design activities or if the next step is a restoration implementation application, or possibly a mix of both. A detailed description on outcomes and next steps would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

The project presents an opportunity to restore and protect important upland habitat areas that builds on efforts already in place on this property. The project also provides 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 property mainly contains upland habitats but also contains small areas that link to the downslope aquatic habitats. The applicant and project landowners have put in a great deal of effort to work with partner agencies to ensure that products resulting from this proposal will not conflict with the existing HFRP easement and will have a high likelihood of resulting in restoration actions that restore and protect a diversity of ecological values found on the property.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,486

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2045-17401

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: McKee Dam Irrigation and Fish Passage Study Phase2

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $54,783

Total Cost: $69,367

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will build off of the work accomplished in Phase 1 in order to improve fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and fish screening at McKee Dam (Newberry Dam), an active diversion structure and fish passage barrier at river mile 40 on the Applegate River in Jackson County. McKee Dam impedes adult passage to high quality spawning habitat and completely blocks juvenile access to habitat designated as core cold water habitat and high intrinsic potential habitat. The dam suppresses access to 6.1 miles of habitat for Chinook salmon, 20.2 miles of habitat for ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 25.7 miles of habitat for steelhead and fluvial cutthroat trout, and ESA-listed species of concern Pacific lamprey. McKee Dam is listed on the ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list as Group 2 in the state and #7 in the Rogue River Basin and is on the Rogue Basin Partnership Future Project Priority “Top 10 List” of fish passage projects. Furthermore, the problematic fish screen on Swayne Ditch does not meet current standards and has an appreciable risk of entrainment and mortality for fish; installation of flashboards during high flows in the spring is a hazard to irrigators; and the current conveyance and irrigation system loses an estimated 35% of diverted water.This proposal will refine the developed alternatives and conceptual designs from Phase 1 in order to reach a preferred alternative and complete preliminary designs that will restore access to miles of high quality fish habitat and provide adequate fish screening thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed species. The developed irrigation efficiency designs will improve fish population and watershed health by increasing water quality and leaving water instream. Project partners include Cowhorn Vineyard & Garden, USFS, BLM, ODFW, OWRD, Jackson County SWCD, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds on Technical Assistance project 218-2034 to develop alternatives that address fish passage issues at the McKee Dam. The resulting restoration project will improve water diversion efficiencies, as well as open up 20.2 miles for ESA-listed coho salmon and 6.1 miles for other native fish species. The project will also reduce smolt mortalities at the site.
- The project area is rated as a #6 priority for barriers by ODFW in the Rogue River Basin, and this project continues the momentum in the Rogue River Basin to address fish passage.

- The applicant has a proven record implementing projects, and is working with the Rogue Basin partnership and their fish passage contractor whom brings a great deal of experience to the effort.

Concerns

- Engineering costs are grouped into a lump sum in the budget with a total amount that seems high for the scope or work. Additional detail on the break out of the rates, costs per task, time per task, and how they were determined is needed to determine whether costs align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.
- Water quantity is a key issue impacting fish populations, especially ESA-listed coho, in the Rogue River Basin. Projects looking at fish passage on active irrigation diversions need to seriously examine the potential for building in opportunities for increasing instream flows as a project component. This will become increasingly important in building in climate resiliency.
- Information on why additional technical assistance funding is needed to support activities similar to the first application would provide clarity in understanding the proposal.

Concluding Analysis

Alternatives for addressing fish passage at the McKee Dam were investigated under a previous OWEB technical assistance grant; however, a viable option was not identified and additional work is needed to develop a solution. The proposed project will build on progress made with this previous work by looking at additional options to address passage at the dam, which is a priority barrier in the Applegate River and Rogue River system. The additional habitat that will be made accessible to ESA-listed coho is significant. The approach to develop a solution that addresses the complex issues and needs associated with this diversion is technically sound.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$54,783

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$54,783

Staff Conditions

The Project Completion Report will document the circumstances that lead to the need to apply for a second Technical Assistance project, what was learned and applied to this project and how would future projects be approached based on lessons learned.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2046-17402
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Slate Creek Fish Passage Project
Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Josephine
OWEB Request: $35,470
Total Cost: $44,338

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will develop engineered designs for fish passage improvement at Slate Creek Dam, a channel-spanning, fish passage barrier at river mile 9 on Slate Creek in Josephine County. Slate Creek Dam impedes adult passage during low flows to high quality spawning habitat and completely blocks juvenile access to critical rearing habitat including habitat designated as core cold water habitat and high intrinsic potential habitat. The dam suppresses access to over 3.5 miles of habitat for ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon, 7.6 miles of habitat for steelhead, habitat for cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Slate Creek Dam is listed on the 2019 ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list and Slate Creek is listed as a priority for the Rogue Basin Partnership. The dam blocks critical access for Coho salmon to spawning and rearing habitat in Upper Slate Creek.This proposal will provide engineered designs to improve access to miles of high quality fish habitat thereby supporting fish population recovery for ESA-listed and state-listed species. Project partners include the landowners, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Water Resources Department, Rogue Basin Partnership, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting restoration project will improve access to over 3.5 miles of core cold water habitat for ESA-listed coho, and additional miles for other native fish species.
- The application describes a clear need for technical assistance support to design a viable restoration project.
- The applicant has established a proven track record for working to solve fish passage issues in the Rogue River basin, and they will be working with the Rogue Basin Partnership who utilizes a contractor experienced in developing fish passage projects.

Concerns

- Engineering costs are grouped into a lump sum in the budget with a total amount that seems high for the scope or work. Additional detail on the break out of the rates, costs per task, time per task, and how they were determined is needed to determine whether costs align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

- Water quantity is a key issue impacting fish populations in the Rogue River Basin, especially ESA-listed coho. Projects looking at fish passage at active diversions need to seriously examine the potential for building in opportunities for increasing instream flows as a project component. This will become increasingly important in building in climate resiliency.
- A letter of support from the landowner would provide helpful evidence of their support for the project.
- The need for the eDNA project component and how it contributes to meeting the project objectives is not clear.

Concluding Analysis

Restoring fish access to upstream habitats and cool water refugia has been a priority in the Rogue River Basin and is important to recovery efforts for ESA-listed coho. A great deal of success has been realized from those efforts, and the applicant and project partners are working to continue that momentum. The project is likely to result in restorative actions that will improve access to over 3.5 miles of cool water refugia habitat for ESA-listed threatened SONCC Coho salmon and up to 7.6 miles for steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Slate Creek Dam is listed on the 2019 ODFW Statewide Fish Passage Priority list and Slate Creek is listed as a priority for the Rogue Basin Partnership.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$35,470

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2047-17410

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Spatial datasets to inform planning on the South Coast - Resubmission

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: $28,518

Total Cost: $95,918

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 nine 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, conservation, and assessment of natural resources. While these objectives may be distinct, they exist for the same purpose of fully functioning watersheds. In 2017, 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 to all partners. The data will be used to develop an implementation strategy for prioritized projects in the SCEP's Strategic Action Plan for the Sixes River Watershed, to be included in a 2022 OWEB FIP Implementation proposal. Project partners will include the SCEP, OPRD, NOAA, TNC, DEQ, USFWS, BLM, USFS, USGS, Weyerhaeuser, Tribes, and WRCA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous review comments are addressed with clarification on the use of DEQ's Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System data in the project.
- The project will employ professionally accepted and appropriate methodology 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 across Curry County watersheds.

- NetMap is a technically sound approach for collecting data and prioritizing restoration projects.
- 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 and reliable sources and will be compatible with other assessment and planning efforts, including the Elk River Coho Strategic Action Plan and supporting TMDL development.
- Project costs are reasonable compared to the watershed health benefits that will be gained.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

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 prioritize restoration efforts across a large geographic landscape spanning over thirteen watersheds within Curry County. The work has a high likelihood of providing tools that will result in identifying viable restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$28,518

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$28,518

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2048-17426

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Smith River Wetlands Phase 3 Technical Assistance

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $74,300

Total Cost: $102,381

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers and our partners are working collaboratively to restore the health of the Umpqua Estuary by protecting functional habitat, restoring degraded habitat, educating the public and evaluating project effects. The goal of this project is to complete designs for fish passage, tidal channel, and dike work needed to improve the ecological conditions of wetlands in the lower Smith River. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River have been significantly altered for urban and agricultural use by clearing, filling in, diking and draining. This habitat is critical feeding and refuge for many aquatic species including steelhead, salmonids, eulachon and Pacific lamprey. This project is located along the lower Smith River and up Brainard Creek. This wetland and stream enhancement project is part of a three phase plan and will increase fish access into the Brainard Creek wetlands as well as up to potential spawning habitat in the headwaters. PUR is working with three landowners and the Smith River Watershed Council to develop the Phase 3 project. Preliminary designs for a tidegate replacement, farm bridge crossings, channel reconstruction, and dike work have been completed. To create a final design for the Phase 3 project, work is needed to 1) finalize the tidegate design, 2) finalize the channel designs, 3) finalize the dike designs, and 4) work with neighboring landowners along Brainard Creek to develop additional restoration work.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes aneed for technical assistance to support developing designs for restoration.
- The project is located in close proximity to other tidegate and habitat restoration efforts.
- The resulting restoration work will provide access to habitats important for over-wintering ESA-listed coho.
- Project commitment is clearly evident through letters of support from partners and landowners.
- Co-leadership by Smith River WC and PUR will distribute tasks and help to ensure project success.
- Brainard Creek is a spawning tributary that drains directly into the project area.

- The current project is at 60% design and this technical assistance will complete final, construction ready designs. The applicant will be approaching NOAA for funding to support the resulting restoration work.

Concerns

- The application lacks a clear description of the project specific tasks needed to understand the expected outcomes that will be accomplished from this technical assistance investment.
- The Water Management Plan is identified in the project schedule, but is not described in the application narrative.
- The application does not clearly describe how the resulting restoration will achieve water quality goals.
- The application lacks details compared to the previous application; for example, the selected design approach is not clearly described.
- The design approach will incorporate straight channels into the wetted areas. It is not clear why this is the prefered restoration approach, what the goals and objectives are for the these channel configurations, and why a more natural channel sinuosity could not be incorporated into this landscape.
- It is not clear if or how landowners upstream from the project area will be affected by the resulting restoration, or if they have been engaged to seek their support for the project.
- Engineering costs are grouped into a lump sum in the budget with a total amount that seems high for the scope or work. Additional detail on the break out of the rates, costs per task, time per task, and how they were determined is needed to determine whether costs align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

Project partners are building interest and momentum in addressing failing tide gates and restoring access to associated critical habitats that ESA-listed coho depend on. The applicant and partners have previously succeeded with this type of project. They have effectively engaged with landowners in developing viable solutions that balance restoration of coho habitat with the ability of landowners to effectively manage their properties.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount

$74,300

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2049-17429
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Pistol River Hydraulic Model
Applicant: Curry SWCD
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Curry
OWEB Request: $43,068
Total Cost: $64,483

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Lower Pistol River and its estuary, located approximately 10 miles south of Gold Beach in Curry County, are in a degraded condition due to a complexity of issues related to past and present land use. Severe bank erosion and excessive sediment deposition are reducing the quantity and quality of fish habitat, causing the loss of productive lands, and imperiling state and county road infrastructure. Landowners and community members are eager to improve watershed health and fish habitat. However, information necessary to understanding the causal factors and identifying appropriate solutions is currently lacking. This application proposes the development of a two-dimensional hydraulic model that would provide insights into those causal factors. Such a model would allow the identification of potential remediation and restoration actions, provide a science-based understanding of the expected outcomes of those actions, and permit the development of design alternatives. The model outputs would provide a platform for discussing the design alternatives and their expected outcomes with stakeholders and facilitate the selection of a preferred alternative.The development of the proposed hydraulic model would provide substantial support to outreach, project development, project implementation, and monitoring activities associated with the designation of Pistol River as a Strategic Implementation Area. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA), designated by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture (ODA), focus efforts from ODA, Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and local partners in an attempt to ensure compliance with agricultural water quality regulations, generate ecological uplift in the watershed, and measure the resulting change. Local partners in the Pistol River SIA currently include Curry County SWCD, South Coast Watershed Council, and the Curry County Roads Dept.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes a clear need for the proposed technical assistance. The approach is likely to result in achieving project objectives.
- Costs are reasonable and clearly relate to work necessary for achieving the project objectives.
- The approach is technically sound and utilizes LiDAR data and HEC-RAS for analysis.
- The project is located in a Strategic Implementation area. The stream system is water quality listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH.

- The area supports critical habitat for a dependent population of ESA-listed coho.
- A great deal of landowner outreach has been accomplished to date.

Concerns

- It is not clear whether the approach for monitoring tidal stage change will be effective. Tidal influence and rain events can affect measurements, which needs to be factored into the data analysis.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed technical assistance work has a high likelihood of success for identifying potential restoration actions and locations for project implementation. This effort will provide critical baseline data that can help in restoration design activities, as well as aid in developing and implementing actions to support efforts in the Strategic Implementation Area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$43,068

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$43,068

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2050-17430

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Ashland Creek Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $49,658

Total Cost: $63,658

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Ashland Creek Habitat Enhancement project is located along Ashland Creek at the confluence of Ashland and Bear Creeks on property owned and managed by the City of Ashland and Ashland Parks and Recreation. Ashland Creek is a 5.4-mile tributary of Bear Creek, which is a tributary of the Rogue River. Ashland Creek joins Bear Creek near Ashland in Jackson County. Rogue River salmon and steelhead populations have declined over the last century due to degradation of habitat and other factors. Ashland Creek provides habitat for coho, Chinook, and steelhead. Habitat conditions limiting these fish include altered thermal regime and lack of habitat complexity and diversity. These conditions are present at the project site and are driven by lack of riparian vegetation, lack of LWD, and lack of floodplain connectivity/off-channel habitat.The Freshwater Trust (TFT) seeks funding from OWEB to develop restoration alternatives, risk assessment, and 60% design drawings at the project site to advance anticipated applied restoration work at the site to benefit Ashland Creek salmon and steelhead, as well as water quality. The City of Ashland and TFT are partnering on a multi-year effort to improve water quality at the sub-watershed scale via riparian restoration on Ashland Creek. This project site is a component of this larger work. Additionally, the City of Ashland is relocating their water treatment outfall at the project site from Ashland Creek to Bear Creek. This change will complement the work proposed herein by reducing summer water temperatures in lower Ashland Creek. Project partners at this site include TFT, the City of Ashland and Ashland Parks and Recreation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The stream supports habitat important to ESA-listed coho and is one of the few cool water streams in the Bear Creek drainage.
- The property is public municipal land and designated as a natural area. Any resulting restoration work and associated ecological benefits has a high likelihood of being maintained for the long-term.
- Hydrologic and HEC-RAS modeling will be developed, which will support technically sound project design.
- The applicant is experienced in working within this stream system.

Concerns

- Bedload material transport and adequate gavels and cobbles may be limited due to upstream dams interrupting the transportation of this material. Gravel augmentation may need to be considered because gravel is needed for fish to return to this stream system.
- Based on the project scope of work and the geographic area to be covered, twelve weeks of contractor time seems high compared to similar projects.
- Existing pond complexes could be connected to create off-channel that would increase the impact of the resulting restoration project. The applicant is encouraged to incorporate these ponds into the final design.

Concluding Analysis

The project will build on of other restoration efforts in the upper Bear Creek watershed area. The design approach is reasonable and has a likelihood of resulting in meaningful restoration actions that will be maintained for the long-term and support ESA-listed coho.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,658

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2051-17448

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Big Tom Folley Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: Elk Creek WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $48,558

Total Cost: $67,123

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Big Tom Folley Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan will develop a comprehensive restoration action plan for the Big Tom Folley sixth-field subwatershed, located approximately 8 miles west of Drain in the Elk Creek (Middle Umpqua) watershed. The plan will be based on the analysis of reach-scale habitat data collected by ODFW (1993), and data collected by the Elk Creek Watershed Council in the summer of 2019, using a "modified rapid bioassessment" survey protocol compatible with the ODFW Aquatic Inventory protocols. [See Uploads: Elk Creek Modified Rapid Bioassessment Protocols (Chart)] This data has now been entered into a GIS database that can be queried to identify reach-scale limiting factors for habitat parameters supporting juvenile coho survival. (Cascade Environmental, August 2018).ODFW has developed a model (HabRate), based on specific ODFW habitat benchmarks, that assesses the quality of stream habitat contributing to coho survival at the reach scale. Using this model, reaches within the Big Tom Folley subwatershed will be analyzed to identify those specific habitat factors that are limiting coho production, and the restoration plan will include specific, quantifiable objectives for improving those parameters to meet ODFW-desired benchmarks. [See Uploads: ODFW Aquatic Inventory Benchmarks.]In the future, the Big Tom Folley data can be used to document the effectiveness of any restoration projects that may be implemented in the watershed. Since restoration objectives are defined in terms of specific habitat parameters important for coho survival, the data from post-project surveys can show the changes in those parameters over time, and thus the effectiveness of the project to achieve its goals.Most of the Big Tom Folley watershed is owned by BLM and Seneca Jones Timber. BLM has implemented projects on their lands, and Seneca has agreed to support restoration actions that are consistent with their land management goals.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The scope of work is narrowed down from the previous application submission to focus on Big Tom Folley Creek.
- The project foot print includes areas containing ESA-listed coho critical habitat, and the work has potential for increasing the knowledge about habitat conditions and fish distribution.
- The applicant has the capacity to undertake the project and this work builds on previous rapid bio assessment efforts.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the work will lead to meaningful restoration efforts.
- A memo depicting the suite of restoration tools that may be used in this stream system would help illustrate anticipated restoration approaches and provide information needed to understand technical soundness of the design approach.
- A letter of support for the project from the landowner is needed to indicate their commitment to the work.
- BLM RAC funds are identified as pending project match, but the RAC has not met in three years making it unclear how the funds are tied to this effort.
- It is not clear if BLM has been notified about the project.
- There may be some duplication of effort based on proposed surveys and previous survey work.
- The project focuses primarily on instream habitat issues while areas with water quality concerns do not appear to be prioritized.
- The budget has lump sums, which makes it difficult to determine whether costs align with the work necessary to accomplish the project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

The project will provide important habitat and fish distribution data that could inform actions that restore instream habitats important to ESA-listed coho. The focus on instream habitat without fully incorporating water quality related issues reduces the likelihood for the project deliverables to incorporate all the limiting factors impacting the health of the stream.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2052-17463

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Project Design For Habitat Improvement in Large Streams

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $74,648

Total Cost: $93,862

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

In the Coos basin, the Williams River is the largest tributary to the South Fork Coos River, providing important spawning and rearing habitat to fall chinook, coho, steelhead, and other important aquatic species (Attachment 1). The Williams subbasin has been heavily impacted by past management practices, degrading instream habitat and water quality in the mainstem Williams River. The lower Williams River is a critical distribution and rearing reach connecting the South Fork Coos River to many high quality spawning habitats located in tributary streams of the Williams River, such as Cedar Creek. Many juvenile fish leave these tributaries to look for high quality rearing habitat such as high velocity refugia and habitat cover which unfortunately is very limited throughout the lower Williams River. To improve this critical rearing habitat, Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) proposes to design and install instream wood structures in the 4 miles of the lower Williams River below the Cedar Creek confluence. While CoosWA has been successful in developing and installing constructed log jams to increase complexity in medium-sized streams, the lower Williams River is a larger, more powerful stream than our traditional log jams were designed to withstand. Through this Technical Assistance project, CoosWA, BLM, and ODFW propose to conduct a hydraulic analysis and collaborate with other groups throughout the region with large stream experience to develop instream structures for large streams. Through this regional collaboration, CoosWA and its partners are looking to build upon lessons learned and best management practices that have been experienced and utilized throughout the region for wood in large river systems. OWEB funds will cover project management, travel, supplies, contracted services, and indirect costs. BLM and ODFW are providing in-kind technical assistance, and the BLM RAC has provided cash match for project management, travel, and indirect costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal presents a unique opportunity and describes an innovative approach to apply instream habitat restoration to a larger stream system. The results could inform other restoration efforts in the state.
- The conversation with landowners on the restoration approaches, likelihood of project success, and possible impacts to infrastructure will be informed by the products from this technical assistance work.

- The proposed approach is based on previous experience and lessons learned working in other stream systems within the watershed.
- NRCS modeling will be utilized to help develop technical assistance products.
- The project reach is listed for water temperature, and resulting restoration efforts could help reduce stream temperatures.
- The applicant has established a proven track record in restoring smaller scale streams and this effort will increase their knowledge in how to approach restoration in larger streams.
- The project has partner support as evidencd by the letters of support and match contributions.

Concerns

- ODFW habitat benchmarks apply to streams with water levels that are wadeable and this will not apply well to this area because many sections are deeper and not considered wadeble.

Concluding Analysis

The project partners have spent a great deal of effort in assessing the Williams River and implementing restoration work. The proposed technical assistance offers an innovative opportunity to learn potential design approaches for placing large wood structure in a large stream system that is currently simplified and lacks habitat complexity. The project is consistent with the draft Coho Strategic Action Plan that is being developed for the Coos River system, and the resulting work products have a high likelihood of resulting in implementable restoration actions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,648

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$74,648

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2053-17464

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. . 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/RCPP) 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 Tide Gate 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 are 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 agencies are engaging early in the process with the landowners which will help with plan and design development and permitting.

- 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. These wetland complexes provide important 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 during the winter months so that coho can access Units 1 and 3. The proposed design will enhance fish access to habitat in these two units by replacing existing gated culverts with slide gates. It will also provide additional channel systems for fish to access as well as improve their ability to move back to the main stem as winter flows recede.
- NRCS has completed preliminary work to explore water quality projects with landowners through the EQIP program.

Concerns

- The proposal puts a great deal of focus on the Winter Lake Project as a whole, which makes it hard to determine the ecological uplift that can be expected from the resulting restoration work that will occur in these units managed primarily for agricultural production.
- It is unclear if the proposed grass-lined channels will be grazed during summer months; if so, this could reduce water quality benefits. The resulting project will likely improve habitat conditions from the current state. However, ecological uplift will be limited by the continued land management for primarily agricultural production, including grass and livestock.
- Fencing and planting along channels need to be incorporated as part of the work. It is not clear whether planting on one side of the channel will be a potential option if channel dredging still needs to occur.
- Only one property in the proposed project area has a grazing management plan. Developing additional grazing and/or irrigation management plans would benefit both the producers and water quality by minimizing runoff of manure and fertilizers into the system.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and project partners have continued to refine the proposal for a design approach that will improve the channel system on agricultural lands found within Units 1 and 3 of the larger China Camp Creek and Winter Lake restoration project. These two units have water levels that are currently operated by a Water Management Plan designed to take into account that coho will 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 currently in a monitoring phase. The project builds on momentum in the basin and coast-wide to improve fish access through tide gate infrastructure and restore the habitat behind them. The application mixes the expected benefits from the resulting restoration that will occur through this planning effort with the overall Winter Lake restoration effort. Focusing the application on the specific anticipated benefits from restoration that will occur within the confines of the Unit 1 and 3 land management uses as a result of this technical assistance project is needed to clarify the expected outcomes of the future restoration work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,946

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2054-17484

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: $65,118

Total Cost: $99,104

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The South Fork Coos River is the largest river draining to Coos Bay. It is an important artery between the uplands habitat and the estuary. This section of river (RM 15 to RM 36) and its tributaries support populations of ESA-listed coho salmon, Chinook and Chum salmon, steelhead, trout and lamprey. The project goals are to address the major limiting factors of the Coos Basin; water quality, summer and winter rearing, and barriers (OWEB 2007). We propose to assess a network of mixed ownership forest roads. 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. CoosWA has successfully used this approach to assess current conditions and have developed many restoration projects that have improved watershed conditions. 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 survey supplies. BLM-RAC funding will be sought to supplement assessment efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will survey 234 miles of road, which will wrap up the last of the road inventories in the watershed needed to collect data and identify high priority areas for road improvements.
- The extent of road miles to be surveyed is reasonable for the cost.
- The project is based on sound science, takes a watershed approach, and uses an established road survey methodology to identify sediment sources. The applicant has successfully utilized this approach in other watersheds.

- Water quality is a primary limiting factor for anadromous species within the project area and work to address sediment inputs from roads will help improve instream conditions.
- The project will identify and prioritize opportunities that address sediment sources from road crossings and fishing access areas, building on previous efforts that include road improvements, instream habitat restoration, and fish passage improvements located 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 completed.

Concerns

- No significant Concerns were identified in the review.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed assessment builds on upstream road assessments and restoration activities accomplished in other areas of the watershed. Restoration work resulting from this project can improve water quality by reducing sediment inputs from roads, which will benefit habitats important to ESA-listed coho and other salmon and trout species utilizing the system. 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 reinforces the effectiveness of the approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$65,118

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2055-17499
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Donaldson Creek Fish Passage Design
Applicant: Curry SWCD
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Curry
OWEB Request: $44,525
Total Cost: $77,411

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is on Donaldson Creek; a tributary to Willow Creek (Floras Creek watershed) that is located in northern Curry County near the town of Langlois. When Highway 101 was constructed in the early 20th century the downstream end of Donaldson Creek was filled, and the stream was diverted into Willow Creek via the Highway 101 roadside ditch. Over time Willow Creek downcut in response to hydrologic and morphologic changes in the watershed, which by the 1990's created approximately 13 feet of vertical drop within the 225 feet of roadside ditch channel. Most of that drop occurs within 75 feet of the Willow Creek confluence, where armoring of the Highway 101 roadfill created a haphazard series of boulder cascades that block fish passage into Donaldson Creek during most stages of discharge. The roadside ditch diversion, which is an abrupt 90-degree turn, is also a hydraulic dam on the lower Donaldson Creek channel that leads to chronic pasture flooding and secondary diversions that impair water quality and strand fish.Through this TA project the Curry SWCD will work with partners and contractors to (1) collect topographic, hydrologic, and archaeological data; (2) develop alternative conceptual stream channel designs that restore fish passage between Willow Creek and Donaldson Creek; (3) convene Stakeholders to review those designs and select a preferred alternative; (4) design the preferred alternative to ~60%-completion; (5) develop a livestock management and riparian revegetation plan; (6) develop a project implementation budget; and (7) apply for project permits. The resulting deliverable will be a 60%-complete project design that can be used to seek implementation funding, and secured permits for project implementation. Project partners include the landowner, the South Coast Watershed Council, the Coquille Indian Tribe, ODFW, ODOT, BLM, and ODA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Donaldson Creek provides critical habitat for ESA-listed coho.
- The application includes a detailed description of the project reach, as well as alternative routes for the new stream channel.
- There has been a great deal of work done with NRCS's EQIP program in the area, which has potential for leading to additional opportunities in the area.
- This project will build upon previous restoration work that occurred upstream from this project site.

- The applicant has engaged with multiple public agency partners early on in the planning process.

Concerns

- The application indicates fish are presence at the project site; however, there is no data provided to support this. Fish passage is likely limited by a natural drop that disconnects the stream corridor. Additional information about fish presence and distribution in the area within the context of the larger watershed is needed to understand how this creek can impact the amount of fish habitat potentially available for restoration.
- It is unclear whether private landowners located upstream and downstream of the project site are aware of and support this effort.
- Restoration options are limited due to constraints caused by Hwy.101. All alternatives for restoration will likely be expensive due to how Donaldson Creek flows in relation to the highway. The cost of a future restoration project will be high for the potential watershed health benefit.
- Photos of the stream reach and previous restoration work would provide helpful context for understanding stream conditions in the project area and potential restoration solutions that will be considered.

Concluding Analysis

Donaldson Creek is incised and unlike its former sinuous channel state. Restoration options at the site are constrained by Hwy.101. The resulting restoration efforts will likely be costly with uncertainty about the extent of ecological uplift that can be achieved from restoration. The system supports ESA-listed coho and increasing the habitat available to them is important. It will be important to get both upstream and downstream landowners on board with the project before it moves forward.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$44,525

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2056-17352

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Eel Creek Pacific Lamprey Ramp Effectiveness Monitoring 2020-2021

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $69,362

Total Cost: $111,034

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 members 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, The 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 (CTCLUSI) and supplement the ODFW’s Conservation Plan for Lampreys (CPL) with information on coastal lamprey.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes a clear need for information about these sensitive species that have cultural significance for the Tribes that are partners on the project.
- If successful, the monitoring project tasks will help the local partners implement the Tenmile Lake Lamprey Management Plan.
- This project will continue to increase understanding of lamprey barriers in the Eel Creek Basin and the effectiveness of the lamprey passage ramp at Eel Lake.
- The applicant will continue to follow established protocols that are consistent with previous phases of this monitoring project.

- The applicant participates in the Tenmile Lamprey Workgroup and works closely with the statewide lamprey coordinator at ODFW, which helps ensure that data are being applied in a meaningful manner.
- There is an appropriate mix of monitoring parameters that will assess passage timing and success at the lamprey structure and identify where the lamprey adults and juveniles are distributed above and below Eel Lake.
- The applicant proposes to implement actions identified in their outreach plan, which will ensure that data will be shared with a variety of audiences.
- The costs seem reasonable and the partners are contributing significant match to the project, which is reiterated in the letters of support.
- The objectives are clearly stated and the activities are appropriate to achieve the objectives within the timeline described in the application.
- The applicant has had good success completing previous work under OWEB monitoring grants and information has helped them adaptively manage the lamprey passage structure.
- The applicant fully addressed previous review team comments.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The description of the DNA collection component was vague; while this is not an OWEB funded task, it was challenging to understand how this fit into the overall monitoring effort.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Update project completion reporting timing to occur after monitoring is completed to allow time for analysis of all monitoring data.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project employs a watershed approach to understand how the entire system supports lamprey, including an investigation into habitat access, spawning, and rearing.
- A group of committed partners, including local Tribes, support the project as evidenced by match, active engagement in activities, and letters of support.
- The proposal objectives are clear and reasonable for the work and project schedule proposed.
- An outreach component is included in the project that was successfully implemented in previous monitoring work.
- The monitoring results will be used to inform future lamprey passage and restoration projects.

Concerns

- There has been a low success rate with collecting the radio tags due to adult fish mortality after spawning and predation on their carcasses.

- Future applications could be strengthened with the inclusion of a better summary of results from previous efforts.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on successful partnerships and efforts to monitor and better understand lamprey usage within the Eel Lake system. The Tenmile Lakes Basin 30 Year Pacific Lamprey Management Plan recommends the actions that will be implemented with this project. The applicant proposes to increase the number of tags to help increase tracking and collection success rates. The information learned will guide future restoration work and increase the knowledge and understanding of how lamprey use the Eel Lake watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$69,362

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$69,362

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2057-17374

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Lower Coquille Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $166,890

Total Cost: $601,840

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Coquille Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring Project (Project) will examine the effectiveness of two tidegate replacements and habitat restoration projects in the Coquille River (Coquille/Coos County). The project areas were historically freshwater tidal wetlands that were cleared, diked and drained for agricultural use, a fate typical of over-winter rearing habitat in the Coquille. The depletion of slow-water refugia has been identified as the primary limiting factor affecting the recovery of Oregon Coast coho. For this reason, tidegate replacements are currently ongoing across the coast but it is unclear how juvenile coho respond to the improved access and habitat enhanced behind upgraded tidegates. The proposed Project is part of CoqWA's overarching Lower Coquille Tidegate and Fish Passage Monitoring Program. The goal of this Program is to work collaboratively to examine the functionality of individual tidegate projects and how their compounded uplift promotes recovery of the Oregon Coast ESU coho population. The primary goal for the Project is to improve our understanding of how juvenile coho respond to the varied sizes and complexities of new tidegates and the restored habitat. Additionally, we aim to inform adaptive management of the sites and provide critical information to maximize the effectiveness of future tidegate replacement and habitat enhancement projects. The goals will be achieved through three years of water quality sampling, fish sampling and Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tagging at the two project areas (located near river mile 13) and fish sampling and tagging in the Lower Coquille River (funded by a pending NOAA grant). Salmonid movement will be tracked by the installation of PIT antenna arrays on the two MTR tidegates at the two project sites. We intend to widely share results via written reports and through in-person presentations. Project Partners: landowners, ODFW (Charleston, Dalles Research Station, REDD Group) and DEQ.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes a clear need to inform Oregon Coast Coho recovery actions and a priority question in the Coquille Indian Tribes' restoration plan related to juvenile fish use of tidal areas where tide gates are present.
- The fish monitoring approach and methods proposed are suitable for the monitoring questions posed in the application.
- The applicant is being proactive in expanding the monitoring effort given the variety of tide gate restoration projects that were recently completed and in close proximity to each other in the Lower Coquille River.

- The applicant plans to share the datasets with the various interested agencies and stakeholders.
- There is a detailed description about how several ODFW offices with specific expertise will be assisting the applicant in implementing the project.
- The budget provided a detailed break-down of the costs and there is a considerable amount of match being contributed to the project.
- The objectives are clearly stated and the activities proposed will help achieve the objectives.
- The applicant has a good track record implementing monitoring at Winter Lake.
- The maps and additional documents that were uploaded to the application were helpful in understanding the details in this relatively complex monitoring application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The water quality and level monitoring methods and data management steps were poorly described, although the uploaded materials provided additional detail that was helpful.
- The success of this project hinges on juvenile fish accessing the floodplain through the tide gate structures (although information about if juvenile fish do not pass the tide gates will be important information to know also, in the event that occurs).
- The application lacked letters of support to understand the interest local partners have in this monitoring information.
- The timeline did not include the water quality and water level monitoring, yet it is mentioned in the narrative part of the application.
- The application did not include an objective about or time in the timeline to develop the monitoring plan, despite this task being mentioned earlier in the application.
- There are several moving pieces of this monitoring project that are already in motion with existing funding, and other aspects of the monitoring for which the applicant is seeking funding to collect more data. The application describes the complexity of the project, but it is not clear what funding is being used for which monitoring.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Include in the schedule/timeline, the deployment and operation of the water quality and level loggers and explain why these data are only being collected October to June each year.

• Coordinate with DEQ early in the project to complete an amendment to the SAP.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There has been a great deal of momentum with replacing tide gates and restoring areas located behind them to support access to and creation of habitats critical for over-wintering survival of ESA-listed coho juveniles. Understanding the effectiveness of this work and various approaches is critical to informing future design and funding decisions.

- There is significant interest and commitment for the project as evidenced by the letters of support and technical contributions made to the effort.
- The applicant and partners have shown the ability to successfully design and implement monitoring projects, which is demonstrated by providing reports and findings of monitoring results.
- The proposal builds on the monitoring efforts undertaken by the applicant and partners at the China Camp Creek tide gate replacement and the Winter Lake habitat restoration sites.
- While the application has a lot of components, the objectives are reasonable and should be achievable within the time frames proposed.
- There is a critical need for tide gate effectiveness monitoring overall, and the proposed work is timely given the need to inform local and state level planning efforts and future replacement tide gate projects throughout the Oregon coast.

Concerns

- A great deal of different monitoring activities are proposed that will collect a lot of data. However, it is unclear how each component is connected and will work together to answer the proposed monitoring questions, or whether the right questions are being asked. More information on lessons learned by work completed to date from Winter Lake and how it is incorporated into this proposal would provide helpful context for understanding the monitoring approach.
- It is unclear whether the Sampling Analysis Plan provided is finalized because there is no indication it has been approved by DEQ.
- When measuring tidal stage, the applicant should consider adding a physical measurement to verify water velocity.

Concluding Analysis

Understanding and documenting the effectiveness of tide gate replacements and habitat restoration projects is an important need in light of the current emphasis on and coordination efforts around addressing aging tide gate infrastructure. The applicant has established a proven track record with this type of monitoring work, and has the resources and partner support to ensure the project is likely to succeed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

$166,890

Review Team Conditions

The application timeline will be updated to include the deployment and operation of the water quality and

level loggers and will provide additional detail to explain why these data are only being collected October to June each year. The applicant will coordinate with DEQ early in the project to complete an amendment to the SAP.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$166,890

Staff Conditions

The application timeline will be updated to include the deployment and operation of the water quality and level loggers and will provide additional detail to explain why these data are only being collected October to June each year. The applicant will coordinate with DEQ early in the project to complete an amendment to the SAP.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2058-17427

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Sullivan Gulch Bottomlands Monitoring for Current Functions and Restoration Effectiveness

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Curry

OWEB Request: $23,837

Total Cost: $31,118

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This proposal is for conducting a comprehensive monitoring effort to evaluate the effectiveness of The Sullivan Gulch Bottomlands Restoration Project that was completed in 2015. This project created and enhanced wetland and side channel habitat within the lower 40 acres of Sullivan Gulch; a subwatershed of the Sixes River that drains into the Sixes River estuary. The project's goals were to restore fish passage through the area, create and enhance overwintering rearing habitat for coho salmon, and create and enhance habitat for other native fish species, migratory birds, and other wildlife within the project area. Some monitoring efforts were initially conducted, but a more comprehensive understanding of project effectiveness and current functions has been identified as a need by both the South Coast Estuaries Partnership (SCEP) and the Curry Watersheds Partnership's (CWP) Watershed Monitoring Program.This project will conduct a suite of monitoring efforts to evaluate how the site is functioning in relation to the initial project goals, inform the SCEP on a number of ecological metrics that have been identified as indicators of overall watershed health, and aid the CWP Watershed Monitoring Program in developing and finalizing a long-term, strategic monitoring plan. The monitoring efforts that will be carried out are: a benthic macroinvertebrate survey of the entire site, continuous summer water temperature monitoring, continuous water level monitoring, riparian tree and herbacious wetland vegetation surveys, and a fish species survey. The CWP will conduct these monitoring efforts in collaboration with CASM Environmental, LLC and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Results will be presented to all partners associated with the CWP and SCEP, and made available to the general public through multiple CWP publications.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes a clear monitoring need to inform restoration actions intended to benefit coastal coho.
- This monitoring project was identified through a prioritization process aiming to develop a refined monitoring approach for restoration actions they plan to implement in the future.
- The applicant is taking a pilot approach to determine if they have selected the appropriate metrics to track changes associated with floodplain restoration.
- The OPMT appreciated that this project will monitor a restoration site five years after implementation.

- The application had a good description of and citations for the water quality, vegetation and macroinvertebrate monitoring protocols they plan to follow.
- The application had a good description of how the data will be managed, analyzed and reported.
- The applicant is working with an experienced contractor to implement the macroinvertebrate monitoring, and is coordinating with ODFW to implement the fish monitoring.
- The application describes the plan to submit the macroinvertebrate and water temperature data to DEQ and prepare a final technical report.
- The applicant plans to present and share the final report with local partners and post it on their website.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Collecting the macroinvertebrate data in a tidally influenced area could be challenging, and interpreting the findings may be difficult as the majority of macroinvertebrate tolerance values are in riverine systems. The data may not provide information on effectiveness of the restoration project.
- This project will generate site-specific information, yet the application did not describe how the information learned from this project will inform adaptive management of this site and/or implementation of future restoration actions in other locations.
- The application monitoring objectives did not consistently have a clear connection with the restoration objectives. The objectives focus on data collection rather than the questions to be answered.
- The application describes one of the restoration objectives as improving winter rearing habitat, yet the proposed fish monitoring will occur during the summer. Summer fish monitoring will show if coho, for example, are rearing there but it will not show if the fish are using the habitat as overwinter refuge from higher mainstem velocities.
- Continuous water temperature data will provide status of temperatures at the chosen site. This information may or may not identify areas of cold water depending on site selection. Specific identification of cold water refugia may require more intense spatial coverage of loggers or a more exploratory approach that expands coverage of spatial heterogeneity if cold water refugia occur at small scales.
- It was not clear why water level and water temperature monitoring was limited to May to October, given that restoration was to improve winter conditions and connectivity.
- The timeline is ambitious and may need more time to analyze all the data and finish the report as proposed.
- It was not clear what Swanson Ecological will be doing to contribute match to the project, as their role was not described in the Project Management section of the application.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring activities are clearly described. Tying the surveys with the stage height is a sound approach.
- Since the area is 303(d) listed for water temperature, understanding how restoration in the area influences water quality is important.
- There is pre-project vegetation information that will be used as baseline for this effort.
- Involving NRCS and OSU Extension demonstrates the cultivation of effective partnerships.

Concerns

- The proposed data collection may not align well with the original restoration objectives, which will makes evaluating the effectiveness of the original restoration project more difficult. It is unclear how summer habitat monitoring will inform the effectiveness of accomplishing the restoration project objectives tied to over-wintering rearing habitat.
- The fish population data collected with hoop traps cannot effectively be compared with electroshocking data.
- There is no pre-project macroinvertebrate data; without this baseline information it will be difficult to identify what changes occurred in the types and population sizes of the macroinvertebrate community.
- It is unclear how this data from the project will be used to inform future restoration work.

Concluding Analysis

There has not been a great deal of restoration in smaller estuary areas in Southern Oregon as compared to the middle and Northern portions of the Oregon Coast. This elevates the need for monitoring restoration work to inform future restoration efforts in this area. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encourage to provide information on the connection between the monitoring activities to their timing to the original restoration projects goals, and how the work will inform future restoration and management activities.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2059-17438

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2020-21

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $75,399

Total Cost: $112,046

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This is a continuation of a successful long-term project which began in 1998 that monitors summer stream flow and stream temperature at sites across the Umpqua Basin in Douglas County (see map). Flow measurements, taken at high priority sites, are used to maintain instream water rights (required minimum flows) for aquatic resource protection and provide data of interest to stakeholders.Summer stream temperature measurements at five representative sites provide a long-term data set used by aquatic specialists in the basin to normalize for annual variability in stream temperatures for land management projects, burned area evaluations, and shorter-term baseline monitoring with small data sets. The trend analysis of this data, in partnership with the DEQ, is integral to understanding the effects of climate change on streams in the basin. The addition of North Umpqua temperature Comparison Sites (from long-term BLM and USFS sites) expands the use of the Reference Temperature data into that subbasin which is of great interest to partners.The data and analyses from previous work on this project has been distributed and presented orally to natural resource professionals working in the basin. They have been widely used by both PUR and partners (Douglas County, ODFW, OWRD, DEQ, BLM, and USFS) as well as by the City of Oakland, PacifiCorp, and NOAA Fisheries and are being funded in part by the North Umpqua Foundation. In addition, they would continue to be used for corroborating regional timing and trends of maximum stream temperatures; managing in-stream water rights; developing fishing regulations during low-flow periods; supporting effectiveness monitoring; investigating climate change impacts; evaluating water allocation applications; implementing TMDLs; and developing 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.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The monitoring need is clear and has been identified as a priority through several watershed assessments.
- The information collected will be valuable to many agencies responsible for improving public understanding of salmonid viability and limiting factors.
- The proposed monitoring will provide critical information relevant to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and TMDLs.
- Information from the project will be used to monitor and regulate for instream water rights to maintain instream flows.

- The plan to include data in the North Fork Umpqua would add value to the data compilation and analyses proposed.
- The application cites the correct stream flow measurement and follows DEQ methods for water temperature monitoring.
- The plans for analysis are thorough, and provides context about how the data may be used by partner agencies and other interested groups.
- This project is a continuation of previous OWEB funded monitoring effort and covers a broad area across the Umpqua Basin.
- The application had numerous letters of support demonstrating a wide interest in the data and how the data will help meet multiple agencies' needs.
- The costs are reasonable and there is good match contribution being provided by a variety of local, state and federal agencies.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe how the applicant will determine if and how variations in stream temperature are related to land use/anthropogenic factors.
- The application did not describe how the data can be used by PUR to target restoration or management actions.
- The OPMT discussed the limitations of discrete flow measurements, as these data will not document the lowest flows from year to year.
- The application was unclear if the grantee's contractor would be performing the water temperature trend analysis in consultation with DEQ or if DEQ is doing the analysis.
- The application would have benefitted from uploading examples of past data summaries to illustrate products from previous monitoring grants.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Future applications should provide links to or upload examples of previous reports.

• Coordinate with DEQ to clarify what analysis that agency will do and what the grantee will need to do to complete this task as proposed in the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project continues a successful, ongoing monitoring effort that evaluates summer stream flows and water temperature. This effort has been implemented by a partnership between the applicant, OWRD, and Douglas County.
- The monitoring work focuses on identified priority basins with limited water availability.
- The work supports and builds on a long-term data set.
- The protocol for flow measurement was developed working with OWRD.

- The project will provide valuable flow information, especially during critical low flow periods.
- There is a plan to work with DEQ to perform trend analysis and share the long-term dataset with the broader restoration community.
- The project is technically sound, and will provide high benefit for the cost.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity due to some redundancy of information provided.
- It is uncertain how the information developed from the project will be used to inform future restoration work.
- Additional information on how the proposed work is related to the larger stream temperature and water quality monitoring effort conducted by the applicant would provide helpful context for understanding the need for the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is a continuation of a successful program that originated in 1998 to collect baseline flow data and temperatures in high priority basins. The information collected is useful to project partners and supports a variety of activities, including regulating instream water rights to protect aquatic resources, modeling water supply and demand, and providing flow and temperature data for stakeholders and the community at large.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$75,399

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2060-17472

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Smith River ARIS Anadromous Salmonid Monitoring

Applicant: Smith River WC

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $87,932

Total Cost: $210,227

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project location is in Douglas County on the main-stem Smith River, 20 miles east of Reedsport, Oregon. The total monitoring area of the project encompasses 201 miles of Coho bearing stream, including the Upper Smith River (5th field HUC), and the sub-basins of the West Fork Smith River (6th field HUC), Vincent Creek (6th field HUC), and 40% of Spencer-Johnson Creek (6th field HUC). SRWC and Trout Unlimited have implemented the use of an Adaptive Resolution Imaging Sonar (ARIS) camera to estimate ESA listed Oregon Coast Coho, fall Chinook, and winter steelhead run abundances. In conjunction with ARIS monitoring, summer snorkel surveys will be conducted throughout each of the major streams within the monitoring area to provide juvenile production estimates. Run abundances enumerated by ARIS coupled with juvenile salmonid snorkel survey data will fill population data gaps and provide a baseline for anadromous salmonid populations in the watershed. Monitoring of these populations will provide SRWC with insight to population-level responses to in-stream enhancement projects occurring throughout the basin. SRWC and others have implemented these projects in 75.35 stream miles above the monitoring site to mitigate the impacts of past land-use practices common on the Oregon coast. 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 two snorkel surveyors over a 2 month period each season and one technician to collect and record ARIS data. Hired technician will also assist TU in maintaining and repairing equipment.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The monitoring data that will be collected will improve understanding of anadromous fish populations in the Smith River.
- The application of this technology is appropriate for the proposed monitoring area and has the potential to be useful given the different species present in the Smith River (particularly steelhead).
- The application had a good description of the protocol to be followed for processing the sonar images to estimate run size.
- The addition of the surveys at Smith River Falls will help process the sonar images during the chinook and coho runs to better understand the proportion of fish migrating upstream.
- The application had good support letters that helped describe the level of interest in the data that is being collected and the funding that is being contributed to the project by partners.

- The budget is reasonable and has significant match.
- The applicant included information in the application to address previous review team comments.
- The applicant has operated the sonar equipment at the site for one year and has experience processing the imagery. This experience should help them successfully continue to collect and process the date for the time period proposed in the application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The objectives described in the application focus on data collection and were not connected to the goals of establishing baseline to determine restoration effectiveness at a landscape scale.
- A majority of the activities associated with the objectives lacked detail on what would be done to implement the objective.
- Describing the effects of tide gate restoration may be challenging given that other restoration actions will be implemented in the watershed concurrently.
- The application did not include time in the timeline or an objective to develop the monitoring plan described earlier in the application.
- The application lacked details on the monitoring methods that will be used at the Smith River Falls to estimate what proportion of the run is chinook vs. coho.
- The application lacked detail about how the Smith River Falls count and snorkel survey data will be managed.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The data collected can help inform restoration practitioners and fishery managers on the fisheries population and possible response to restoration efforts.
- This work will augment other adult and juvenile salmonid sampling efforts in the basin. Life cycle monitoring has been occurring since 1998.
- The data collected will be stored and backed-up regularly; and this information will be made available to agencies and researchers. The effort utilizes state of the art video technology that has been purchased and utilized in the field successfully. Project staff are trained to use the equipment and analyze the data collected.
- The project costs appear reasonable for the proposed work.
- Previous review comments are addressed by adding a juvenile monitoring component.

Concerns

- The project covers a large area with a small amount of staff. The Smith River is a large basin and it

will take a great deal of time and capacity to do the survey, trapping, and video review.

- There is not enough information in the application to understand the survey design, and it is not clear whether ODFW was involved in developing the design.
- Ocean conditions are a key variable impacting salmonid productivity. This will require a very long-term commitment to collect enough data that can establish a sound trend in fish populations, and may not be the best approach to evaluate the effectiveness of habitat restoration. Additionally, fish may not be the best indicator for habitat restoration because there are too many variables affecting their populations.
- The project objectives describe data collection that is not aligned with achieving the goals of establishing baseline data to determine restoration effectiveness at a landscape scale. The data will not likely be able to inform effectiveness of restoration because it is evaluating the fish population, which is at the wrong scale.

Concluding Analysis

The approach proposed to monitor returning adults has merit and employs technology that can track adults and water flow conditions that cannot be done with traditional survey methods. This could prove cost-effective and useful in understanding the timing of fish returns, as well as fish numbers of returning adults. However, using adult fish data at one site to determine the effectiveness of habitat restoration is risky and the information obtained is unlikely to inform future restoration because the data will be for a fish population scale instead of the scale for the completed watershed restoration.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2061-17477

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Coho Life History and Migrations in Tide Gated Lowland Coastal Streams 2020-2022

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $304,509

Total Cost: $432,615

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This proposal refines long-term monitoring that explicitly examines coho salmon abundance, survival, life histories, habitat use and migrations in Palouse and Willanch Creek, two tide gated lowland streams in the Coos Bay estuary. Tidal ecotone habitats have been identified as critical for the resiliency and recovery of Coos River and Oregon Coastal coho but largely remain highly altered and degraded landscapes. These conditions limit connectivity to off-channel winter refuge habitat for multiple cohorts of juvenile salmon from both upstream natal habitats and across HUC 8 metapopulations that migrate through estuaries. It is assumed that tidal habitats provide resiliency for highly adaptive anadromous species. This project seeks to qualify and quantify the ecological benefits that tidal restoration provides. CoosWA utilizes ODFW Life Cycle Monitoring survey and sampling protocols, seine sampling across habitat types, and PIT mark recapture telemetry tools. The combination of continuous and instantaneous data, including environmental variables, increases statistical power for robust analysis. This projects long term dataset and other regional efforts can be analyzed at even greater spatiotemporal scale. Flexible time-series database and analysis software can leverage multiple data sources to elucidate the intrinsic potential of the tidal zone. Monitoring fish passage at tide gates is a key regulatory uncertainty for all stakeholders. Models of coho life histories and migrations will inform management and regulatory expectations for tidal restoration projects of all scales. ODFW, OSU, USFS, U of O OMIB, UCAN-AmeriCorps, SWOCC, local high schools, volunteers and landowners partner with Coos Watershed Association to provide property access, equipment, technical assistance, and survey effort to implement the proposed objectives. OWEB funds will be used to support technical and management personnel and provide necessary materials and equipment.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application proposes to continue an ongoing monitoring project that leverages a long-term data set.
- The application's focus on tide gates and the muted tide regulator (MTR) to improve fish passage is important and timely to understand cost-benefits with upgrading tide gates given the attention this topic has been receiving along the Oregon coast.
- This project will provide information about coho productivity in tide gated systems on the mid-south coast, which are not monitored by ODFW.

- The sharing of data with a variety of partners and how it has been utilized, referenced, and integrated into understanding the complexity of the tidal zone is extremely valuable.
- The inclusion of the predator piece was interesting and potentially very useful. It is possible that predators can learn to exploit pulses of fish that may occur during the passage windows provided by tide gates.
- The applicant uploaded a variety of letters of support that demonstrate interest in the data and willingness to assist in analyzing the data.
- The applicant is working with a variety of partners, including researchers and the Coquille Watershed Association, to ensure communication across complementary monitoring efforts and interests.
- The applicant has experience collecting and reporting data using established protocols.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Although the monitoring need is clear, the problem/issue was assessed previously and produced results that showed no clear benefit of tidal restoration on salmon populations. It is unclear how this project will differ in order to address information gaps other than collecting additional baseline data.
- The OPMT questioned why a monitoring plan for this project does not already exist, given previous work. While development of a monitoring plan is noted in the application, the project schedule does not indicate the time needed to develop the monitoring plan and the budget does not include costs for this.
- The objectives are not clearly stated and often contain several sub-objectives within each main objective. They are difficult to follow, and contain details that are unrelated. Project activities are sometimes incorporated into the objective statements, causing confusion as to what exactly is trying to be accomplished.
- The monitoring methods were not fully explained and/or cited and an inconsistent amount of detail in the application was provided.
- The application was inconsistent regarding the level of detail provided about how different data sets will be managed, analyzed and reported in a comprehensive manner. Given the immense amount of data and the complex analyses involved, which likely will require results from one analysis to be incorporated into other analyses. Greater detail should have been provided to ensure that the transfer of data from step-to-step and person-to-person is managed appropriately.
- There is no mention of sharing water quality data with DEQ.
- The project schedule timeline does not describe when data analysis occurs or when a final report would be completed.
- The applicant has a mixed track record given that previous reports for related projects have lacked the complex analyses required to successfully meet their defined monitoring objectives.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to ensure a Sampling and Analysis Plan covers all of the water quality monitoring and includes a clear plan to submit data to DEQ.

• Require progress milestones to report on the development of a monitoring plan at the beginning of the grant period and to ensure analytical procedures are in place to meet the objectives proposed in the application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Strong relationships and commitments are built to support this project as evidenced from the letters of support by technical experts from partnering groups.
- Qualified technical experts will assist with reporting and data analysis.
- The monitoring work provides valuable information on coho life histories, and further value will be provided by the addition of looking at predation at tide gates.
- The project addresses a clear need for collecting monitoring information on how tide gates impact fish access to habitat and coho life histories. Examining the impacts of tide gates and looking at the effectiveness of restoration approaches is a critical need, especially as tide gates up and down the Oregon coast are near the end of their functionality.
- The work builds on previous coho life cycle monitoring efforts successfully undertaken by the applicant. The information collected from previous work is well distributed, has informed the development of the draft Coos Watershed Coho strategic Action Plan, and will be important to monitoring the success of the restoration work resulting from that planning work.

Concerns

- The application objectives are difficult to understand.
- The project area is largely a working landscape with various land uses and activities, including dredging, levees, and other impacts on channel morphology. It is not clear whether consideration of these factors will be incorporated into the monitoring project.
- The benefit of the investment for the cost is difficult to determine. The costs seem high for the product deliverables, especially with the amount of historic life cycle information that has already been collected.

Concluding Analysis

The impacts of tide gates on fish access to habitat and the effectiveness of tide gate replacements with more fish friendly devices is critical information needed by both local and statewide efforts to make the best management decisions that address aging tide gate infrastructure. The applicant has built a long-term dataset in their ongoing efforts to monitor coho life cycles in estuary tributaries affected by tide gates. This proposal will continue this work and increase the understanding around tide gates and their impacts on fish usage of estuarine areas.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$304,509

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$304,509

Staff Conditions

Prior to the first fund request the Grantee will coordinate with DEQ to ensure a Sampling and Analysis Plan that covers all of the water quality monitoring and data submission to DEQ. Additionally, a progress report will be required that provides an update on the development of the monitoring plan that shows analytical procedures are in place to meet the project's objectives.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2062-17496

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Rogue Basin Partnership Fish Passage Monitoring Program

Applicant: Rogue Basin Partnership

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Josephine

OWEB Request: $172,718

Total Cost: $242,803

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) is proposing a monitoring plan for small dam removal projects in Rogue Basin tributaries including: Illinois River, Applegate River, Evans Creek and the Upper Rogue in Jackson and Josephine Counties. Monitoring efforts to quantify biological response to instream restoration projects are essential to determine reach-scale differences attributable to restoration action (project effectiveness), guide future restoration projects and provide accountability to funding sources at the state and federal level (Roni, P. 2003). While multiple dam removal projects have been implemented in the basin, more than 600 low-head barriers remain on tributary streams. It is important to build understanding of how these barriers and their removals impact the fisheries we are working to restore. Anecdotally, small dam removal improves fish abundance, but there is little systematically collected and analyzed data available to verify these observations. RBP's proposed biological monitoring plan will be implemented for multiple years pre and post project to evaluate the effectiveness of small dam removal projects on tributary streams based on fish use of the habitat made available by the removal of the barriers. To investigate an increase in use of habitat, the monitoring plan is designed to document changes in salmonid abundance, juvenile salmonid movement into the impact reach and Pacific lamprey colonization of habitat made accessible by dam removal. The responses to barrier removal by all fish species occurring in the project streams are of interest, however the study will report specifically on the response of coho salmon (O. kisutch), winter steelhead / rainbow trout (O. mykiss), cutthroat trout (O. clarkii), and Pacific lamprey (Entosphenus tridentatus). Project partners include: Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, Applegate Partnership and Watershed Council and Rogue River Watershed Council.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- Understanding improvements for fish populations in response to barrier removal is important, particularly in the Rogue Basin where the warmer, drier climate that fish may experience underscores the importance of fish needing to move freely to access needed habitats.
- The application has a good description of the monitoring protocols.
- The application has a good description of managing, analyzing and reporting the data and outlines a plan to use the data to plan future restoration actions.
- The applicant plans to share the data with ODFW and make it available using the Southern Oregon University library.

- The applicant is working with an experienced contractor to develop and implement their monitoring plan.
- The applicant acknowledges that monitoring should be modified depending upon the site's characteristics, and this is reflected in the detailed monitoring plan that was uploaded.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Quantifying the outcome of passage at partial barriers may be difficult, and will require large changes to have detectable results beyond interannual variability.
- The mark-recapture monitoring approach does not allow for assessment of downstream passage success where adults spawn upstream of a barrier and their offspring will be trying to migrate downstream.
- The application lacked a justification as to why the habitat surveys are needed.
- It was not clear if state and federal agencies were assisting with the technical approach for this monitoring project.
- It was unclear when Year 3 data would be reported when looking at the project schedule timeline.
- The application mentioned possible publication of the data in a peer reviewed journal, but this seems premature given most of the data appear to be collected prior to restoration being implemented.
- Some of the objectives were confusing (e.g., Objective 1 is to establish sites, but later in the application and in the uploads, it appears six sites have already been established).

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with ODFW District staff to a) discuss where electric shocking is occurring and assess the potential impact of this, and b) identify potential for leveraging any existing fish monitoring efforts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Rogue basin currently lacks fish monitoring data and there is a recognized need for this type of work. A great deal of investment and work has been undertaken to address fish passage barriers in the Rogue River watershed and the proposed monitoring could provide information on the effectiveness of this work.
- The application is organized well and clearly describes project activities associated with data analyzing and reporting.
- There is a plan for utilizing the data to inform future restoration actions.
- The proposal ties to projects that are still in development, which provides an opportunity for collecting baseline information prior to project implementation.

Concerns

- Involving agencies, such as ODFW, in developing monitoring would strengthen the project.

- The monitoring approach has some risks that could affect the likelihood of success for the project. For example, electroshocking during summer months can increase chances of juvenile mortality and the mark-recapture approach is subject to variables caused by spawning locations affecting the data.
- There may not be a clear need for the proposed monitoring effort if the hypotheses presented in the application can be answered with other studies, such as the one referenced in the application (p. 30-31 O'Neal et al. 2016).
- Tracking the morphological changes near the construction site, such as longevity of the fish passage solution to the barrier, performance at higher return interannual flows, and stream dynamism, may provide a better understanding for the effectiveness of completed restoration work.
- Seasonal barriers are difficult to compare to other barriers and monitoring them also pose difficulties because it will be challenging to collect comparable data.

Concluding Analysis

The Rogue River has seen a great deal of momentum and investment in removing fish passage barriers. However, there is a lack of fish monitoring needed to understand the effectiveness of the barrier removal work in improving fish access above the former dam sites. The proposal has merit but there needs to be additional coordination efforts with appropriate state and federal agencies to ensure the project and approach monitors parameters that have a likelihood of success in achieving the monitoring goals.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2063-17358
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Illinois Valley Collective Mobilization for Fire and Fish
Applicant: Illinois Valley SWCD
Region: Southwest Oregon
County: Josephine
OWEB Request: $130,529
Total Cost: $243,876

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Illinois Valley (IV) supports thriving human and ecological communities across a landscape struggling to recover from historic land management practices that adversely impacted watershed conditions. Project location is entirely within Josephine County and the Illinois River watershed; specifically, private lands within subwatersheds of West Fork Illinois, East Fork Illinois, Sucker, Althouse, and Deer creeks. This encompasses the rural hubs of Selma, Cave Junction, Takilma, and O'Brien. This project seeks to inspire landowners to address, on their properties, (1) dangerous forest conditions compounding catastrophic wildfire risk, and (2) riparian and instream habitat limitations. Partners will come together to: coordinate resources, develop and deliver a strategic marketing plan that will move private landowners to become "ready to act" on watershed health improvement projects, and establish a replicable model to maintain and expand successes. Project partners include: IV Conservation District (IVSWCD), IV Watershed Council (IVWC), IV Community Development Organization (IVCanDO), IV Fire District, City of Cave Junction, Josephine County, Oregon Department of Forestry, Grayback Forestry, Wilson Biochar, KS Wild, NRCS, USFS, and BLM. Each of these partners is already actively participating in the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG).Partners share a vision to restore watershed function and health for the benefit of all communities, by building relationships and cultivating a local culture of conservation and collaboration. The project has been community-driven from its onset. This style of grassroots leadership increases the efficacy in outreach and engagement. These values emphasize the approach of localized participatory process that permeates this proposal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The stakeholder engagement approach is a unique blending of wildfire and aquatic issues, and presents an opportunity for outreach to landowners about these two important resource concerns.
- Consolidating opportunities to engage landowners in addressing fire and aquatic habitat needs creates cost efficiencies by avoiding the need for multiple outreach efforts that approach these conversations separately. Utilizing one coordinator to move the engagement forward will also improve the effectiveness and consistency in delivering the message.
- The appropriate stakeholders and partners will be engaged at an appropriate geography and demographic.

- The project falls into an existing NRCS EQIP implementation strategy that has focus areas identified in the proposed stakeholder engagement project area. NRCS is poised to spend $1.75 million per year over 5 years on private non-industrial forest lands for brush management, woody residue treatment, forest stand improvement, and pruning. It is expected as people learn more about NRCS forestry work, messaging around NRCS's irrigation efficiency opportunities will also take root.

Concerns

- The proposed activities resemble a marketing strategy instead of implementing multidirectional communications directly with landowners, which may not be effective in leading to eligible restoration projects in a timely manner.
- It is difficult to determine the technical soundness of the proposed work because the project deliverables and outcomes are difficult to understand. The letters of support provide some clarity.

Concluding Analysis

The project could result in actions by landowners to address two important resource concerns in one engagement process. Project partners will coordinate to develop and implement a strategy that engages private landowners in developing actions to improve the health of their watershed. The proposal is timely and will build on efforts already underway by NRCS and other partners.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$130,529

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-2019 Fall Offering
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 220-2064-17397

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: South Fork Coquille Watershed Stakeholder Engagement

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Region: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $54,778

Total Cost: $69,357

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project will occur in the 283 sq. mi. South Fork Coquille watershed (SFCW). The watershed problems to be addressed are the limiting factors for anadromous fish species: lack of habitat quantity and quality and impaired water quality. Specifically, throughout the SFCW there is a lack of large woody debris, limited riparian vegetation, fish passage issues, high water temperatures and extensive sedimentation and erosion. Moreover, the mainstem South Fork Coquille River (SFCR) has an incised channel that prevents the SFCR from connecting to its floodplain at most flows, limiting fish access to these critical habitats. High velocity flows in the channel also exacerbate bank erosion, damaging workings lands and roads. These issues reduce the capacity of the watershed to produce healthy anadromous fish populations. Additionally, there is a critical need to address the community's concerns about the instability of the mainstem SFCR and disseminate the findings from hydrological studies completed as part of the SFCR Action Plan (SFAP). In doing so, we can identify voluntarily restoration actions we can take with landowners to address limiting factors and prevent damage to working lands. The engagement activities led by CoqWA and CoosSWCD will include: a needs assessment, development of an outreach plan, and implementation of the outreach plan including site visits, meetings, and creating informational materials. The outcomes of the engagement work will be community supported restoration and willing landowners to partner with on feasible restoration actions as identified in the SFAP that address the watershed problems. To effectively implement the SFAP, we have identified that stakeholder engagement is the necessary first step to successful, high priority, and lasting restoration actions in the watershed. Partners include the members of the CoqWA convened Technical Advisory Committee: CoosSWCD, BLM, USFS, NMFS, Coquille Indian Tribe, ODFW, DEQ and Coos/Curry CREP Tech.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The right mix of stakeholders will be engaged in an important watershed at a scale necessary to result in meaningful actions that address causes of watershed degradation.
- The project is guided by priorities and goals from the 2015 South Fork Coquille Action Plan and a technical advisory committee.

- Landowner recruitment will employ many techniques, including the coffee klatch approach that utilizes small community meetings hosted by a local land owner. This approach was highly successful in the local Coos River watershed.
- The project is timely because a TMDL is expected to be issued in late 2020. Water quality and watershed processes affecting water quality can be incorporated into the stakeholder conversation, which will facilitate integrating common goals into stakeholder engagement efforts.
- The applicant has developed a proven track record in working with stakeholders and landowners on developing watershed assessments and implementing actions identified.

Concerns

- Sediment and geomorphology are very important issues impacting the South Fork Coquille River, as evidenced by the extent of streambank erosion, that could have been highlighted more in the application. These will be important themes to message in engagement activities.
- It will be important for stakeholder engagement approaches to consider how to find restoration solutions that incorporate instream habitat improvements rather than focusing primarily on bank stabilization.

Concluding Analysis

Stakeholder engagement work will seek to secure community support for, as well as engage willing landowners in developing restoration activities. The project is built on a recently completed watershed assessment and action plan. The applicant's staff and partners have the skillsets needed to work with local landowners and the community to identify and move forward meaningful restoration actions that would improve the health of the South Fork Coquille River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount

$54,778

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$54,778

Staff Conditions

None

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Fall 2019 Applications



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Grant Types

- Restoration
- Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring

Previous Grants: 1998 - Spring 2019

- Restoration
- Land Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

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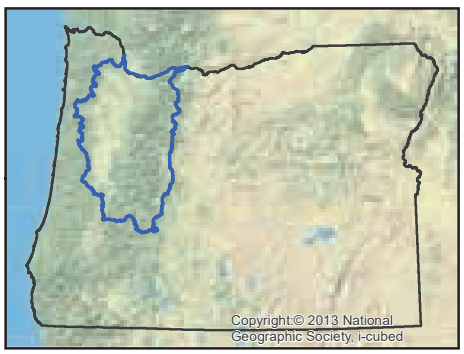


Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-3029	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Salyers Family Ranch: Oak Woodland Restoration Phase 1	Rare and degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland, savanna, and prairie habitats impacted by fire suppression, woody encroachment, dense canopy shade, and pressure from nonnative and invasive plant species will be restored over 102 acres on a property located near Creswell, Oregon.		276,675	Lane
220-3022	The Freshwater Trust	Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project	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.		337,600	Clackamas
220-3031	Luckiamute WC	Protecting the Best: Upper Luckiamute Mainstem Anchor Habitat Enhancement	Native fish habitat will be restored in the Upper Luckiamute River by placing log structures in the stream, planting conifers along the streamside, and thinning an overstocked Douglas fir plantation on private timberlands to address impacts from historic timber practices, such as logging to the water's edge and log drives.		134,886	Polk
220-3026	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Willamette Basin Oak Habitat Restoration Project	Best practices in restorative ecological forestry, including invasive plant species treatment, tree thinning, and native plant seeding, will be used to restore 372 acres of Willamette oak habitat, which are some of the most biologically diverse, yet imperiled ecosystems.		250,000	Polk
220-3030	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Connections in Restoration: Floodplain Enhancement at Deer Creek	Natural stream processes disrupted by past land management practices, such as berm placement and timber harvests, will be addressed on Deer Creek by restoring floodplain connection with the creek, which will maintain a diverse and resilient ecosystem for native fish and wildlife in the McKenzie River basin.		397,248	Lane
220-3033	Benton SWCD	J2E River to Ridge Diversity Project	A ridge to river approach will enhance native fish and wildlife habitats on a small woodlands operation in the Upper Luckiamute basin. Removing invasive plant species, increasing native plant diversity, and adding large wood to a stream will promote pollinator habitat, improve wetlands, and restore stream corridors.		239,915	Benton
220-3024	Pudding River WC	Scotts Mills Dam Removal	A dam located on Butte Creek, in the City of Scotts Mill, will be removed. This will facilitate steelhead and salmon fish passage to 13 stream miles of spawning and rearing habitat.		49,992	Marion
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					**1,686,316**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-3025	Yamhill SWCD	Willamette and Yamhill River Confluence Riparian Restoration	A buffer of native vegetation will be established on 28 acres at the confluence of the Yamhill with the Willamette River, which will provide water quality benefits.		186,111	Yamhill
220-3023	Institute for Applied Ecology	Plants for People Phase 3	Willamette prairie and oak savanna habitat will be restored at seven sites, and culturally significant plants will be made available for restoration. Partnerships between the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and public land managers will incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into restoration, increase tribal resources to grow plants, and facilitate tribal access to gathering sites.		234,441	Yamhill
220-3021	Willamette University Business Office	Wet Prairie Restoration at Willamette University at Zena	Oak woodland and savanna, prairie, and streamside habitats will be restored on a Willamette University conservation property located in the Eola Hills. Creating resilient and biologically diverse plant communities will benefit native fish and wildlife habitat in the central Willamette Valley.		149,304	Polk
220-3028	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.		160,075	Marion
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT					**2,416,247**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-3027	City of Estacada	Wade Creek Park Phase 3	174,900	Clackamas
220-3032	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Economic and Ecological Sustainability through Restoration of Lamprey Creek - Phase I	177,071	Benton

Region 3 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-3034	Institute for Applied Ecology	Champoeg Natural Resource Management Plan	Historic and natural resource values will be assessed at Champoeg State Heritage Area to develop a plan for restoring and conserving some of the Willamette Valley's most imperiled habitats, including prairie, oak, riparian, and ash swale.		69,002	Marion
220-3035	McKenzie River Trust	Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Restoration Engineering and Permitting	Final engineering and permitting design steps will lead to a large-scale floodplain and side-channel habitat restoration project on the McKenzie River, near Blue River in Lane County, that will benefit native salmon and steelhead fish.		7,603	Lane
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff					**76,605**	

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					**76,605**	

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	Project Modification	Amount Recommended	County
220-3041	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Engaging Diverse Stakeholders in Floodplain Restoration at Elijah Bristow State Park	Tribes, river and land managers, permitting agencies, and local stakeholders will be engaged to refine final designs for a large-scale flooplain restoration project at Elijah Bristow State Park located at the confluence of the Middle Fork Willamette River and Lost Creek that will improve habitats for native fish and wildlife.		96,971	Lane
220-3043	Long Tom WC	Building Prescribed Fire Capacity in the Southern Willamette Valley	Local tribes, non-profits, public agencies, and private landowners will be engaged to determine prescribed fire capacities and needs across ownership boundaries. Oak-prairie ecosystems will continue declining without prescribed fire to restore these habitats, and hazardous fuels and wildfire risk may increase in the Southern Willamette Valley.		65,973	Lane
Total Stakeholder Engagement Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff					**162,944**	

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					**162,944**	

Stakeholder Engagement Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
220-3042	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Willamette Hazelnut Stakeholder Engagement Project	61,490	Marion

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Project Modification**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-3038	Institute for Applied Ecology	Kincaid's lupine Effectiveness Monitoring	The effectiveness of Kincaid's lupine restoration efforts across the Willamette Valley will be assessed to inform future work and track recovery of this threatened plant species that supports the Fender's blue butterfly, which is listed as an endangered species.		86,848	Benton
220-3037	Calapooia WC	Calapooia Chinook Environmental DNA Monitoring	Spring chinook distribution and habitat use will be monitored in the Calapooia River using eDNA data to inform the selection of instream habitat restoration sites, fish out-planting locations, and insights for future monitoring.		49,101	Linn
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff					**135,949**	
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					**135,949**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT						
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**			**Amount Requested**	**County**
220-3036	Willamette University Business Office	Restoration Monitoring at Willamette University at Zena			227,458	Polk
220-3039	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Effectiveness monitoring of floodplain restoration projects in the Middle Fork Willamette			179,596	Lane
220-3040	Coast Fork Willamette WC	The Mosby Creek Salmon Spawning Monitoring Project Phase I			96,393	Lane
Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award					**2,061,814**	**19%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award					**10,877,263**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3021-17364

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wet Prairie Restoration at Willamette University at Zena

Applicant: Willamette University Business Office

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: $149,304

Total Cost: $235,947

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This wet and upland prairie habitat restoration project is located at the 305-acre Willamette University at Zena (WUZ) property in the Eola Hills, central Willamette Valley, Spring Valley Creek 6th order sub-basin of the Middle Willamette River Watershed, Polk County, 8 miles NW of Salem, OR (Figure 1). Throughout the Willamette Valley and at WUZ, human activities such as farming, forestry, and residential development have reduced oak habitat by 90%, increased presence of invasive plant species, altered subsurface and surface hydrology, and decreased ecosystem resilience to climate change. In Phase I restoration (2010-2014) we began restoring 230 acres of prairie and oak woodland, focused primarily on structural restoration (removing conifer plantations and non native shrubs from prairies and thinning oak woodlands), and some compositional restoration of the prairie. In Phase II we propose to focus mainly on compositional restoration of 56 acres of prairie with the goal of creating resilient and biologically diverse wet and upland prairie habitat. Our activities will include: 1) completing compositional restoration of 22 acres of partly restored upland prairie; 2) completing compositional and structural restoration of 24 acres of unrestored wet prairie; 3) creating hydrologic and structural connectivity between upland prairie and riparian habitat in 4 acres of wet prairie; and 4) thinning 6 acres of oak woodland and savanna to support oak regeneration. Effectiveness monitoring will be undertaken as described in a separate monitoring grant in which we propose to expand our quantitative monitoring and to model watershed response to land management activities. Our partners on this Phase II restoration grant include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Institute of Applied Ecology, and Trout Mountain Forestry.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project objectives are clearly articulated in the application.
- The proposed project builds on previous restoration work.
- A conservation easement will protect restoration investments over the long term.
- Restoring wet prairie habitat is a priority in the Willamette basin. Wet prairie typically does not receive needed attention even though very little remains of this habitat.
- Project costs are reasonable and are comparable with similar projects.

- The applicant is engaging appropriate partners with relevant experience to implement the project.
- The project site provides an opportunity for building public awareness about watershed restoration.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether fire was considered as an alternative even though it can be an effective tool for restoring the target habitat.
- The restoration methods rely heavily on plant plugs, which can be a slow and expensive approach with limited success in introducing plant diversity. Using plugs will likely improve overall native plant presence, but may not achieve project diversity goals. Seeding has proven to be a more cost-effective approach after weed treatment.
- The proposed seeding rate may not be adequate for achieving restoration goals and objectives for the target habitats.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed restoration actions are likely to succeed in improving habitat conditions and structure; however, the project scale and methods may limit the extent to which there will be a meaningful impact on the target habitats. As a result, there is a limited watershed benefit for the project cost. It is also unclear whether there is urgency for the proposed project to be implemented in the near-term.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$149,304

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-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3022-17368

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $337,600

Total Cost: $891,224

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

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 on behalf of the Sandy River Basin Partners (the Partners). The Sandy River originates on Mt. Hood and flows 56 miles northwest before entering the Columbia River, near Portland, Oregon. The proposed project will address primary limiting factors by increasing off channel habitat/floodplain connectivity and large wood abundance in high priority tributaries of the Sandy, including the mainstem Salmon River, Boulder Creek (both in the Salmon River sub-watershed) and Clear Fork (located within the Upper Sandy 6th Field watershed). Proposed work is on public land managed by the USFS and BLM located near Zigzag, Oregon in Clackamas County.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. Restoration actions to be undertaken as part of the proposed project 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. 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

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- Past restoration projects are used as an appropriate template for the design of the proposed work.
- The proposed restoration is similar to previous work completed in the watershed that has proven successful as demonstrated by evidence from fish return data. Fish population data will continue to be collected to measure restoration effectiveness.

- 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.
- The project team has a proven track record as a successful partnership implementing similar projects

Concerns

- There are no concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis

The 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 a 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 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$337,600

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$337,600

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3023-17392
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Plants for People Phase 3
Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Yamhill
OWEB Request: $234,441
Total Cost: $788,175

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The purpose of “Plants for People Phase III” is to restore prairie and oak savanna habitat at seven sites in the Willamette Valley in order to improve ecosystem functionality and increase abundance of culturally significant plants while establishing mutually beneficial partnerships between Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) and public land managers engaged in restoration and conservation. Project locations include: Herbert Farm & Natural Area (near Marys River and Corvallis, Benton County), Champoeg State Heritage Area (near Willamette River and Newberg, Marion County), Rattlesnake Butte (near Long Tom River and Monroe, Lane County) and four other CTGR sites (near South Yamhill River, Polk and Yamhill Counties). Needs to be addressed include the loss of Willamette Valley prairie and oak habitat, failure to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge into habitat restoration, lack of commercial availability of culturally significant plant materials, lack of tribal infrastructure and resources to grow plants and conduct restoration, and minimal tribal access to appropriate gathering sites. Project components include restoring oak savanna and prairie habitat at seven sites throughout the Willamette Valley, including five CTGR-owned sites and two culturally important publicly-owned sites. Tribal staff and community will engage in plant production and restoration and the tribal native plant nursery will grow culturally important species for restoration. Native plant production will be expanded and the production plan updated. A plan for traditional harvest will be implemented at Champoeg. The main project partners include: CTGR, City of Corvallis, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Long Tom Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly states the project objectives, tasks, and timeline, and has a description of appropriate restoration actions at identified sites.
- The proposed project builds on work completed through previous OWEB grants.
- The application references a number of existing watershed plans that informed the proposed actions.
- Tribal knowledge will be integrated to ensure culturally significant native plants are available for future restoration. This provides a unique social and cultural engagement opportunity among watershed restoration practitioners.

- The plant species that will be grown will likely provide indirect benefits to native fish and wildlife, including ESA-listed species, because they will be used at restoration sites.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects.

Concerns

- The project measures of success are vague.
- The application has limited information quantifying watershed health benefits that will result from proposed restoration actions, which makes it difficult to assess the ecological value of this work and whether the watershed benefit justifies the project cost. A description of the results achieved from previous project phases would provide helpful context for better understanding potential watershed benefits for the currently proposed work.
- The application budget lacks detail needed to understand project costs. Additional information explaining the process for developing the budget and any assumptions used that informed how costs were determined would provide helpful context for interpreting the budget.
- It is unclear whether the plant material development project component can be sustainable beyond OWEB investments. While plant orders have been made in response to work from previous project phases, it will be some time before this operation is commercially viable.

Concluding Analysis

OWEB investment is needed to integrate tribal knowledge into restoration to build access to culturally significant native plant material into watershed projects. The unique social and cultural benefits resulting from this project are high; however, the direct ecological uplift from this investment is unclear. As a result, the watershed health benefit is uncertain for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

9 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

$234,441

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-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3024-17416
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Scotts Mills Dam Removal
Applicant: Pudding River WC
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Marion
OWEB Request: $49,992
Total Cost: $98,605

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Scotts Mills dam removal project partially addresses the decline in Willamette Basin native salmonid fish populations due to lack of access to high quality habitat. Both ESA-listed Upper Willamette Winter Steelhead and Spring Chinook Salmon are affected as well as introduced Coho Salmon. The project site is in the Molalla-Pudding River Watershed on Butte Creek in the City of Scotts Mills at USGS RM 12.9. Butte Creek is the political border between Clackamas and Marion Counties. Geologically, the site is in a transition zone between the sedimentary rock formations of the Willamette Valley and the basalt lava flows with cascading streams characteristic of the Western Cascade foothills upstream. The project will improve the current degraded physical habitat by allowing the natural annual transport of gravel downstream; a river reach currently scoured to bedrock (Photo 1.a). Completion will also allow more natural fish passage to high quality spawning and rearing habitat (Photo 1.b) for 13.5 RM upstream of the dam. The dam structure (Photo 1.c) will be removed in September 2020. The project implementation strategy is provided by ODFW's Fish Passage Task Force. All concrete removed will be hauled to a local rock quarry and disposal will be provided by K&E Excavating. Marion County Public Works will be invited to provide in-kind hauling and a dump truck. A portion of the gravel that has accumulated behind the dam will be hauled to the quarry. The remainder will naturally move over the basalt falls in the following high flow seasons and will help replenish depleted gravel supply downstream. The sediment transport, evidence of spawning, and any signs of bank erosion will be monitored by ODFW, PRWC, and volunteers from Native Fish Society for three to five years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes a technically sound approach to remove a dam and restore fish passage.
- Access to 13 miles of stream habitat will be made available to winter steelhead and Chinook salmon. The overall project cost is low for the number of stream miles that will be made accessible to ESA-listed fish, therefore providing a high benefit for the cost.
- ODFW will lead project construction, which indicates the agency's support for the project while also providing capacity and assuring technical expertise required to successfully implement the project.
- Neighbors were invited to the application review site visit and invited to share diverse perspectives regarding the project. This indicates stakeholders are being heard throughout the project process.

Concerns

- The application would benefit from additional detail to better understand the project methods; however, this detail was provided at the site visit.
- A portion of the project site is in a county park and it is unclear whether the county will ultimately approve the project. While the Marion County Parks Commission approved the project, County Commissioner approval is still required. The Board of Commissioners are currently considering the project and is planning a public meeting to hear from the community.
- Since the dam sits on a natural waterfall, fish passage will still be challenging once the dam is removed. However, the incorporation of a notch into the rock will create attraction flow for fish that may better facilitate passage upstream.

Concluding Analysis

Dam removal will significantly improve needed fish passage upstream to habitat with cooler water temperatures. There is an element of urgency for this project because ODFW resources may not be available long term for implementation. The extent of stream habitat that will be made more accessible to ESA-listed fish is a significant benefit for the overall project cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,992

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,992

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3025-17417

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willamette and Yamhill River Confluence Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Yamhill SWCD

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Yamhill

OWEB Request: $186,111

Total Cost: $360,979

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project location is on a 320 acre property, which is about 3 miles outside of the City of Dundee, Oregon in Yamhill County. This proposed 28 acre riparian restoration project would occur at the confluence of the Yamhill and Willamette Rivers and is within the Middle Willamette River Floodplain Conservation Opportunity Area. Within this conservation opportunity area recommended actions include restoring or expanding riparian habitat. This project will leverage funds from the Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) to establish an average of 180 foot buffer along 3500 feet of the Willamette River and 100 foot buffer along 4500 feet of the Yamhill River. A small back channel along the Willamette that is approximately 600 feet in length would also be included in the CREP contract. This buffer will be planted at an increased planting density (2400 stems/acre). OWEB funds will be used to fund additional site prep and maintenance treatments not eligible for CREP cost shares and the increased planting density. Partners include US Fish and Wildlife Service, Greater Yamhill Watershed Council, the Farm Service Agency and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed Rapid Riparian Revegetation (R3) method is appropriate for the project site and is a proven method for restoring riparian buffers in the Willamette basin.
- The project is ready to implement and will leverage the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The CREP process is also underway for the project site.
- There is currently a lack of floodplain connection to the Willamette River in the project reach. Any opportunity to open and extend this connection, such as the proposed project, will benefit native fish.
- Restoring the riparian buffer will protect water quality by reducing potential sediment transport into the stream.
- Weed treatment best management practices and herbicide protocols will be correctly applied to limit potential impacts from this chemical use.
- The landowner's long-term plans for the property to continue integrating conservation with land management indicate a commitment to a restoration vision.
- The project site provides an opportunity to raise awareness that could lead to future restoration because of the landowner's interest in sharing their work in voluntary conservation.

- The applicant has a proven track record in implementing similar projects.

Concerns

- The cost per acre is high for the watershed benefit; however, project costs align with the typical rates for successful implementation of the R3 approach.
- A description of irrigation plans for new plants, if needed, would strengthened the application.

Concluding Analysis

OWEB funds are needed to leverage CREP and achieve restoration goals for restoring riparian plant buffers to a free-to-grow state. The project is likely to succeed in improving floodplain and riparian habitat at the confluence of the Yamhill and Willamette Rivers.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$186,111

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-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3026-17422

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willamette Basin Oak Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Lomakatsi Restoration Project

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: $250,000

Total Cost: $1,588,119

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed oak habitat restoration project will take place on two sites in the Willamette Valley. Restoration locations include Noble Oaks near Willamina in Polk County, on conservation lands owned managed by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Coburg Ridge Preserve near Eugene in Lane County, on private property with a conservation easement held by The Nature Conservancy. Oak habitats are some of the most biologically diverse, yet imperiled ecosystems in Oregon. Over the past 100 years, Oregon white oak plant associations have significantly declined in abundance and distribution, with approximately 90% of oak habitat lost in the Willamette Valley due to increasing agricultural and urban development. Interruption of the historic frequent low-intensity fire regime that shaped and maintained these oak stands has allowed the establishment of less fire-resistant, yet faster-growing tree species such as Douglas-fir to encroach upon and displace oak trees. The infilling of conifers has altered structural and compositional conditions in remnant regional oak woodlands and savannas, and now many plant and wildlife taxa are considered imperiled; six have been listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The conservation of oak habitats is a priority in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the NWPCC Willamette Sub-basin Plan, and many local watershed plans.The proposed work at these sites, all identified as priority locations for oak conservation, will restore 372 acres of oak habitat. Partners will utilize best practices in restorative ecological forestry, and incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge and ecocultural restoration approaches. Restoration will include: invasive species treatment, ecological thinning, habitat enhancement measures for wildlife benefit, removal of project biomass and native seeding.Project partners include The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Lomakatsi Restoration Project and The Nature Conservancy of Oregon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed.
- The application describes clear objectives and an appropriate restoration approach for oak and prairie habitats.
- Proposed restoration will build on previous work on both project sites noted in the application.

- Since both sites are permanently protected for conservation purposes, there is an increased likelihood for the restoration investments to be maintained over the long term.
- After oak stand structure needs are addressed by thinning, fire will be introduced to continue restoring and managing the habitat. The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde has expertise using prescribed fire as a restoration tool.
- Mapped legacy oaks located on the Noble Oaks site elevates the priority for the proposed restoration to ensure these oaks are not lost.
- The applicant has a proven track record managing similar projects in southwest Oregon, and brings transferable knowledge and experience to the Willamette Basin.

Concerns

- The application lacks letters of support documenting that appropriate partners are engaged in the project; however, partners participated in the site visit and described how they will be actively engaged in project implementation.
- While the application has additional budget details compared to the previous application, some costs are still grouped into lump sums. Additional detail is needed to better understand whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work.
- The proposed tree thinning in the Riparian Management Area (RMA) on the Coburg site could result in a conifer basal area below ODF standards. It is unclear whether fish are present, and if the tree thinning treatment will negatively impact the stream and habitat it provides to fish.

Concluding Analysis

The project provides a unique opportunity for transferring tribal eco-cultural knowledge into restoration and developing tribal work force capacity for oak restoration. There is an element of urgency for treating areas around the legacy oaks to prevent their loss to conifer encroachment. The extent of restoration proposed in priority oak and prairie habitats provides a significant benefit for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

4 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

$250,000

Review Team Conditions

Provide documentation at first payment that ODFW has been consulted and approves basal rates in the RMA at the Coburg site based on fish habitat needs, if determined applicable. Grantee should consider girdling trees and leaving them for future large wood recruitment to the stream as an option.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$250,000

Staff Conditions

Provide documentation at first payment that ODFW has been consulted and approves basal rates in the RMA at the Coburg site based on fish habitat needs, if determined applicable. Grantee should consider girdling trees and leaving them for future large wood recruitment to the stream as an option.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3027-17424
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Wade Creek Park Phase 3
Applicant: City of Estacada
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Clackamas
OWEB Request: $174,900
Total Cost: $928,350

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Restoration work associated with the Wade Creek Park Phase 3 project builds upon earlier work funded by OWEB. Earlier work included planting of bioswales and riparian areas around Wade Creek pond, which is located within the City of Estacada west of the Estacada Library and north of Wade Creek Park. The Wade Creek Park Phase 3 project will reestablish a stream channel where the pond currently exists. The new channel will provide pool-riffle habitat, incorporate large wood, and use stream restoration techniques commonly used within the Clackamas River Basin. The project will replace a deteriorated culvert at the inlet to the pond, replace the control structure at the outlet of the pond, and grade the pond area to eliminate steep slopes and create an active floodplain along the new channel. All disturbed areas will be revegetated with native herbaceous and woody plant species. The restoration will complement work being conducted by the Clackamas River Basin Council and others within the basin.The restoration will address problems identified within the Clackamas River Basin including high water temperature, bacteria, and invasive species. The project will eliminate the open water area of the pond and replace it with a narrow stream channel with a vegetated riparian area. This change will eliminate a source of heating as well as a source of bacteria. The narrow stream channel will expose less water to solar radiation, and the riparian vegetation will provide shade. The change in habitat conditions will prevent the large congregations of waterfowl that are common and will prevent the deposition of feces from the waterfowl within the pond and surrounding area. Yellow flag iris and other invasive species found within and around the pond will be removed. The project also provides a significant opportunity for public education, which was identified in the Clackamas River Basin Action Plan as integral to the efforts to protect, enhance, and restore the Clackamas watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is ready for implementation and the proposed objectives are attainable.
- Design alternatives were considered.
- The project provides an opportunity for raising public awareness because the project site is a park adjacent to the public library.
- Overall costs for the proposed actions are reasonable.

Concerns

- The proposed work is not an action identified in a prioritized geography of a watershed restoration plan for the Clackamas watershed or Wade Creek.
- There is no evidence that partners that could provide appropriate technical expertise are engaged in the project.
- Water temperature benefits will be limited because the stream moves through pipes in adjacent areas, which has a larger influence on stream temperature compared to the proposed actions within the project footprint.
- It is uncertain whether the design approach is appropriate. After a water flow barrier is removed, it is sometimes more effective to wait and see how a stream responds instead of forcing the stream to a designed channel configuration. Forcing a stream to a designed configuration can result in unexpected impacts, such as increased erosion.
- There is limited information known about upstream and downstream conditions, which makes it difficult to determine potential impacts to the project site or adjacent properties. For example, there could be an upstream sediment load that moves into the project area and impact restored stream features.
- Some of the individual project costs seem high when compared to similar projects, including costs for irrigation, permitting, and design.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project will provide a meaningful community benefit; however, it is difficult to determine the likelihood of success for the proposed project to result in a cost-effective watershed benefit.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3028-17432

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Abiqua Creek Aquatic Habitat Enhancement_CLONE

Applicant: Pudding River WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: $160,075

Total Cost: $207,875

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

- A reasonable explanation is provided as to why project changes were not made in response to previous application review comments.
- Engineered log jams placed on the stream channel margin are an appropriate alternative method for the project site. Locally available logs are not large enough for preferred channel-spanning structures. The cost for securing larger wood material would be unreasonably high, and the resulting watershed benefit would not merit the higher cost.
- Proposed restoration will treat priority watershed limiting factors for steelhead in Abiqua Creek, which is a critical reach in the Pudding River watershed supporting winter steelhead.
- The site is likely to be responsive in restoring the targeted watershed process and function. For example, it is expected that gravel recruitment around the large wood structures will occur quickly because the watershed conditions indicate upstream source material is readily available to move downstream.
- The applicant is engaging a project team with relevant experience and proven track records with comparable restoration projects.

- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support specifying partner contributions and involvement in the project.
- Project costs are reasonable.

Concerns

- It appears some project details are not updated in the application; for example, the timeline is no longer accurate.
- Watershed benefits from this project are limited by a design approach that focuses on treating symptoms of watershed disturbance over causes. Placement of large wood on the stream edge instead of installing channel-spanning large wood limits the amount of stream material that can be captured in the large wood structure to build streambed habitat complexity. However, given the limited availability of wood material large enough for channel-spanning structures, this design alternative provides the most cost-effective approach for initiating stream restoration efforts in this area.

Concluding Analysis

While the proposed design will have limited benefits to overall watershed process and function, it is a reasonable approach and cost for the available large wood. Also, stream conditions will be improved for steelhead habitat in a priority area of the Pudding watershed. The resulting project will likely be leveraged by expanding community interest in the watershed and implementing future voluntary projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$160,075

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-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3029-17434

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Salyers Family Ranch: Oak Woodland Restoration Phase 1

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $276,675

Total Cost: $455,190

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This 102.3 acre project is in Lane County, west of the City of Creswell, in the Camas Swale sub basin. The property (~2000 acres) known as the Salyers Family Ranch is owned by private landowners, the Salyers Family. Approximately 1600 acres of the ranch was recently protected by securing a conservation easement. This property contains rare and degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland, savanna, and upland and wet prairie habitats. The lack of disturbance has allowed open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area to be threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping and the establishment of woody vegetation in the understory. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important species that rely on these open canopy habitats including acorn woodpecker, white-breasted nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. The proposed project will implement oak woodland restoration on 102.3 acres by: (1) thinning firs and small diameter oaks around legacy oak trees; and (2) enhancing the herbaceous understory by controlling undesired species and reseeding with native forbs and grasses; (3) convert closed canopy oak woodland to 40-60% canopy thereby reducing the rate of Oregon white oak woodland loss and habitat fragmentation, with the long-term goal of increased recruitment, structure and function. Partners include Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council (CFWWC), Salyers Family Ranch (aka Creswell Oaks), Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear objectives and an appropriate restoration approach for oak and prairie habitats are described in the application.
- The project is located in anchor oak and prairie habitat that will support Oregon vesper sparrow. Since this species is under consideration for potential listing on the Endangered Species Act, early action to restore habitat that supports this species is a priority.
- The proposed restoration builds on work completed voluntarily by the landowner and through previous OWEB grants.
- A conservation easement will protect restoration investments over the long term.
- Lessons learned from previous restoration work in comparable habitats are incorporated into this project.

- The project has potential for serving as a demonstration site to raise awareness about watershed restoration, and the landowner will be an effective ambassador for communicating to the local community about the benefits of voluntary conservation.
- The applicant has a proven track record managing similar projects.
- The landowner has the necessary equipment and skills to accomplish the work.
- Letters of support and match contributions demonstrate that appropriate partners support and are engaged in the project.

Concerns

- It can be challenging to balance grazing with restoring native plant communities. While grazing can be used as a restoration tool to provide a disturbance regime that benefits native plants, the grazing season could be shortened. The grazing management plan developed with NRCS is likely to focus on restoring the plant community by effective integration of grazing.
- There is no evidence that legacy oak are present on the site; however, the scope and scale of the proposed work will provide a meaningful impact for oak and prairie habitats.

Concluding Analysis

Since OWEB funds will leverage a NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) investment that will expire in the near term, there is some urgency for the proposed investment to ensure restoration goals are achieved in a priority location for oak habitat. A conservation easement and multi-generational support demonstrated on the site visit ensures the restoration investment will be protected over the long term. The project site also offers opportunity to demonstrate how working lands can effectively be balanced with restoring native plant communities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$276,675

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$276,675

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3030-17481

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Connections in Restoration: Floodplain Enhancement at Deer Creek

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $397,248

Total Cost: $940,232

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Connections in Restoration: Floodplain Enhancement at Deer Creek is part of a multi-phased effort designed to restore the physical, chemical, and biological processes that maintain a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem on the lower 1.6 miles of Deer Creek in the McKenzie River Sub-basin. Deer Creek is located 65 miles east of Eugene and 3.5 miles downstream of the Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) Trail Bridge Dam on public lands owned and managed by the US Forest Service (USFS). Previous project phases were completed in 2016 and 2017, on two discreet lower (0 to 0.4 miles) and upper (0.8-1.6 miles) reaches of Deer Creek. This project will enhance the untreated middle reach (0.4 – 0.8 miles) and portions of the previously treated lower and upper reaches, restoring the processes that create and maintain healthy habitats.Past land management practices in the Deer Creek sub-watershed have disrupted natural processes and negatively impacted habitat for native fish and wildlife. Berm placement, stream cleaning, timber harvest, and the construction of electrical powerlines within the stream channel have reduced wood supply and storage, the amount of available spawning gravel, floodplain connectivity, off-channel refuge habitat, the frequency of deep pools, and contributed to increased stream temperature.As part of EWEB's recently completed relicensing agreement for the Carmen-Smith Hydroelectric Project, powerlines currently in Deer Creek will be relocated to run parallel to FS Road 2654, outside of the floodplain in 2020. After powerline relocation, the USFS and McKenzie Watershed Alliance (MWA) will remove over 28,000 cubic yards of sediment from floodplain berms, aggrade 3.61 acres of Deer Creek, and place 640 pieces of large wood in the 71-acre project area. The project will restore connection to 40 acres of floodplain and enhance 1.4 miles of Deer Creek. Partners include the EWEB, MWA, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clear, quantitative objectives.
- Reconnecting a valley bottom using the Stage 0 approach is an appropriate method for restoring watershed process and function.
- The proposed restoration builds on and is informed by previous work completed in the watershed that has proven successful as evidenced by fish returning to Deer Creek.

- Awareness raised from previous restoration work led to this current project opportunity. The previous success resulted in securing approval from land managers for this project and they are also changing land uses to expand restoration in Deer Creek.
- The project has potential for raising public awareness for watershed restoration and serving as a teaching tool within the restoration practitioner community.
- The resulting ecological uplift will be high, and restoration will provide significant benefit to ESA-listed fish in a watershed prioritized for their recovery
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record implementing comparable restoration.

Concerns

- The letter of support from EWEB indicates moving the power lines out of the floodplain is “tentative,” which could impact the likelihood of success in achieving proposed objectives.
- There is limited data on the cost effectiveness of the Stage 0 approach because it is challenging to determine how to best measure the success of an approach that has a high overall cost to achieve restoration objectives over a large scale. However, evidence of ecological effectiveness is observed by fish returns to previously implemented Stage 0 sites in the McKenzie Watershed.

Concluding Analysis

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. Previous restoration has proven Deer Creek is responsive to Stage 0 in restoring watershed processes that result in stream habitat that is immediately utilized by returning fish. Deer Creek also provides a venue for collaborative learning among watershed restoration practitioners implementing the Stage 0 approach.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

$397,248

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$397,248

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3031-17483

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Protecting the Best: Upper Luckiamute Mainstem Anchor Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: $134,886

Total Cost: $174,376

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Upper Luckiamute Mainstem Anchor Habitat Enhancement project area lies within the timberlands of the Upper Luckiamute 6th field hydrologic unit in the northwest corner of the watershed in Polk County. Historical practices such as splash dams, log drives, logging to the water's edge, and log removal impacted upper Luckiamute sub-basins, including the mainstem Luckiamute River. The reach represents some of the best habitat in the Luckiamute watershed and had the highest numbers of steelhead and cutthroat trout observed in the 2008 snorkel surveys. However, the streambed is scoured to bedrock in many areas, riparian conifers are absent in large sections, and there is little channel-floodplain interaction. A 2004 OWEB-funded project supported large wood placement of four structures overlapping the target reach and downstream of the target reach; after 15 years, much of this material has degraded or mobilized. 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 is the highest priority without an active project. Resolving current and future in-stream large wood deficiencies through log placement, conifer enrichment, and thinning an overstocked Douglas fir plantation in the riparian management area will result in both immediate and long-term habitat benefits and restore key ecological processes throughout the 1.6-mile reach. Partners are Hancock Forest Management (on behalf of the property owners), Starker Forests Inc., Institute for Applied Ecology, Xerces Society, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A proven restoration approach for placing large wood structures instream will be used. This approach has also been effective in restoring watershed function in the same stream system.
- The proposed project builds on previous restoration work.
- Project site selection is based on extensive planning efforts from OWEB-funded technical assistance and monitoring to determine the best locations for stream restoration.
- The project is located within critical cold-water refugia habitat for winter steelhead. Adding large wood to the stream will provide important habitat features along a priority stream reach.
- The cooperating landowner has a history of participating in voluntary restoration in the Luckiamute watershed.

- The applicant has a proven track record implementing similar projects.
- Costs are reasonable for a significant watershed benefit.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the wet prairie wetland area exists because it is a natural historic wetland or resulted from previous timber harvest-related land use that caused the area to evolve into expressing wetland attributes. As a result, it is difficult to determine the habitat value and priority for this project component. The applicant is encouraged to incorporate a wetland delineation in addition to the botanical survey to better understand the extent and function of the wetland hydrology and soils to inform management recommendations.

Concluding Analysis

Given previous success of the restoration approach in adjacent stream reaches, the proposed project is likely to succeed. Also, the proposed restoration leverages previous strategic investments in the Luckiamute Watershed and will result in a high benefit to winter steelhead for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount
$134,886

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$134,886

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3032-17497

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Economic and Ecological Sustainability through Restoration of Lamprey Creek - Phase 1

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $177,071

Total Cost: $407,383

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will restore 50 acres of wetland habitat in a 175-acre parcel 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 proposed actions will generally provide watershed benefits.
- The project site provides an opportunity for building public awareness about watershed restoration, and showcasing restoration on an OSU property.

- The project timeline is achievable.

Concerns

- The project objectives and actions are vague. As a result, it is difficult to understand the scope of work and how it will be implemented.
- Some of the monitoring and fire-related work described in the application seem disconnected from the proposed restoration work. More information is needed to understand how these components relate to achieving the project restoration goals and objectives.
- The application indicates innovative techniques will be tested with the proposed work. Since many of the project components are already successfully being used in the region, it is unclear what project components are testing new approaches that offer learning opportunities.
- The application does not include information on whether potential impacts to adjacent properties were considered. For example, it is unclear whether the dike removal and constructed channel has potential for negative downstream impacts.
- Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) require careful design consideration to ensure proper function. While BDAs have been effective in other locations, more design information is needed to determine whether the approach is appropriate for the site and whether there are other alternatives better suited for the project location.
- The application has limited information quantifying watershed health benefits that will result specifically from the proposed restoration actions, which makes it difficult to assess the ecological value of this work and to understand whether watershed benefit is commensurate with the cost to.
- Partner involvement in the project is unclear from the application. For example, it is not evident how the NRCS role or contribution relates to the proposed work. Active collaborative partnerships with clear roles would benefit the project by providing broader resources and expertise in project implementation.
- Additional information on the proposed herbicide use and efforts to reduce potential negative impacts is needed to understand the technical soundness of the weed treatment.
- It is unclear whether there is a management plan for this property, or across University properties as a whole, that is guiding the proposed work; or whether watershed-level plans informed the project site selection. It is not clear whether the property and proposed work was selected as a strategic priority to pursue funding, or if instead it is an opportunistic project.

Concluding Analysis

Since resulting watershed benefits from the proposed work are generalized, it is difficult to determine the habitat value that will result directly from the project. It is also unclear what planning efforts indicated the project site is the best site to start restoration on OSU lands, and how the proposed work is connected to other planning efforts in the area by watershed restoration practitioners. There may be merit to pursuing a Technical Assistance or Stakeholder Engagement project to fund a planning and design conversation for determining prioritized actions across OSU properties before initiating restoration action

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3033-17504
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: J2E River to Ridge Diversity Project
Applicant: Benton SWCD
Region: Willamette Basin
County: Benton
OWEB Request: $239,915
Total Cost: $349,883

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

J2E Tree Farm is a small woodlands operation located in the Upper Luckiamute / Vincent sub-basin in northern Benton County. The 338-acre property ranges from 320 to 740 feet in elevation along 1.5 miles of Vincent Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River. The varied topography hosts a range of habitat types. Douglas fir trees are encroaching upon a corridor of Oregon white oaks, limiting its potential to provide critical habitat to Taylor's checkerspot butterfly and other sensitive species. Varied wetland habitats that host Nelson's checkermallow and other priority species also face pressures from invasive grasses and other weeds. A fragmented riparian corridor consists of a mix of mature hardwood forest with encroaching invasive weeds. Vincent Creek is incised and scoured to bedrock in many places; a perched culvert on a tributary to Vincent Creek blocks passage to cold-water refuge for native fish. The project proposes a ridge to river approach to enhance these important habitats and support a diversity of fish and wildlife. Douglas fir thinning and understory planting will restore a 16-acre oak corridor in close proximity to the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly population in Beazell Memorial Forest. In all habitats, project partners will work to remove target invasive species and increase the diversity of shrubs and trees and increase the density and cover of appropriate native plants. The actions will promote pollinator habitat, improve wetland conditions, and restore and connect riparian corridors. To address incision and disconnected floodplain in Vincent Creek, partners propose large wood placement and revegetation efforts that promote beaver activity. Placement of boulders will create two pool lifts to resolve the perched culvert. Project partners include Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, landowners, Luckiamute Watershed Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly articulated objectives.
- The project takes a holistic approach for addressing a range of watershed limiting factors to restore a diversity of habitats on the property. This includes expanding habitat for the listed Taylor's checkerspot butterfly that has a known presence in the area and extending cutthroat trout access to cold-water refuge habitat.

- The landowner's active engagement in restoration is demonstrated by the amount of work already completed. For example, qualifying for the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) indicates significant planning work was completed to meet the high bar for securing assistance through this program.
- The project has potential for raising awareness about watershed restoration, and the landowner will be an effective ambassador for communicating to the local community about the benefits of voluntary conservation.
- The combination of the applicant's experience implementing similar work integrated with partner support ensures a likelihood of success in implementing a complex project with numerous habitat restoration elements.
- The landowner has a long-term goal of protecting the property, which will maintain the ecological benefits resulting from this restoration investment into the future.

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; however, additional budget details were provided as an application attachment.
- The stream project component to improve fish passage at a culvert by using a boulder and step pool design can be challenging to implement and effectively achieve desired fish passage.

Concluding Analysis

While the aquatic project components will have limited ecological uplift, the upland components will provide significant habitat benefits for the cost. The project also provides a unique opportunity to restore a mosaic of native habitats and demonstrate successful voluntary conservation on private lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

6 of 11

Review Team Recommended Amount

$239,915

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$239,915

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3034-17383

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Champoeg Natural Resource Management Plan

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: $69,002

Total Cost: $104,280

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Champoeg State Heritage Area (Champoeg) is a unique 672-acre state park located in Marion County and managed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD). This popular park is home to a huge variety of fish and wildlife, including a high diversity of bird species and the state-listed peacock larkspur (Delphinium pavonaceum). It also contains some of the Willamette Valley's most imperiled habitats, including prairie, oak, riparian, and ash swale habitats. The Willamette River runs along Champoeg's north edge for three miles, and there are three creeks found within the park boundaries. An initial assessment of soils maps indicate that a large portion of the park's soils are very hydric, indicating that much of the park was or is wetland habitat. In addition, Champoeg has a long history of use and management by the Kalapuya people, who have used and continue to value the site for gathering, accessing the Willamette River, and traditional harvesting. OPRD has partnered with Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR) to restore Champoeg Prairie and reintroduce culturally significant species, with the goal of reinstating traditional harvest practices by local tribes at the site. However, Champoeg lacks a formal assessment of the park's natural resources and there is no current prioritization of conservation areas, good understanding of how to protect them, or guidance on which restoration actions are the most urgent. We propose to conduct a thorough assessment of Champoeg's historic and current natural resource values and develop a Natural Resource Management Plan that documents existing conservation values and guides future planning and restoration activities at the park. Partners include IAE, OPRD, CTGR and other tribes.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes a need for the technical assistance, and provides logical reasons for the activities listed under the objectives.
- The project builds on previous OWEB-funded restoration.
- Tribal priorities and knowledge will be integrated into the planning process.
- The applicant is qualified to accomplish the proposed activities, and has a proven track record with similar projects.
- Costs are reasonable and align with the proposed work.

Concerns

- It is unclear how park users will be engaged in the planning process.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed assessment and management plan will provide a habitat overlay to an existing park plan that does not currently include this watershed habitat component. The site is culturally significant and located in a priority location for native habitats, including wetlands, prairie and oak.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$69,002

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$69,002

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3035-17418

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Finn Rock Reach Floodplain Restoration Engineering and Permitting

Applicant: McKenzie River Trust

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $7,603

Total Cost: $13,408

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project will provide engineering and permitting assistance to facilitate a middle-McKenzie River floodplain habitat restoration project encompassing approximately 85 acres of floodplain. The project is on a side channel of the McKenzie River, near the town of Blue River, Lane County, only 3.75 miles downstream of the Lower South Fork McKenzie Floodplain Enhancement.The watershed issue to be addressed is the degradation of streams through simplification and removal of large woody debris, and decreased floodplain connectivity. Impaired habitat complexity, diversity, and off channel habitats are limiting factors for spring Chinook salmon. At this site, former gravel extraction pits in the floodplain, and their attendant access road, have created large berms of overburden within the floodplain and disrupted the flow regime within the side channel. Recent Bathymetry shows that the side channel is incising, increasing flow velocities and transporting sediment, partially as a result from these prior human activities. The proposed project will regrade the gravel ponds, much of the side channel itself, and add substantial amounts of large woody debris. The project area will become a depositional environment with increased permanently wetted surface area, floodplain connection, and habitat complexity.The consultant will develop the engineering necessary for the completion of all required permits to implement restoration actions. They will incorporate existing data (hydraulic modeling, aerial mapping, geomorphologic survey data, etc.) on project area from MRT, resource agencies, universities, and other sources and supplement and utilize as required. The consultant will develop and submit all applications and obtain all permits necessary to construct the final design. Environmental compliances associated with listed and or sensitive species and adjacent federal and state land will be obtained. Major project partners include the McKenzie Watershed Council and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant clearly describes a need to secure permitting assistance on a complicated project design.
- The proposed work is technically sound, and project timing is appropriate.
- Existing conservation and recovery plans are cited in the application and proposed work will address watershed limiting factors.

- The applicant is qualified to accomplish the proposed activities, and has a proven track record with similar work.
- Costs are reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- While costs are reasonable, it is unclear whether the budget estimate is high enough to complete the permit process.

Concluding Analysis

The resulting restoration work will increase spawning habitat at a highly visible location with substantial habitat potential. The proposed technical assistance is needed to move the project forward to be ready for implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$7,603

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$7,603

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3036-17366

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Restoration Monitoring at Willamette University at Zena

Applicant: Willamette University Business Office

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: $227,458

Total Cost: $427,124

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located at the 305-acre Willamette University at Zena (WUZ) property in the Eola Hills, central Willamette Valley, Spring Valley Creek 6th order sub-basin of the Middle Willamette River Watershed, Polk County, 8 miles NW of Salem, OR (Figure 1). Throughout the Willamette Valley and at WUZ, human activities such as farming, forestry, and residential development have significantly reduced prairie habitat, increased presence of invasive plant species, altered subsurface and surface hydrology, and decreased ecosystem resilience to climate change. In 2010 we began Phase I restoration and monitoring activities. Protocols for monitoring vegetation response in the prairie and oak woodland were piloted and refined, and data collection continues through the present. Monitoring data have been invaluable to us in planning and adjusting our restoration practices. We have also learned that to better understand watershed function, particularly in the face of climate change, we need to expand our monitoring program so that we can begin modeling watershed response to our activities. Our multi-year Phase II monitoring our goals are: 1) to standardize current monitoring efforts, data management, and data sharing; 2) to expand quantitative monitoring to include additional habitats (wet prairie, mixed conifer, and sustainable mixed forest) and additional variables (wildlife, watershed health and quality, stream flow, wildfire risk, and forest insects and disease); and 3) to employ the monitoring data to model watershed benefits of ongoing and future restoration work. These efforts will provide useful information to other landowners and restoration projects, as well as help justify OWEB and ODFW investment in the property. Outcomes will include 15 years of spatially referenced data on restoration effectiveness, public presentation of datasets on the Willamette web page, peer-reviewed publications, presentations, and outreach activities. Project partners include ODFW.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The applicant adequately describes the need for monitoring and provided an illustrative example of how past monitoring informed restoration efforts, including what variables restoration can influence.
- The application has clear objectives and logical activities to achieve the objectives.
- The application clearly describes various approaches to making the data available to the public and natural resource professionals.
- The phased approach is technically sound because phasing may result in the applicant emerging from each phase with monitoring that is well streamlined, which will make expansion (e.g., in phase III to streams and fish) efficient and financially sustainable.

- The contributing professors at Willamette University have the expertise in their respective fields of study to establish the standardized protocols for a broader suite of variables as proposed.
- The data will be used in an eco-hydrological model to estimate the impacts of climate change and restoration treatments on a suite of ecosystem services to better understand the range of outcomes that could occur and explore alternatives.
- The application clearly describes how the different data sets will be managed, analyzed and reported.
- The application includes letters of support from a variety of partners and describes how this information can inform their restoration efforts in oak and prairie habitats.
- The costs seem reasonable given the monitoring data will be collected over five years and considerable university match.
- The applicant has demonstrated their ability to collect data and apply it to inform restoration, based on their past work described in uploads of completed reports.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The description of establishing a gaging station lacks detail to determine whether the applicant understands the requirements for regular measurements to maintain a rating curve beyond the first year of establishment. Additional maintenance of the stations is critical to providing accurate data (e.g., level surveys, check measurements).
- The monitoring design section of the application does not clearly describe why different monitoring efforts were being done at different time intervals (i.e., some data are proposed to be collected every year and some every other year).
- The budget includes funding for student labor expenses to perform what appears to be a majority of the monitoring; however, the application does not describe how students will be trained and supervised to ensure quality data will be collected.

Monitoring Team Comments

Follow USGS methods for gaging station installation that includes installing a staff plate to check measurements against the electronic instrumentation. Also, ensure the applicant is checking the instrumentation frequently enough to prevent failure and identify electronic drift.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is a comprehensive monitoring effort across a broad range of habitats and species on the Zena conservation property.
- Appropriate protocols will be used to provide a thorough assessment of the site and its response to restoration.
- The applicant has the technical expertise and capacity to accomplish the proposed monitoring.
- There is clear intention to disseminate monitoring results among restoration practitioners.

Concerns

- The monitoring effort is on a property located in a small watershed. It is uncertain the extent to which results can be generalized and effectively applied to other locations at a larger Willamette basin scale as described in the project goals.
- The pathway between the proposed data and how it will be applied to inform future watershed restoration is unclear. The connection between the monitored watershed response variables, which are the data outputs, and what this information can conclude about restoration outcomes is unclear. As a result, it is difficult to understand how this data can inform future watershed restoration action or management decisions.
- Two years of monitoring data may not be sufficient to understand climate change impacts to watershed resilience.

Concluding Analysis

With the amount of data gathered using the proposed protocols, a considerable volume of quality information will be collected; however, it is unclear how this data will be synthesized to learn about outcomes from management and restoration efforts at the Zena site and then use the results to inform other efforts to improve watershed health and resilience to climate change. This uncertainty in applying the information limits the cost benefit of the proposed monitoring work.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3037-17381

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Calapooia Chinook Environmental DNA Monitoring

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $49,101

Total Cost: $63,701

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Calapooia Watershed Council's (CWC) proposed environmental DNA (eDNA) monitoring will collect water samples on the mainstem Calapooia River and Sodom Ditch, from its confluence with the Willamette River in Albany to the end of anadromy on USFS property at RM 72.9, to determine the presence or absence of the Threatened Upper Willamette River (UWR) Chinook. To best manage and restore native fish populations, 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 the capacity of local agencies and the elusiveness of certain species. Thus, management decisions regarding the declining UWR spring Chinook often lacks critical information that would best direct restoration efforts. Spring Chinook in the Calapooia River once numbered as many as 9,500 adults and were listed under the federal ESA in 2005. In order to make the most effective use of future monitoring funds and enable instream restoration targeted at the reach-scale, the CWC seeks to address these information gaps regarding UWR 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, out-planting locations, depict the spatial distribution of spring Chinook in the Calapooia River, and provide insights for future monitoring.OWEB funds will be used to coordinate interns/volunteers, lead training sessions, collect and organize eDNA samples, and discussion and present results to project partners. The CWC will be partnering with the National Genomics Center, ODFW, and Weyerhaeuser.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application builds on past and current monitoring and restoration efforts to understand adult spring Chinook presence and distribution in the Calapooia River during the spawning period.
- The application explains how this information is connected to recovery efforts for spring Chinook in the Upper Willamette River, and could inform future projects.
- The use of eDNA technology is well suited for this purpose.
- The applicant has worked with the contract lab to validate that their existing Chinook eDNA assay will detect the spring Chinook likely to be present in the Calapooia River.

- The application has a clear explanation of methods and protocol to be followed to collect the water samples and filter these in the field.
- The application describes how the data will be shared with a variety of stakeholders in their area.
- The costs seem reasonable to collect and report the eDNA data.
- The monitoring design, which is adapted from a bull trout eDNA study, is clear about the process for establishing sampling sites at 1-km intervals at the peak of the spawning period.
- The filters will be archived to allow future eDNA analyses to occur in the future, as appropriate.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It will be challenging to establish when the peak of spawning will occur in the Calapooia by looking at run timing in neighboring watersheds, given differences between the systems.
- The application did not discuss how the eDNA and water temperature data will be reported in a final product to be used in a meaningful way.
- The application timeline and budget did not include data analysis for the water temperature data and incorporation of this information into the final report.
- In order to estimate relative abundance of spring chinook using higher concentrations of eDNA in a given sample, there needs to be stream discharge data available, yet there was no mention of this in the application.
- The application includes the same ODFW support letter that was provided in the original 2018 application, making it unclear if the applicant communicated with the agency about resubmitting the application.
- It is unclear how the applicant intends to apply these data. For example, the application mentions using this data to identify habitat to protect or restore and to identify juvenile rearing habitat, but these uses may not be well suited to spawner distribution data.

Monitoring Team Comments

Include detailed progress tracking reporting requirements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Previous application evaluation concerns are addressed by providing more detail needed to understand the project.
- The example DNA report included in the application provides helpful context for understanding the monitoring product.
- Appropriate partners will be engaged to provide training and data collection.
- Partner support is demonstrated by match.
- Data will be shared with state and federal agencies that need the information resulting from this monitoring project.
- Costs are reasonable for the proposed monitoring work.

Concerns

- It is unclear from the application how data will be used to inform future restoration.
- Including flow measurement would improve the effective application of the resulting eDNA data. There are a considerable number of unknowns across a long distance of stream miles influencing fish presence and abundance. Integrating flow data with eDNA concentrations provides a tool for calculating relative fish abundance. This expanded application of eDNA could better inform future restoration.
- The application overstates the benefit of the eDNA data and the information it can provide. This data will provide a presence-absence assessment of fish; it will not provide information about their preferred habitat. Pairing eDNA with stream habitat attribute data would provide more information on where to focus restoration efforts.

Concluding Analysis

The resulting monitoring data will fill a data gap in a priority basin for Chinook habitat restoration. Since the proposed monitoring goal focuses on fish presence-absence during the summer, flow data is not necessary for achieving proposed monitoring goals; however, the applicant is encouraged to consider integrating flow estimates to better understand the eDNA results. A potential resource for flow estimates is Corvallis EPA research that used the Calapooia Watershed as a pilot for estimating discharge on ungaged basins.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,101

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$49,101

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3038-17388

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Kincaid's lupine Effectiveness Monitoring

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $86,848

Total Cost: $251,208

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Less than one percent of the prairies that historically carpeted the Willamette Valley ecoregion remains intact. As a consequence, Kincaid's lupine (Lupinus oreganus) was federally listed as threatened and Fender's blue butterfly (Icaricia icarioides fenderi) as endangered in 2000. The Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and Southwestern Washington (USFWS 2010) identifies the need to restore and maintain population networks across the species' historic range. OWEB recently awarded the restoration grant "Upland prairie restoration for Kincaid's lupine and Fender's blue butterfly," which aims to implement habitat restoration and Kincaid's lupine augmentation activities to meet recovery goals in the Corvallis West and Salem West recovery zones. In this monitoring proposal, we seek to assess the effectiveness of Kincaid's lupine restoration efforts at the 11 restoration project sites, as well as one additional site. We will implement standardized Kincaid's lupine and habitat quality monitoring protocols to determine if sites meet recovery goals. We will also assess effects of habitat quality and introduction method (seeding vs. plug planting) on the establishment of Kincaid's lupine. Baseline data will be collected and analyzed the first year (2020) and compiled into a brief progress report. Post-project monitoring data will be collected in 2025, three years after restoration actions have been completed. All data will then be analyzed in a final project report. This project helps fulfill the monitoring requirement of nine different local assessment plans in four counties. Partners include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Benton County Natural Areas and Parks Department, Oregon Department of Transportation, Bureau of Reclamation, Greenbelt Land Trust, Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District, Polk Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust, Echo Hills Farm (private) and Scott Harris (private).

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This monitoring will help fulfill the requirements to allow evaluation of the Recovery Plan for the Prairie Species of Western Oregon and SW Washington.
- The objectives proposed in the application are clear and the activities are appropriate to achieve them.
- The monitoring design is adequate to meet the monitoring objectives.
- The applicant will enter the data into US Fish and Wildlife Service's Threatened and Endangered Species Geodatabase to enable USFWS and other partners to access and use the data for a variety of needs.

- The applicant is working with several partners, and they are contributing match to help implement the project as proposed.
- There are several letters of support uploaded with the application describing the partner's interest in the data and their contributions to the project.
- The timeline is appropriate and includes time for data analysis.
- The applicant has a proven track record and the necessary skills to implement this monitoring project.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear if the monitoring is sufficient to interpret the results. For instance, if the monitoring does not show improvements in lupine populations and planting success, will there be information to identify detrimental factors that contributed to the lack of success?
- There was a lack of detail describing why adjustments to the lupine population quadrat monitoring methods were needed based on different plant densities.
- The application, with the exception of the letter of support and cooperative agreement, did not describe the significant match that USFWS is contributing to the project.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Established protocols are described in the application, and the project timeline is reasonable.
- The applicant is qualified to accomplish the proposed monitoring, and has proven experience with the target plant species and monitoring protocols.
- Tied to existing ESA recovery plans, the resulting data will inform progress tracking and decisions related to the recovery of Kincaid's lupine.
- Significant OWEB funds have been invested in Kincaid's lupine restoration. While not described in the application, the proposed monitoring has potential to quantify the varying success of seeding versus plug planting restoration strategies, which will inform future restoration work.
- Resulting data will be submitted to the USFWS database, which is the federal agency responsible for ESA recovery of Kincaid's lupine.

Concerns

- The application does not describe how monitoring will be directly applied to inform future restoration methods.
- It is unclear how the USFWS match is necessary and related to the proposed monitoring activities, as it appears to be for work considerably broader than the proposed project.

- The application budget lacks detail needed to determine whether costs are reasonable and necessary for the proposed work because costs are shown as lump sums.

Concluding Analysis

There are a number of benefits that will result from the proposed monitoring project. Data will inform ESA recovery decisions for Kincaid's lupine, which will influence restoration strategies among practitioners. The data will also provide opportunities to learn about restoration approaches used in previously funded OWEB projects targeting Kincaid's lupine.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$86,848

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$86,848

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3039-17457

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Effectiveness monitoring of floodplain restoration projects in the Middle Fork Willamette

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $179,596

Total Cost: $302,941

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Through the collection and dissemination of monitoring data at Stage 0 floodplain restoration sites in the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed (MFWW), we hope to further our understanding of the effectiveness, benefits, and impacts of these project types while also sharing the results in approachable ways with a variety of audiences. Needs exist to develop and refine methods to monitor the effectiveness of these types of projects because traditional stream monitoring methods are designed for single-thread river channels and do not evaluate changes to floodplain function. Through this project, we will continue effectiveness monitoring of two recently implemented OWEB-funded projects in the headwaters of the MFWW (Staley Creek and Coal Creek) for two additional years to produce meaningful data to share with scientists, practitioners, funders, and the general public. We will communicate through a variety of mediums with messages tailored to each group so that everyone can understand the benefits and impacts of these projects. We also seek to build off of the monitoring at Staley and Coal Creeks and work with partners who are monitoring other Stage 0 projects throughout Oregon to develop a monitoring plan for Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) floodplain restoration. We will then conduct two years of pre-project monitoring at EBSP on Lost Creek and the Middle Fork Willamette River below Dexter Dam, as well as adapt and refine effectiveness monitoring protocols to be implemented post-project. We expect these efforts will not only help us understand the effectiveness of Stage 0 projects in the MFWW, but will benefit the field of floodplain restoration by documenting benefits, highlighting lessons learned, and refining protocols and methods. The primary partners for this project are the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC) and the USFS Middle Fork Ranger District (MFRD), with assistance from PNW Research Station, ODFW, and USGS.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- Understanding the evolution of stream and biotic processes after large-scale floodplain restoration actions is a long-term undertaking, and this monitoring application will provide important data to address questions about response to the initial disturbance and the initial phases of response.
- The application proposes effectiveness monitoring at two completed floodplain restoration projects (Coal and Staley creeks) and builds upon data that has been previously collected.
- The application includes two years of pre-restoration monitoring at Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP), which is important in order to have a robust data set to compare post-restoration project outcomes.

- The application includes developing a monitoring plan for EBSP that builds off the monitoring performed at Coal and Staley creeks.
- The applicant is coordinating with several partners that are contributing to the monitoring plan and providing other supporting data.
- The application's objectives are clearly stated and the activities described are appropriate to achieve them.
- The applicant has qualified staff who have working relationships with the US Forest Service and researchers that are currently sharing information to better understand the outcomes of these large-scale floodplain restoration actions.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application does not describe methods to install and operate the new gaging station on Lost Creek or the methods to be followed for the dilute tracer methods for measuring stream flow.
- It is unclear if sediment supply was being monitored at the three sites to understand how this might influence the parameters they are proposing to monitor.
- It is unclear if the collection and analysis of the respiration data would account for seasonal fluctuations with discharge.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Work with DEQ early in the life of the project to develop the SAP or QAPP.

• Reference OWRD/USGS methods to install and operate the new gaging station on Lost Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Monitoring protocols identified in the application are well-documented and the applicant demonstrates a sufficient understanding of these protocols for effective implementation.
- Since Stage 0 is a newer watershed restoration approach with high costs and uplift, there is a clear need to identify the best data to determine success of this approach and monitoring its effectiveness in restoring watershed processes. There is potential for the proposed monitoring approach to be applied at Stage 0 locations across the state to better understand the effectiveness of this process-based restoration approach.
- Previous OWEB-funded Stage 0 projects in the upper Middle Fork Willamette watershed will be monitored. The data will inform restoration in the lower watershed that is related to a pending stakeholder engagement project and a previously funded technical assistance project.
- The applicant has engaged experts with the appropriate technical skills and knowledge necessary to implement the proposed monitoring, and is integrating technical peer review.

Concerns

- If the purpose of the proposed monitoring is to determine the effectiveness of previous Stage 0 restoration, it is unclear whether the chosen parameters have enough connection to the original restoration goals and objectives identified for these project. As a result, the data may not provide evidence for determining whether those goals and objectives were accomplished.
- It is unclear whether the proposed parameters will provide information to determine success of the Stage 0 restoration approach in restoring watershed processes, or to better understand the cost benefit of this technique. It is uncertain whether the proposed primary productivity measures are the appropriate information for understanding Stage 0 outcomes and success. There may be higher priority monitoring questions and parameters for understanding Stage 0 outcomes. For example, there may be benefit to also analyzing sediment transport and habitat features.

Concluding Analysis

The outcome from Stage 0 restoration is not the typical number of linear miles of restored stream, but rather a complex network of restored watershed processes over a larger footprint. Measuring ecological success at these sites requires exploring protocols to determine the appropriate parameters for monitoring the effectiveness of the Stage 0 approach. More information on how and why the proposed monitoring parameters were determined to be the best proxies for understanding success of the Stage 0 approach is needed to understand the likelihood of success for this proposed monitoring project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3040-17498

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: The Mosby Creek Salmon Spawning Monitoring Project Phase I

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $96,393

Total Cost: $132,393

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Mosby Creek is a large free-flowing tributary in the Upper Willamette, southeast of the city of Cottage Grove, comprising a drainage basin of 97 square miles. It drains the both the low elevation Cascades and the Kalapuya Divide—the ridgeline that runs between the Coast Range and Cascades and dividing the Willamette and Umpqua watersheds. It contributes approximately 30% of the flow of the Row River and about 15% of the flow of the Coast Fork Willamette River (Eugene BLM, 2000). Its landownership pattern consists of a rural residential and small woodlot ownership in the downstream, low-elevation part of the sub-basin, with O&C land managed by private and federal interests in the upper basin.Reintroduction of spring Chinook salmon began in 2012 by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Initial efforts sourced salmon from the McKenzie Hatchery, and beginning in 2014 salmon were sourced from the Willamette Hatchery. While we do know from presence/absence surveys that there are salmon present in Mosby Creek, it is unknown if they are spawning successfully.The Mosby Creek Salmon Spawning Monitoring Project Phase I will help us collect and analyze data to answer key questions. To answer these questions we will conduct both walking and snorkel surveys to enumerate, and presence/absence surveys to determine how many of the returning adults are unmarked. Questions we anticipate the initial monitoring date will answer include:1) How many hatchery and wild Chinook are spawning in the watershed?2) Are Chinook spawning in Mosby Creek producing viable offspring?3) Are juvenile Chinook rearing in Mosby Creek?4) Are juvenile Chinook migrating out of Mosby Creek and rearing in other parts of the system?5) What is the potential production capacity for wild Chinook in Mosby Creek?Project partners include ODFW, Weyerhaeuser, and private landowners. Funding for this proposal will help support CFWWC staff time and travel, ODFW time, and administrative costs.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application proposes to collect information that addresses a defined need that will help inform implementation of the Upper Willamette River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Chinook salmon.
- The application proposes to develop a Mosby Creek Salmon Monitoring Plan and continue to refine the plan for Phase II of the monitoring project as data are compiled and analyzed.
- The applicant is coordinating with ODFW to plan the monitoring, obtain training, and follow ODFW protocols for fish surveys.
- The budget costs and project timelines seem reasonable.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacks a description of how the data will be managed and analyzed to inform future restoration actions or evaluate past restoration actions.
- The application does not define the model that will be developed to determine production capacity and who at ODFW would be assisting with this.
- The application lacks detail on the activities for each objective, raising concerns that the objectives may not be achievable as proposed.
- The application lacks detail on monitoring methods. There is no citation for the spawning survey protocol that will be followed. It is difficult to determine what surveys will be done (e.g., determining if there are wild and/or hatchery adult and juvenile fish present in the system) and if they are sufficient to meet their objectives as described.
- The application lacks detail on the study design. It was unclear if adult and juvenile surveys were a complete census of the spring Chinook distribution, targeting specific areas or using some other means of sample site selection, such as spatially stratified or random selection.
- The application lacks detail on efforts to share data with interested stakeholders outside of ODFW, such as private and public landowners in the basin such as Weyerhaeuser and BLM.
- While noted in the budget, the application narrative does not explain that ODFW seasonal staff will be used to accomplish at least some of the field work. Better explanation of data collection roles and responsibilities for the watershed council and ODFW staff would be helpful.
- This is a new monitoring project for the watershed council, thus the applicant's track record to implement comparable monitoring efforts is unknown.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed protocols are consistent with ODFW methods.
- A partnership with ODFW increases the likelihood of success for accomplishing the monitoring goals and objectives.
- The resulting data will inform ODFW Chinook reintroduction management.

Concerns

- There is not enough detail in the application to understand how the project will be managed, and whether the applicant has the capacity to implement the work. Additional information on the roles and responsibilities shared with ODFW is needed to understand how the project will be implemented.
- It is difficult to determine how the monitoring data will be shared and used to inform restoration based on the limited information provided in the application.

- There is not enough detail to determine the technical soundness of the monitoring design. Although referenced protocols are likely appropriate, they are not sufficiently described in the application.

Concluding Analysis

While the proposed data will likely be useful, the application lacks enough information to understand the proposed scope of work for the project and how results will inform future watershed restoration.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3041-17465

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: $96,971

Total Cost: $133,502

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Elijah Bristow State Park (EBSP) is located just below Dexter Dam at the confluence of the Middle Fork Willamette River and Lost Creek, a free-flowing tributary. At over 850 acres EBSP offers one of the largest undeveloped tracts of floodplain below a series of dams on this river. Despite the lack of current development in this floodplain, flood risk mitigation dams, historic aggregate mining, and berms and levees have resulted in the loss of dynamism and diverse habitat historically present. With support from an OWEB TA grant, we have developed conceptual restoration designs for close to 630 acres – over 4 river miles - that, when implemented, will greatly improve hydrologic connectivity across the floodplain which will have cascading benefits to aquatic and riparian habitat and the species that depend upon those habitats, such as Oregon chub, spring Chinook salmon, western pond turtle, lamprey, and numerous others. These designs are informed by Stage 0 concepts but modified to fit site constraints. Within the Willamette, this type of restoration has been implemented only on federal lands thus far. Therefore, applying it in a popular park with more logistical and social constraints will require significant social engagement to be successful. We are proposing an iterative stakeholder engagement process that begins with awareness about current ecological conditions, builds into deeper engagement surrounding site selection, design refinement, and trails planning, then circles back to creating awareness of final plans. We also plan to engage with tribes, river and land managers, permitting agencies, and other key entities that have interests in the site and can support and inform restoration. Our process will empower stakeholders and help them feel a sense of ownership over this project on public lands. The technical team from the OWEB TA grant will continue working with MFWWC and OPRD in the stakeholder engagement process; this includes ODFW, USFS, USACE, USFWS, USGS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addresses the previous evaluation concerns.
- The project builds on a technical assistance investment that incorporated a technical team with appropriate expertise to review and recommend restoration alternatives.
- Appropriate stakeholder audiences are clearly identified.

- The application has a clear description of how engagement will be implemented and what outcomes will be accomplished.
- A diversity of affected stakeholders will be engaged in a variety of multidirectional communication opportunities that will facilitate stakeholder learning about proposed restoration alternatives, and invite their feedback. The flexible approach described for discussing design alternatives will provide space for authentic consideration of stakeholder feedback.
- The logic model included in the application provides helpful context for understanding the stakeholder engagement approach.
- Success indicators are clearly articulated in the application.
- The applicant is qualified to accomplish the proposed activities, and has a proven track record with similar work.
- Costs are appropriate for the project complexity.

Concerns

- There are no concerns identified for the proposed Stakeholder Engagement.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant absorbed previous project evaluation feedback and adjusted the application, which resulted in a high-quality project proposal. The stakeholder engagement is crafted as a conversation in which Stage 0 is presented as a preferred alternative based on a technical assistance process, and balances this with adaptive space that responds to stakeholder feedback. This approach is an example of how the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds actively engages the community in determining solutions for watershed health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$96,971

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$96,971

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3042-17478

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Willamette Hazelnut Stakeholder Engagement Project

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: $61,490

Total Cost: $116,740

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a Natural Resources Conservation Service program that encourages collaboration and innovation and can bring large scale funding to active partnerships. Already, partners from drinking water providers, conservation districts, Oregon State University (OSU) extension and the Oregon Hazelnut Commission have met and begun discussing how this group of stakeholders can collaborate and increase voluntary conservation throughout the Willamette Basin. An opportunity has already risen to the top to align with the hazelnut industry. The Hazelnut Commission is already funded to work towards developing a 3rd party stewardship certification, which would include practices that protect water quality and improve soil health. The group already sees promise to be able to work with the commission to offer conservation opportunities and incentives to meet or exceed this stewardship certification.This opportunity is exciting but also newly hatched. We believe deeper conversations are needed about how this might take shape and who is interested in being involved before trying to apply for large scale funding for multiple years of work. We are seeking funding to conduct a series of facilitated sessions with stakeholders throughout the Willamette Basin to develop goals for collaboration and partnerships so that we are able to submit a competitive RCPP application.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project design includes multidirectional communications with stakeholders by providing a venue for facilitated conversations.
- Successful implementation of the stakeholder engagement may potentially lead to securing a NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) project, which would bring significant funds for conservation actions into the Willamette basin.
- There is potential for the proposed work to result in an Oregon Solutions project.
- There is a clear need articulated for the proposed stakeholder engagement conversation because hazelnut operations do not fit well within the framework of existing certifications, such as Salmon Safe.
- The project will be led by a qualified advisory team with a proven track record in similar work.
- Project support by ODA and Oregon Hazelnut Commission is demonstrated by participation, match, and letters of support.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether there is support for the stakeholder engagement conversation among SWCDs and from NRCS, and what plans are in place for engaging these stakeholders.
- It is unclear who will provide leadership after the proposed facilitated conversation to maintain momentum and champion efforts towards achieving on-the-ground implementation work.
- It is uncertain whether project timing will provide information needed for the RCPP application. It is not clear whether there are other options available if the RCPP project is not selected to ensure hazelnut producers have resources for timely implementation of conservation practices.
- There is not a clear watershed benefit identified as a target for the RCPP project. It is also unclear whether there is evidence indicating how hazelnut farms negatively impact watershed health to ensure actions taken will effectively address those impacts.

Concluding Analysis

With the increasing number of hazelnut farms in the Willamette, there is a clear need to determine potential impacts to watershed health and identify stewardship practices that effectively address these impacts. If there is not a source of information that provides evidence for the watershed impacts caused by hazelnut farms that should be targeted, it may be too early for a conversation with the farmers and pursuing a RCPP project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 220-3043-17485

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Building Prescribed Fire Capacity in the Southern Willamette Valley

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Region: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $65,973

Total Cost: $100,603

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This stakeholder engagement proposal intends to address fire suppression and human exclusion in fire-adapted oak-prairie ecosystems in the southern Willamette Valley by way of collaboration among public, nonprofit, and Tribal partners. The majority of land management organizations lack capacity to use fire as a management tool, and current capacity for prescribed burning is largely limited to public and Nature Conservancy lands, while critical habitat remains in need of fire on private, land trust, and tribal lands. We seek to make much needed collaborative progress on understanding how to build lasting capacity for prescribed fire and putting it into practice to support oak and prairie habitat health in priority areas and community resilience. Through research, one-on-one dialogues, and collaborative meetings, we will engage local tribes, land trusts, public agencies, private organizations, watershed councils and private land-owners to understand prescribed fire capacities and needs to be able to approach funding and progressive actions to help all partners. Over the course of these discussions, we intend to grow an understanding of how to incorporate Tribal cultural knowledge and needs into valley-wide burn practices, research the factors affecting the prescribed burn window, build the parameters of a fire coordinator position that will carry longer-term leadership in continuing to build burn capacity, and develop a series of agreements or MOUs that clarify how partners will share resources for prescribed fire. Without increased understanding of how to build capacity for prescribed fire across landownership boundaries, oak-prairie habitat, associated species and cultural practices could continue to decline and hazardous fuels and wildfire risk could continue to increase. The outcomes of this proposal intend to benefit innumerable oak-prairie restoration projects and land managers throughout the WV.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clearly articulated objectives.
- The applicant has a thoughtful approach for identifying appropriate partners and stakeholders.
- Local tribes will be engaged to incorporate tribal knowledge into prescribed fire practices.
- The applicant is qualified to accomplish the proposed activities, and has a proven track record with stakeholder engagement.
- Costs are appropriate and reasonable.

Concerns

- The proposed activities are ambitious for one project manager to be responsible for, which could result in a strain on capacity for the proposed work.
- Encouraging fire is contrary to the message currently communicated from agencies to agricultural stakeholders. This could potentially result in confusion or frustration among landowners.
- Increasing the use of prescribed fire for conservation purposes beyond what already occurs in the project area has an associated risk for pushing past the limits of social acceptability for this practice. This could lead to conflict with the public resulting in limiting or removing the use of fire as a conservation tool.

Concluding Analysis

Fire has proven to be an effective tool for restoring oak-prairie ecosystems, and fire suppression is one of the key limiting factors that has led to degradation of this habitat. The proposed stakeholder engagement may provide a unique opportunity to shift public opinion on prescribed burns so that these habitats can effectively be restored at a large scale. Given the complexity of this issue and mixed messaging to landowners, the applicant is encouraged to learn from all resources available on fire and not limit themselves to tribal resources. While there are risks associated with this conversation, the applicant is well equipped for the proposed work and challenging conversation. The potential benefit to the target habitats is high for the cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$65,973

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

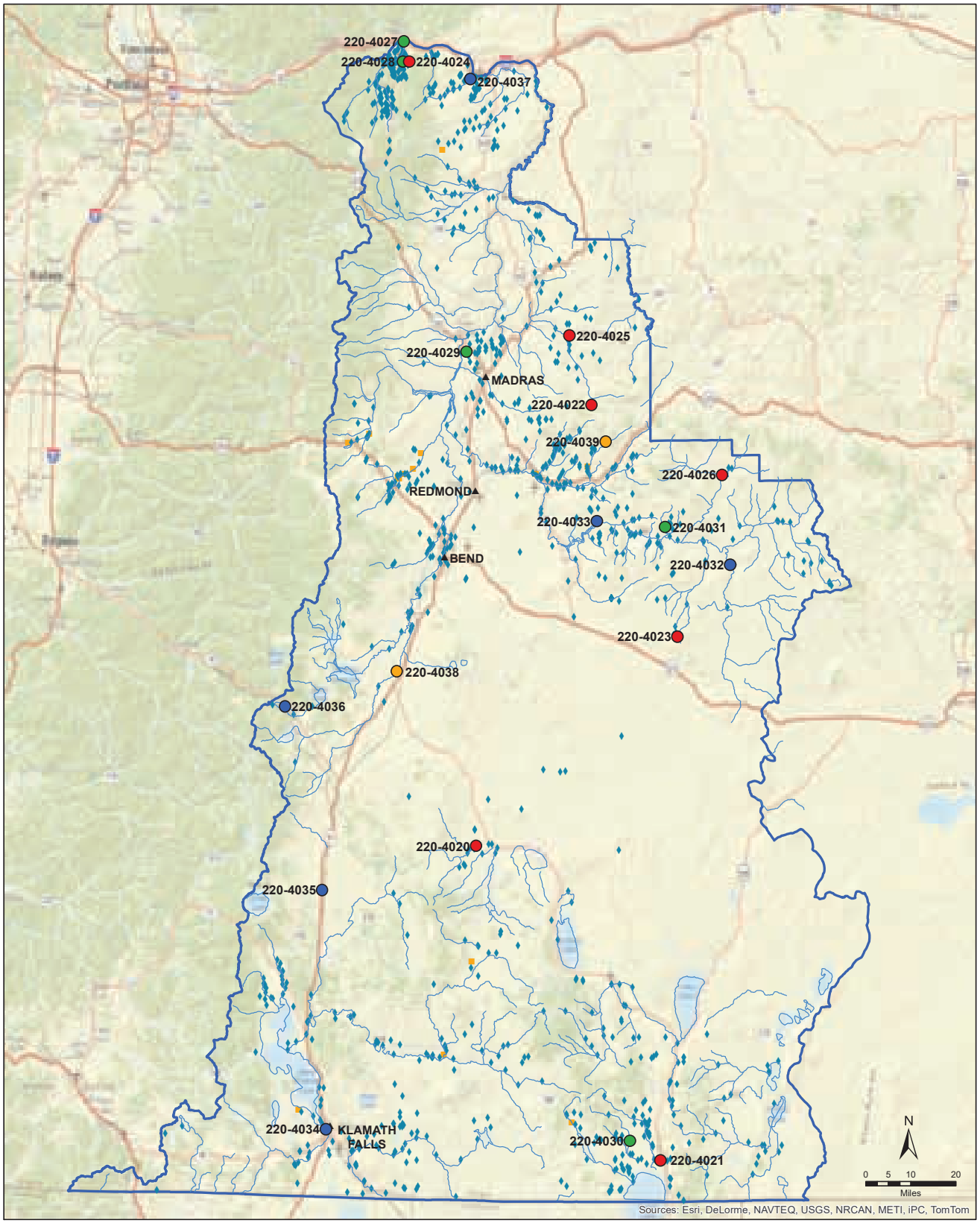
Staff Recommended Amount

$65,973

Staff Conditions

None

Central Oregon - Region 4 Fall 2019 Applications



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Grant Types

- Restoration
- Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring

Previous Grants: 1998 - Spring 2019

- Restoration
- Land Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

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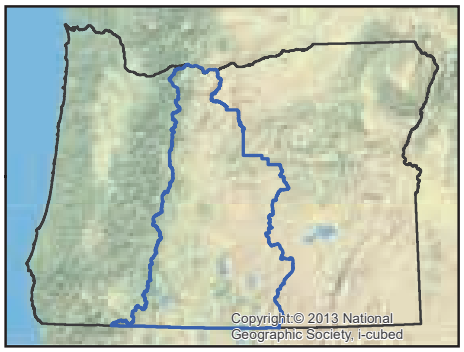


Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4023	Crook SWCD	Fostering the Natural Ecology of Resilient Landscapes on Hampton Buttes	This landscape scale project in Southern Crook County will restore priority resources within sage steppe, aspen woodlands, and natural spring habitat to benefit a multitude of wildlife species.	268,508	Crook
220-4020	Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD	Buck Creek - Shaw Ranch Diversion Dam Replacement	The last remaining fish barrier will be removed on Buck Creek, located between Highway 31 at Paulina Marsh, by replacing an old concrete diversion structure with a roughened stream channel.	304,467	Lake
220-4025	Jefferson SWCD	Little Trout Creek Habitat Improvement Project	The last mile of Little Trout Creek will be restored through channel reconstruction, placement of large wood fish habitat structures, and native plant revegetation along this stream reach important for Mid Columbia Steelhead.	130,967	Jefferson
220-4022	Jefferson SWCD	Upper Trout Creek Tributary Rehabilitation	The forest service will implement a variety of restoration approaches across multiple miles of headwater streams in the Upper Trout Creek Watershed to improve instream and floodplain habitat for Mid Columbia Steelhead.	84,601	Crook
220-4021	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Thomas Creek - Amsbaugh Diversion Fish Passage	Fish passage at the last remaining barrier on Thomas Creek, the largest tributary to Goose Lake, will be restored by creating a bypass channel around a channel spanning concrete water diversion.	136,036	Lake
220-4026	Discover Your Northwest DBA: Discover Your Forest	Lower Deep Creek Restoration Project Phase 3	The final phase of restoration along lower Deep Creek will complete instream and floodplain enhancement work by placing large wood fish habitat structure instream, constructing beaver dam analogues, and restoring native plant communities. Streamside fencing and two cattle guards will be installed to protect restored habitats.	162,156	Crook
220-4024	Hood River SWCD	Eastside Lateral Pipeline & Water Conservation Project	Converting miles of open-ditch irrigation canals into an underground, closed-pipe system and eliminating all the end spills will allow three cfs to be permanently conserved instream to the East Fork Hood River.	524,355	Hood River
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,611,090**	

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 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				**1,611,090**	
Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
None					

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4030	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Cottonwood Creek Reconnaissance and Design Plan	Eight irrigation diversions will investigated to develop design solutions that facilitate fish passage and improve water delivery along Cottonwood Creek, a major tributary to Goose Lake.	69,355	Lake
220-4029	Jefferson SWCD	Campbell Creek Watershed Enhancement Project	The utilization of beaver dam analogues will be assessed as a water quality solution for reducing sediment and nutrient loading from the headwaters of Campbell Creek prior to it releasing into the Deschutes River via the Pelton Regulating Reservoir.	24,974	Jefferson
220-4028	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Design	Construction-ready designs will be developed to improve instream and floodplain habitat conditions along two properties on Neal Creek that have been characterized as having the highest restoration potential for ESA-listed fish.	63,433	Hood River
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**157,762**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-4027	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Middle Mainstem Columbia Restoration Action Plan	A restoration inventory and action plan for the mainstem Columbia River from Bonneville Dam to the John Day Dam will be completed to fill knowledge gaps and jumpstart restoration activities in this area.	74,924	Hood River
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**232,686**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
220-4031	Think Wild	Technical Support for Crooked River Basin Assessment of Beaver Intrinsic Potential (BIP)	38,057	Crook

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

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**	**County**
220-4038	Deschutes SWCD	Upper Deschutes Forest Health Investment Project		76,107	Deschutes
220-4039	Think Wild	Mill Creek Stakeholder Engagement Project		16,565	Crook

Region 4 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-4034	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Final Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake	The final phase in field assessing a network of streams identified in Klamath – Lake Counties will be completed to verify gaps and opportunities regarding stream presence, habitat availability, fish use, and restoration potential.	130,577	Klamath
220-4037	Wasco SWCD	The Dalles Watershed Fish Monitoring	Monitoring stations will be installed to understand fish use and species composition on three urban streams that flow through The Dalles before releasing into the Columbia River below The Dalles dam.	115,518	Wasco
220-4032	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Monitoring beaver dam analogs on the S. Fork, Crooked River	The effectiveness of beaver dam analogues (BDA) installed on private land on the South Fork Crooked River will be examined by monitoring a set of physical and biological parameters to understand the ecological response of stream restoration approaches that use BDA's.	39,333	Crook
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**285,428**	
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				**285,428**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
220-4033	Crooked River WC	Upper Crooked Watershed Redband Movement Tracking		120,268	Crook
220-4035	The Klamath Tribes	Groundwater and Surface-water Trends in Klamath Marsh, Oregon		265,298	Klamath
220-4036	Integrated Ecosystem Sciences Inc	Odell Lake Monitoring & Analysis		165,870	Klamath
Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**2,054,280**	**19%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**10,877,263**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4020-17393

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Buck Creek - Shaw Ranch Diversion Dam Replacement

Applicant: Fort Rock/Silver Lake SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $304,467

Total Cost: $381,457

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

In partnership with the Fort Rock / Silver Lake SWCD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Shaw Ranch of Silver Lake, Oregon, Ducks Unlimited will replace the existing irrigation diversion dam on Buck Creek, a tributary of the Paulina Marsh in Lake County, Oregon. To our knowledge, the Shaw diversion represents the last fish passage impediment between Highway 31 at Paulina Marsh and the headwaters in the public lands ownership. In consultation with the project partners and ODFW fisheries, Ducks Unlimited will finalize engineering designs, secure necessary regulatory permits and clearances, and solicit and award bids to replace the existing diversion dam with a progressive 'roughened surface' / 'rock chute' diversion dam. The new dam will maintain and likely enhance distribution of surface water across the historical Buck Creek floodplain hydrating seasonal wet meadows critical for spring staging migratory waterfowl and waterbirds. Additionally, the new structure will provide perennial fish passage with no management demands, opening up an additional 4.5 miles of fish migration potential on Buck Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This proposal builds on a previously funded OWEB technical assistance grant that provided engineering support to develop the project design to 60%, which included an alternatives analysis.
- The Shaw diversion is the last remaining complete barrier on Buck Creek from the headwaters downstream to its crossing with Highway 31, and would open up an additional 4.5 miles of high quality habitat.
- The applicant and engineering contractor (Ducks Unlimited) have partnered together to provide passage on four other diversions along Buck Creek, providing confidence in the capacity of the project team to implemented the project successfully.
- The two irrigation diversions associated with the diversion dam will be appropriately screened to ensure fish do not have access to the canals.
- The project will provide control and efficiency in delivering irrigation water which should enhance distribution of surface water across the historic floodplain adding habitat value for waterfowl and waterbirds.

Concerns

- The project design has not been approved for fish passage by ODFW. Their review may result in unplanned modifications to the design that could alter the project design and budget.
- There was no letter of support from the landowner.

Concluding Analysis

The Shaw diversion represents the last known fish barrier on Buck Creek from its headwaters on public land to its crossing with Highway 31 (~26 miles). The aquatic habitat on Buck Creek through the Shaw ranch is in good condition and provides habitat for a known population of Fort Rock Redband trout. The riparian vegetation along the creek consists of dense populations of Willow providing bank stabilization and cover, as well as acting as a barrier to livestock access. Midway through the planning and design process, the incorporation of the USFWS as a partner altered the design approach which now utilizes a roughened channel as opposed to a concrete fish ladder. This new approach should provide an overall improvement in stream process and fish passage, but will require some additional design details in order to receive approval by ODFW.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$304,467

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$304,467

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4021-17396

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Thomas Creek - Amsbaugh Diversion Fish Passage

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $136,036

Total Cost: $170,631

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The focus of this project is restoring fish passage connectivity in Thomas Creek, the largest tributary to Goose Lake in the Goose Lake Basin. The Thomas Creek – Amsbaugh Diversion is located 10 miles southwest of the town of Lakeview in Lake County. The Diversion was established approximately fifty years ago to provide irrigation and stock water to one of the largest ranches in the Goose Lake Basin, flood irrigating 1500 acres of pasture and hay ground. Today, the ranch is managed much the same. The structure is located 5 miles upstream from Goose Lake and is the first and last artificial barrier within the forty-mile stream tributary. The concrete weir is a complete upstream barrier due to the structure's vertical height, preventing aquatic species from reaching quality habitat and cooler water temperatures during the warm summer months. Approximately 20 years ago a concrete fish ladder was installed to accommodate fish passage, but the design implemented no longer meets fish passage criteria. It is now considered ineffective and obsolete. Nine native Goose Lake fishes utilize Thomas Creek, including unique species like the Modoc sucker (Listed State Sensitive) and the Goose Lake Lamprey who have no jump height capabilities. This project is a priority for the following reasons: 1) The LakeCounty Umbrella Watershed Council and partners have implemented multiple restoration - fish passage projects throughout the 40-mile stream tributary, 2) All artificial barriers located upstream of this project have been re-designed to provide passage. An alternatives analysis and 60% fish passage design have been completed for the Thomas Creek-Amsbaugh Diversion. The proposed fish passage solution includes installing a bypass channel and improving the 50 ft. irrigation diversion by installing a rail car bridge for operational safety and maintenance. Project partners include the Amsbaugh Ranch, ODFW, USFWS and LCUWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site represents the last known fish barrier on Thomas Creek. Once complete, the 40-mile mainstem Thomas Creek will be barrier free from its headwaters on the Fremont Winema National Forest down to its confluence with Goose Lake.
- The applicant and partners have demonstrated capacity by working successfully on similar completed projects on streams throughout Lake County.

- The project is a result of an OWEB funded technical assistance grant in 2018 that supported an alternatives analysis and 60% engineered designs for the chosen alternative.
- The fish passage barrier was thought to be addressed in the mid-2000's when Ducks Unlimited installed a fish ladder; however, it was later discovered that the ladder did not pass locally important sucker and lamprey species. The project design accounts for all aquatic species that migrate to and from Goose Lake through Thomas Creek.

Concerns

- The application did not characterize hydrologic fluctuations in the project area. Specifically, it would have been helpful to understand the variability of low flow conditions and how this impacts the functionality of the by-pass channel. The site can receive large flows where water commonly spills over the ditch where the by-pass channel will be constructed. When these conditions arise, it was not clear how fish will be kept from spilling over onto the adjacent agricultural fields.
- The cost for the railcar bridge seemed high. It would have been helpful to understand how that cost was generated to determine cost effectiveness.
- The application did not include fish screens as part of this project. From the designs included, fish that enter the bypass channel would also have access to an irrigation ditch. The application and designs failed to describe what mechanisms will be put in place to prevent entrapment.
- The alternatives analysis failed to take into account the potential impacts to wetlands. It appears the by-pass channel will be constructed through a wetland, yet the application did not describe how potential impacts to the wetland will be addressed.

Concluding Analysis

This project is located five miles from the Thomas Creek confluence with Goose Lake and is the first barrier aquatic species encounter migrating up Thomas Creek from Goose Lake. The chosen alternative will construct a by-pass channel around the diversion dam, utilizing a portion of the existing irrigation diversion canal. The by-pass channel was chosen due to its capability to pass all aquatic species; however, it is unclear whether there is enough flow during low flow periods which Thomas Creek experiences during the irrigation season. The function of the proposed stop logs is also unclear. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with regulatory staff regarding wetlands in the area to understand potential impacts and solutions to move forward with project implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

$136,036

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$136,036

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4022-17408

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 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 densities of 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, and Auger Creek (see enclosed map). Approximately 15.5 miles of large wood placement, 3 miles of floodplain connectivity improvement, and 8 miles of riparian native planting will be implemented. 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 and convert it to wildlife-friendly fencing. 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 requested to supplement the Pelton application, along with USFS funds. Project partners include the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council, Forest Service, and ODFW.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous review team comments by including fish abundance and distribution data for the streams their work will occur in.
- The project approach is cost effective due to utilizing forest service road crews directed by qualified forest service staff and incorporating trees adjacent to their restoration areas for construction of large wood jams.

- The project fits within the context of past restoration in this area of the Ochoco National Forest which included road decommissioning, forest thinning, and stream restoration.
- The application clearly described with maps and narrative the types of restoration treatment that would be implemented in the multiple stream reaches included in the proposed project.
- These headwater streams of Trout Creek provide important habitat for Mid-Columbia steelhead and other aquatic species. Actions proposed overlap with designated critical habitat for Mid-Columbia River steelhead, improving habitat conditions for sections deemed essential for the recovery of the species.

Concerns

- Due to the extensive disturbance and material placement in the channel, it is unclear whether these sites would provide immediate fish passage after restoration.
- It is unclear if the variety of proposed restoration approaches will fit within the scope of the current programmatic permit held by the US Forest Service.
- While the restoration approaches were clearly described, the application would have been clearer if each photo depicting degraded conditions included a description of the restoration approaches for that site.

Concluding Analysis

This project will employ a variety of restoration approaches to improve floodplain connectivity and instream habitat aimed at Mid-Columbia Steelhead in 15 miles of headwater streams in the Trout Creek watershed. All the work will be implemented and supervised by US Forest Service staff that have experience implementing this type of work. The species selection and revegetation strategies are site appropriate. The applicant and partners are encouraged to continue to make exclusion fence a priority to insure long-term sustainability of restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount

$84,601

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$84,601

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4023-17439

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fostering the Natural Ecology of Resilient Landscapes on Hampton Buttes

Applicant: Crook SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $268,508

Total Cost: $565,757

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Hampton Buttes rises nearly 1,000 feet above the expansive rolling sagebrush landscape of southern Crook County and serves an ecological intersection for a variety of sensitive species dependent on sagebrush ecosystems. The project area offers a precious combination of elevation and aspect, giving it the potential to provide highly productive habitat for species in need of seasonal forage and cover like sage-grouse and mule deer. This application corresponds with a well-documented need to enhance the resiliency of sage-steppe ecosystems and in so doing, benefit the wildlife and plant communities that depend on them. Our holistic approach focuses on an area on the north slopes of Hampton Buttes where alterations in natural disturbance regimes have caused plant communities to shift, degrading the native ecology. These shifts include juniper encroachment and the decline of native bunch grasses, forbs, shrubs, and quaking aspen. The project area is predominantly comprised of uplands with a north facing aspect, which respond well to restoration because their deeper soils and cooler temperatures provide the foundation for a resilient native plant community where disturbance is more likely to produce a directional change that aligns with local and statewide management objectives. This project will address many of the limiting factors identified for this area by working with private landowners to address multiple objectives using a landscape approach. Project elements will include: initiating prescribed burns on 1,895 acres of sage steppe that has been invaded by western juniper; cutting junipers on 2,184 acres of sage steppe, rejuvenate 36 acres of aspen woodlands by removing encroaching conifers and reducing browse pressure; Redevelop five springs and add wildlife escape ramps to improve livestock distribution, decrease grazing pressure, and preventing drowning at water sources.Partners include: landowners, NRCS, ODFW, and ODA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project implements a landscape approach to improving a multitude of locally important wildlife habitats including sage steppe, aspen woodlands, and natural springs.
- The application clearly articulates goals, objectives, and ecological outcomes for the variety of proposed habitat treatments.
- The proposed approach to select locations to implement prescribed fire is technically sound, including consideration of important landscape features: soil type, aspect, and slope.

- The cost to achieve the habitat benefit is reasonable.
- The project has demonstrated support from the appropriate agency partners and landowners.

Concerns

- While the applicant will work with Brothers-Hampton Rangeland Fire Protection Association to develop burn plans, technical soundness could be better assessed with details regarding: 1) the types of conditions needed for the ideal burn window to meet the project objectives; and 2) a description of how the applicant and partners would respond if the prescribed fire did not meet the project objectives.

Concluding Analysis

This project is located in southern Crook County near the headwaters of Camp Creek. The property was recently acquired by a neighboring ranch, which offers an opportunity to implement restoration prior to putting the land into ranch production. The project will catalyze funding contributions from NRCS and ODFW which focuses on sage-grouse and mule deer habitat restoration. The property is relatively free of non-native weed species, making it a good candidate for prescribed fire. Implementing prescribed fire has the potential for unintended outcomes; however, the detail provided in the application shows that the necessary planning tools are in place for success in achieving the desirable ecological outcomes described in the application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$268,508

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$268,508

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4024-17468

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Eastside Lateral Pipeline & Water Conservation Project

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $524,355

Total Cost: $7,643,359

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project will take place on the Eastside Lateral Canal 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. The Eastside Lateral Canal serves about one-third of the District and conveys up to 40 cfs. This open, unlined canal begins at Swyers Drive (45.6123/-121.5073) and ends near Old Dalles Drive (45.6740, -121.4859). There are 14 end spills within the Eastside Lateral's distribution system that lose an estimated 6 cfs. Eliminating these end spills and piping the open canal would leave this water in the river, which would have a significant positive impact on spawning and rearing habitat availability for spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead.The proposed work will eliminate 6 miles of open canal by replacing it with HDPE pipe. Work will also include installing 51 irrigation turnouts and 10 sub-lateral line connections, crossing four County roads, constructing two pressure reducing stations, and installing 17 pressure reducing valves along 10 sub-lateral lines. Half of the estimated 6 cfs water savings from this project will be protected with a 3 cfs Conserved Water Allocation. The project has received funding for the first phase of construction from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS). Other project partners include EFID, Hood River Watershed Group (project manager), Hood River Soil & WaterConservation District (applicant/fiscal sponsor), and Farmers Conservation Alliance (technical assistance). Pending funds include an OWRD grant and additional NRCS funds.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Once complete, this project will permanently conserve 3 cfs instream to the East Fork Hood River at East Fork Irrigation District’s (EFID) point of diversion.
- The EFID has shown commitment in protecting water instream by implementing piping projects in the past.
- This project is identified in a draft watershed plan-environmental assessment developed by NRCS that identifies modernization projects for the entire EFID.

- This project will eliminate “end spills” that are located at the end of the ditch which run off and drain into tributaries of the East Fork Hood River. Removing these end spills should result in improved water quality.
- The cost per cfs of conserved water instream is reasonable based on other piping projects reviewed by OWEB.

Concerns

- The overall benefit of permanently conserved water to the East Fork Hood River for spring Chinook spawning utilization may be overstated, due to water quality concerns such as glacial till presence and water temperatures, which impact aquatic species productivity.
- There was no plan included that would measure and document the change in water quality from eliminating the end spills associated with this project.

Concluding Analysis

This piping project represents a continuation of the EFID’s effort to modernize irrigation infrastructure while also permanently protecting water instream for public benefit. The eastside lateral canal has 14 end spill locations that would be eliminated, which is how the conserved water savings from this project would be realized. The design is in its final stages and currently under review by NRCS. While the application states that 3 cfs will be conserved instream, it also mentions that diversions will be reduced by 6 cfs. It would have been helpful to gain additional insight on the District’s water management to understand when and how additional water savings would be realized.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$524,355

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$524,355

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4025-17469

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Trout Creek Habitat Improvement Project

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Jefferson

OWEB Request: $130,967

Total Cost: $582,353

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Jefferson County Soil and Water District (JCSWCD), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and partners (BPA, PGE, Landowner, and Licensed Contractors) seek to restore habitat to benefit federally-listed Mid-Columbia summer steelhead in Trout Creek (Deschutes River). During the early and mid-1900s, Little Trout Creek at the project site was straightened and channelized in order to reduce floodplain habitat and create agricultural fields or livestock pasture. These actions resulted in the loss of beaver dam complexes and an almost total loss of riparian hardwoods. This loss of riparian roughness elements has resulted in a higher stream energy system with reduced habitat diversity, reduced floodplain connectivity, and altered thermal regime. The proposed project seeks to restore instream habitat, improve channel-floodplain form and function, and increase the density and vigor of riparian vegetation to benefit federally listed summer steelhead. The project will restore 1.12 miles of Little Trout Creek and the adjacent floodplain to a geomorphically stable form that provides the habitat diversity, floodplain hydrology, hydraulic and sediment transport function of a naturally occurring, dynamic fluvial environment. The project builds on the success of multiple private landowner projects on Trout Creek that include; stream flow improvements, fish screening, and riparian restoration. These projects are a part of a larger, ongoing effort to restore Trout Creek at the watershed-scale. The project encompasses lower mile of Little Trout Creek, ending at the confluence with Trout Creek. The project site is located on private land, 2.2 miles north of the town of Ashwood, Oregon.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project will build upon recently completed stream restoration activities conducted on Trout Creek immediately adjacent and upstream of the project site where Little Trout Creek enters Trout Creek.
- The project design is carefully thought out, prioritizes actions to address key limiting factors, and has been reviewed and approved through a rigorous process conducted by BPA.
- The applicant and partners have a strong track record in successfully implementing this scale of stream restoration in the Trout Creek watershed.
- The application and ecological outcomes associated with implementation are clear and well thought out.
- A recent change in land ownership resulted in receptivity to implement this scale of restoration.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether consideration was given to alternatives to the proposed hardened stream crossing that would prevent vehicles crossing the stream.

Concluding Analysis

This project will restore the lower one mile of Little Trout Creek by re-meandering the channel, grading the floodplain, building pools and associated large wood complexes, and revegetating the entire project area with native grass, shrubs, and trees. Post restoration, the stream corridor on both sides of the channel will be enrolled into the CREP program. This project is part of a watershed wide approach to improve and restore habitat for ESA listed mid-Columbia Steelhead, for which the Trout Creek watershed is the largest producer of these fish in the Deschutes Basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$130,967

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$130,967

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4026-17501

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Deep Creek Restoration Project Phase 3

Applicant: Discover Your Northwest DBA: Discover Your Forest

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $162,156

Total Cost: $240,826

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Deep Creek Floodplain Restoration Project encompasses the first 1.5 mi of Deep Creek starting at the confluence with the Wild and Scenic North Fork Crooked River, adjacent to Deep Creek Campground located 52 miles east of Prineville in the Ochoco National Forest. Phase 3 will support and conclude in-stream and riparian restoration activities that were implemented in 2018 Phase 1 and 2019 Phase 2. We seek additional funding to thoroughly protect this project, provide top quality habitat, and increase community engagement in partnership with Discover Your Forest. For background, 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, however it resulted in an extended timeline and budget, transforming this into a multi-phased project. Phase 1 started at the upstream end of Site 4 and covered 0.5 mi of stream. Phase 2 continued from there to complete the 1.5 mi of plug and fill work to aggrade the channel and incorporate wood. An end of season review identified two major needs for Phase 3: cattle guards and wood habitat roughness. The current thermoplastic cattle guard implemented in Phase 1 is simply not working nor are forest visitors diligently closing gates, which is why we seek funds for 2 cattle guards. The wood placed in Phases 1&2 did an adequate job but more is needed near the confluence with the N. Fk. Crooked and sites upstream. The budget for additional wood placement at Sites 1-3 &5-9 upstream was reallocated due to the unexpected extended timeline to complete the floodplain work. Furthermore, due to delay, plants slated for Phase 2 area were concentrated in the Phase 1 area. Consequently we seek additional funds to plant the Phase 2 portion of this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project area is a cold water refuge for redband trout. Recent monitoring has documented all life stages utilizing Lower Deep Creek.
- The project will build on two years of restoration implemented in Lower Deep Creek by incorporating additional habitat and protection features to complete the effort.

- The vegetation monitoring strategy proposed to document species composition and densities which will dictate when livestock grazing will begin is thorough and appropriate.
- This project is a high priority for the Ochoco National Forest and is well supported by project partners.

Concerns

- The proposal lacked clarity regarding which activities in the lower Deep Creek restoration site have already been completed and which activities are being proposed. For example, beaver dam analogues (BDA's) and large wood jams are both in the budget, but not in the project timeline.
- The application did not include designs for the installation of BDA's or the large wood jams, making it challenging to understand their technical soundness and justification for costs associated with implementing these activities.
- The goals, objectives, and outcomes associated with the installation of BDA's were not provided in the application. It would have been helpful to explain why these features are being proposed in the locations identified in the map, and the expected ecological objectives for each installation.

Concluding Analysis

The proposal is the final phase of stream and floodplain restoration on the lower 1.5 miles of Deep Creek, a cold water tributary to the North Fork Crooked River in the Ochoco National Forest. The proposed work incorporates additional large wood, a series of BDA's, revegetation, and two cattle guards along with placement of large wood structures further upstream on Deep Creek. While the ecological benefits are significant, the applicant has demonstrated capacity to implement the project, and the project fits within the context of past restoration, the application lacked clarity in a few key areas: the technical justification for selecting the upstream large wood placement sites, design rationale, capability of withstanding wood movement, and maintenance plans for the riparian fence portion crossing the confluence of Deep Creek and North Fork Crooked River, and whether proposed actions are included in the current permit. The application focused heavily on describing past restoration efforts and would have benefited from providing more detail and justification regarding the restoration elements proposed for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$162,156

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$162,156

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4027-17379

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: $74,924

Total Cost: $95,718

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) requests $74,923 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 of the mainstem mid-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. Projects will focus on restoring or enhancing thermal heterogeneity and cold water refuges important for adult steelhead. This entire process will be overseen by a stakeholder group, including key watershed councils and tribal, local, state, and federal representatives.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant provided clear responses to previous review team comments, including getting commitment from local cooperators throughout their study area.
- The applicant is qualified to conduct this level of work to develop with confidence a high quality product.
- The application proposes a cost effective approach to characterize an extensive number of river miles for fisheries habitat enhancement while also developing a two to three conceptual level designs.

- The approach of honing in on thermal refuges and connectivity of tributary inputs correlates strongly with limiting factors identified for juvenile fish rearing.

Concerns

- It is unclear why the stakeholder meetings would occur after all the field work and mapping is complete. Incorporating stakeholder input at the onset of the project could provide insight and information that may add more value to the mapping exercise.
- The application did not describe how restoration opportunities would be prioritized; this is a concern given the diverse stakeholder group and the complexities of the project area.

Concluding Analysis

This project seeks to address an information gap in fish habitat enhancement opportunities along the Columbia River from the Bonneville dam to the John Day dam. This 72-mile reach has extensive hardened infrastructure necessary for dam operation and highway transportation, yet nine ESA-listed salmonid species use this corridor twice in their life cycles. There is an inherent lack of information regarding the characterization of this reach that identifies opportunities and challenges in improving habitat for these fish. This study would utilize a similar approach and methodology conducted on the Washington side of the Columbia River to hone in on bringing the right stakeholders to the table to understand and identify restoration opportunities for salmonids. The site visit with the applicant and partners offered a glimpse into the plethora of cut-off water bodies and small tributaries that could provide thermal refuge and habitat for fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,924

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-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4028-17441

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Neal Creek Instream Habitat Restoration Design

Applicant: Hood River SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Hood River

OWEB Request: $63,433

Total Cost: $120,833

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 habitat due to a relatively low gradient (= 2%) and wide valley bottom (CTWS/WPN, 2014). 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 viable populations of threatened winter steelhead, threatened Coho salmon, cutthroat trout, and resident rainbow trout. Based on ODFW sampling and population estimates, 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 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), Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (cash match, materials), and project landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant provided thorough responses to previous review team comments, including the latest understanding of fish use and distribution in Neal Creek.
- The project implements recommendations of a previous basin-wide assessment that identified the two project sites in this application as having landowner support and the highest potential for habitat restoration in Neal Creek.

- The cost of producing construction ready designs for the project sites is reasonable and appropriate given the project scale and design complexity.
- The applicant and partners have incorporated and planned for potential impacts to wetlands by proposing a wetland delineation.
- Neal Creek is a clear water tributary with no glacial inputs which has high intrinsic potential for ESA-listed salmonids.

Concerns

- The application was utilizing an out-of-date peak flow estimator to calculate basin hydrology, raising question on the validity of the data being used in the designs.

Concluding Analysis

This engineering-focused technical assistance proposal will provide construction-ready designs for two project sites on Neal Creek that have been documented as having the highest intrinsic potential to provide improved instream and floodplain habitat for ESA-listed salmonids. The setting of Neal Creek is rural residential with built infrastructure limiting restoration opportunity; however, the applicant provided sufficient detail and reasoning for justifying the habitat restoration potential for the two project sites that were chosen. The group of partners associated with this project have successfully planned, designed, and implemented similar projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$63,433

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$63,433

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4029-17449

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Campbell Creek Watershed Enhancement Project

Applicant: Jefferson SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Jefferson

OWEB Request: $24,974

Total Cost: $36,396

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located along Campbell Creek in Jefferson County, northwest of the City of Madras. Campbell Creek drains directly into the Deschutes River a mile upstream from the Reregulating Dam where water is rapidly discharged to the Lower Deschutes River. The project addresses impaired water quality conditions of the Lower Deschutes River which affect survival and population health of ESA-listed steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) and bull trout (Salvelinus confluentus), spring Chinook salmon (Oncorhynchus tshawytscha), and other native fish and aquatic species. Specifically, the project addresses external loading of nitrate, pesticides, sediment, and E.coli from a tributary of the Deschutes River. The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JSWCD) and its partners have identified Campbell Creek as having the highest concentrations of sediment and pesticides of all the tributaries of the Deschutes River currently being monitored under the Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Partnership. Without identifying cost-effective treatments to improve water quality and complement on-farm conservation actions, Campbell Creek will continue to degrade habitat in the Lower Deschutes River. The JSWCD seeks Technical Assistance funding to develop a project design that promotes ecological uplift and processes to improve water quality before pollutants reach the Deschutes River. This project will complement work currently being implemented by the JSWCD and its partners to reduce the water quality problem on other properties located throughout the watershed. Partners involved in this project include a federal agency (Natural Resource Conservation Service, NRCS), state agencies (Oregon Dept. of Agriculture, ODA and Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality, DEQ), local partners (Middle Deschutes Watershed Council, MDWC and North Unit Irrigation District, NUID), and private landowners. The JSWCD intends to apply to OWEB for restoration grant funding.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The need to address water quality in this location is well documented and articulated in the application.
- There are multiple agency partners that identify this geography and water quality problem as a priority focus area, including the Middle Deschutes Pesticide Stewardship Program. Related work on this stream has generated a lot of the data that is being used as a baseline which increases the technical soundness of this proposal.

- The resulting designs will explore sediment, pesticides, and nutrient inputs in their analysis.
- The contractor identified for leading the beaver dam analogue (BDA) design is well qualified.
- The project is supported by two landowners that own the majority of the riparian area along Campbell Creek downstream of the Highway 26 crossing whom are willing to implement restoration on their property.

Concerns

- The project objectives relative to wetland water quality treatment are unclear. The application should describe the connection between the data sets used to inform designs and the expected treatment outcomes for parameters of concern.
- The application would have benefited from additional details describing water quality loading the project area receives from the watershed and whether the project area is capable of improving water quality conditions in Campbell Creek.
- Utilizing BDAs for the purpose of treating water quality pollutants seems intriguing but there is no literature that supports this as a viable mechanism to do so. It was unclear how BDA's were chosen as a water quality treatment tool of choice.

Concluding Analysis

The application requests funding for planning and design to address known and documented water quality pollutants from the agriculture-dominated headwaters of Campbell Creek downstream of the Highway 26 crossing utilizing BDAs as surrogates for wetland treatment. Design parameters for water quality treatment wetlands are unclear as well as the long-term effectiveness of treatment measures The applicant is encouraged to document and understand the extent of natural wetlands onsite, which may have restrictions for being utilized as water quality treatment areas. The resulting treatments could complement improvements being implemented on the agricultural lands with assistance from NRCS, ODA, and DEQ.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount

$24,974

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$24,974

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4030-17467

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cottonwood Creek Reconnaissance and Design Plan

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Region: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $69,355

Total Cost: $86,710

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The proposed Technical Assistance project focuses on improving fish passage, screening, and irrigation efficiency along an eight-mile segment of Cottonwood Creek, one of Goose Lake's largest tributaries. Cottonwood Creek is located seven miles west of the town of Lakeview in Lake County. The creek begins its journey on the National Forest and flows from Cottonwood Meadow Lake to Cottonwood Reservoir, it then exits the reservoir through irrigation gates or the spill way where it continues its path to Goose Lake at valley bottom. Transportation and irrigation infrastructure activities over the last century have restricted fish passage and connectivity within Cottonwood Creek, negatively impacting fish range and distribution while contributing to species vulnerability to seasonal flows, increased temperature, drought, and climate change. The watershed issue extends to stream flows on Cottonwood Creek that serve the irrigation needs of the agriculture community in the Goose Lake Basin as well. The Lakeview Water Users and landowners who hold water rights on this area of Cottonwood Creek would like to address irrigation efficiency concerns and gain insight to improvement options. This proposed Technical Assistance grant will address stream reconnaissance, data collection, passage alternative analysis and irrigation screening and efficiency alternative analysis on this segment of Cottonwood Creek. Alternative design analysis will result in a 30-60% design plan for passage, screening, and irrigation improvement. Design plans will further be assessed, modified, and approved by partners – leading into an implementation agenda. Project partners include Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Water master, Lakeview Water Users Inc, ODFW, USFWS Partners Program, Cottonwood Cattle Company LLC, Otterson Ranch, and the KV Bar Ranch.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will employ a comprehensive approach to developing design solutions to pass fish at all barriers on Cottonwood Creek from the Cottonwood reservoir downstream to Goose Lake.
- The project is well supported by a variety of partners, including a previously reluctant stakeholder, the Lakeview Water Users.

- This project is a critical step in attempting to reconnect the fragmented habitats that provide value to a variety of native fish species in the Goose Lake basin including the locally important redband trout and parasitic Goose Lake lamprey.
- The applicant and partners have successfully completed similar reconnaissance and design planning on neighboring Thomas Creek, which has led to restoration projects.
- The project is cost effective, developing partial design sets for all eight barriers identified in the proposal.

Concerns

- The application states that 30% - 60% designs will be developed for each barrier. Typically, there is a significant difference in detail presented in 30% designs compared to that presented in 60% designs. It is unclear what level of design will be developed for each barrier, and whether more advanced designs will be prioritized for some barriers.

Concluding Analysis

Cottonwood Creek is a major tributary to Goose Lake which boasts a wide variety of fish species, some endemic to the Goose Lake basin. The project capitalizes on interest and support from water users and agricultural producers in the area to improve fish passage, irrigation efficiency, and delivery of water. This project will complement a suite of activities in the area, including a recent OWEB-funded project on Muddy Creek, a tributary to Cottonwood Creek that will remove multiple fish barriers and improve instream habitat for fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$69,355

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$69,355

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4031-17493

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Technical Support for Crooked River Basin Assessment of Beaver Intrinsic Potential (BIP)

Applicant: Think Wild

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $38,057

Total Cost: $49,637

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located in the Crooked River Basin in Crook County. The GIS modeling portion of the project will encompass the entire 9,548 miles of stream within the basin. Target projects involving field verification will take place in Lost Creek and Mill Creek watersheds, which feed into the Crooked River. Nearest towns to target projects are Post and Prineville. 2) Current understanding of beaver habitat potential in Central Oregon is limited. While many practitioners and landowners recognize the value that beaver bring to degraded landscapes, introducing beaver or beaver-mimicking tools to a riverine system requires an understanding of the system's ability to support beaver and/or sustain the resulting changes. 3) Think Wild | Beaver Works Oregon (TW | BWO) proposes to adapt a habitat model for Beaver Intrinsic Potential (BIP), developed by Dittbrenner et al. (2018) for the Snohomish River Basin in Washington, to the Crooked River Basin, followed by a comprehensive field survey of the habitat factors critical for beaver establishment along our target projects on Lost Creek and Mill Creek. Deliverables will include a Beaver Intrinsic Potential (BIP) map for the Crooked River Basin to be distributed for restoration planning, and a detailed map and report addressing current habitat suitability for each target sub-basin (Lost and Mill Creeks). 4) Local project partners include Brooke and Andy Gray, TNC Stewards of Juniper Hills Preserve, and two landowners along Mill Creek. Other partners include the Crooked River Watershed Council (CRWC), Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and Deschutes Land Trust (DLT). Partners lending expertise in BIP and beaver habitat monitoring include Jakob Shockey, Nick Weber, and Benjamin Dittbrenner. Jefferson Jacobs will contribute expertise in eastside riparian ecology. GIS experts lending services include Thera Lombardi, Aspect Consulting and GIS students from COCC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will use an existing intrinsic potential mapping tool to determine where to focus efforts on improving habitat availability for beaver.
- Utilizing beaver habitat potential as a surrogate for identifying opportunities to improve watershed function for native fish and wildlife is a technically sound approach.

- The focus on Lost Creek at the Nature Conservancy's Juniper Hills Preserve will complement previous efforts employed to improve fish and wildlife habitat across the 14,000-acre preserve.

Concerns

- The proposed watershed map identifying intrinsic potential would be done at such a coarse scale that it is unclear how valuable it will be in evaluating on-the-ground conditions suitable for beaver habitat and how it would be used by partners.
- The application failed to identify the spatial data layers that will be used to generate the watershed intrinsic potential map, making it difficult to evaluate the technical soundness of the approach.
- The field verification exercise does not address several key questions including how many data collection sites there will be along Lost and Mill Creeks, what characteristics will dictate the need for data collection, the types of data that will be collected, and how the data will be analyzed to inform future restoration.
- It is unclear how this effort will inform future restoration. The applicant is not a restoration practitioner, and while the application includes letters of support from restoration partners in the Crooked River basin, it is unclear how this information will be used or if it addresses a priority need among restoration practitioners.
- The application failed to describe how features on the landscape (biological and physical) are characterized as being preferable habitat types utilized by beavers.
- The focus on Mill Creek was not clear. It would have been helpful to understand why Mill Creek was chosen as a site for field verification, including the broader watershed context and the importance of Mill Creek with respect to native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality.

Concluding Analysis

This planning level technical assistance grant would complete a watershed-wide mapping exercise to understand beaver habitat suitability preference as well as field verify two small sub-watersheds in the Upper Crooked River Basin that would inform future potential restoration opportunities. It is unclear what type of restoration this effort would lead to, and how recommendations will be prioritized by the restoration practitioners in the basin.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4032-17369

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring beaver dam analogs on the S. Fork, Crooked River

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $39,333

Total Cost: $75,872

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The South Fork of the Crooked River is a tributary of the Crooked River near Paulina, Oregon (Crook County; Figs. 1 & 2). It is disconnected from its floodplain and lacks woody riparian vegetation. We will monitor five beaver dam analogs (BDAs) installed in 2016 on a 3.3 km reach. A study on Bridge Creek showed promising results for BDAs as a restoration tool, but BDA implementation has outpaced monitoring. The South Fork has a lower gradient than Bridge Creek (0.25 - 0.04% S. Fork vs. 1 - 3% Bridge Creek), which may not transport enough sediment to promote aggradation behind BDAs. Pre-existing woody riparian vegetation is virtually absent on the South Fork, and nothing is known about the influence of BDAs on newly planted vegetation, even though plant establishment often limits restoration success. We know little about effects of BDAs on groundwater during low flows and on temperatures when there is little shade from vegetation. Like real beaver dams, BDAs require maintenance, but no detailed information exists on the effort needed to maintain structures, which is important for adaptive management planning. Deliverables include measurements of sediment gains and losses five years after baseline data were taken across 5 acres at structures in a range of stream gradients (0.25 - 0.04%); growth of 24 coyote willow copses (352 cuttings) planted near and far from BDAs to known depths and at two different distances from the stream; continuously monitored groundwater levels at 8 locations in the vicinity of two structures; continuous measurements of stream temperatures at 13 locations; and a time budget of BDA maintenance. Methods and analyses assuring high quality data will be developed with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and a registered geologist. Vegetation, temperature, groundwater, and maintenance monitoring will be conducted by OSU-Cascades faculty and trained upper-division science majors. Aggradation measurements will be done by Anabranch LLC.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application will provide valuable information to understand a variety of outcomes associated with beaver dam analogs (BDAs) in a low gradient stream.
- The applicant is connecting these monitoring activities to numerous management plans in this part of the watershed.
- The applicant proposes to work with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP).
- This project leverages existing data that already has been collected to track spatial and temporal trends across the treatment reach.

- The project documents match from OSU and a competent contractor, thus contributing to the likelihood of success.
- The uploaded documents show that the applicant has a good track record to collect, analyze and report the data in a meaningful way.
- The objectives are clearly stated and the work proposed will support them.
- The budget is reasonable and includes a great amount of detail to describe how expenses were calculated.
- The applicant has been responsive to previous review comments, and this has resulted in a more focused application.
- The uploaded response to past reviewer comments was clear and in a useful format to understand how previous comments were incorporated into this application.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The cross sections above and below each BDA may not comprehensively describe the sediment aggregation and degradation variability along the entire reach.
- There was a lack of detail about how they plan to disseminate findings to the general public or landowners that may be interested in the findings.

Monitoring Team Comments

Consider performing a longitudinal profile, in addition to the cross sections, to describe the sediment aggradation and degradation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant provided thorough responses to previous review team comments. In particular, this application describes a more focused effort on monitoring a few parameters that will generate meaningful and useful data to inform future BDA restoration planning.
- The application had clear goals and outcomes associated with the objectives listed.
- The need for this type of monitoring is timely given the use of BDAs in stream restoration is growing and there is a lack of scientific literature regarding the application of these features along streams in Oregon.
- Initial results of this monitoring project are currently under review for publication in peer reviewed scientific literature, indicating a high likelihood the final results of this project would also be published.
- The project is cost effective, continuing to generate useful data comparisons regarding the impacts BDAs have on stream restoration and revegetation success.

Concerns

- The BDAs were installed as single features, which is an uncommon approach. This suggests that the

transferability of the aggradation analysis will have limitations.

- The lack of longitudinal profiles in the monitoring strategy is a missed opportunity which would provide additional detail regarding changes in channel and stream bed characteristics.
- Green LiDAR should be considered for use due to its capability of penetrating the water column in order to map bathymetry of shallow waters. This tool may offer a better solution with additional data capture opportunity than what is proposed in the application.

Concluding Analysis

This monitoring project is located on the South Fork Crooked River and will continue to examine the effectiveness of five BDAs installed on private land. The applicant will closely monitor a set of physical and biological parameters associated with understanding the ecological response of stream restoration using BDAs. In particular, the tasks associated with vegetation response and BDA maintenance could have broad applicability and be of great value to the broader restoration community. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) regarding the groundwater wells, as what is proposed in the application may not fit as a geotechnical hole and may require additional permitting. This project represents a good opportunity to contribute much needed scientifically reviewed literature regarding the use of BDA's in stream restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$39,333

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$39,333

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4033-17382

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Upper Crooked Watershed Redband Movement Tracking

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Region: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $120,268

Total Cost: $199,428

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Reservoir, City of Prineville, Crook County Oregon. The project site extends east for 40 miles where the Upper Crooked River splits into North Fork and South Fork. The geographic reach for the Upper Crooked River Watershed encompasses a 1.5 million acre area with many tributaries running into the mainstream Upper Crooked from the northern Ochoco Mountains and the southern Malheur Mountains. The entire reach suffers from agriculture legacy issues, lack of riparian zone, over wide incised channels, degraded failing banks from sheep and cattle grazing high temperatures and impassable barriers from agriculture. Redband trout exist throughout the entire watershed; with sample studies from ODFW showing their range. However no data exists in the area on redband trout connectivity through the watershed. This information is vital to pin pointing possible barriers, avoidance and or temperatures that change how fish travel. We know fish are present but as climate change persists and temperatures raise we need to know how, when and where they use their environment. Moreover with 1.5 million acres of watershed, it would be beneficial to have the fish show us what areas need the most attention for their survival and future; we can use the data from a fish movement study to pin point possible works in a relatively cost affective way compared to on the ground landowner engagement. This proposed project would bring several agencies and the Oregon State university together to help fund a graduate level student to conduct a radio tag fish tracking project on redband trout in the Upper crooked River Watershed. The United States Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife both have interests in this data for pin pointing areas of aquatic habitat concern in connectivity of the watershed. Dr. Jonny Armstrong from the OSU Fish and Wildlife department has conducted several of these studies already on fish in the Klamath Basin, and Willamette basin with success. The study will

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The data will describe where barriers and warm water temperatures influence adult redband trout movement.
- The monitoring concept is innovative, aiming to track fish movements and collect information across a large area.
- The applicant is working with a contractor who is an expert in this type of monitoring and has implemented similar projects in the Willamette and Klamath basins.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe the monitoring need and if this information has been identified as a need in any existing local watershed assessments or management plans.
- This project focuses on tracking spawning-age fish leaving Prineville Reservoir, giving only a partial picture of the impacts of water temperature and passage barriers to redband trout.
- The project timeline is limited to one year of tagging and tracking adult fish leaving Prineville Reservoir. Which will provide a snapshot that may be different in different years (e.g., high or low flows and warm or cool years).
- The application lacked detail on how the data will be analyzed to help inform how the data will be used.
- The application lacked detail on water temperature monitoring methods and if those data will be submitted to DEQ.
- The application did not explain the partnership with OSU and what role the watershed council will be playing.
- Some parts of the application describe PIT tagging, but is not clear if this will be implemented since the budget does not include PIT tags and a majority of the sampling is relying on the radio tags.
- Overall, there was a lack of detail in the application and the application contained numerous typos.

Monitoring Team Comments

Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is an acknowledged need for this level of data regarding redband trout abundance and distribution in the Upper Crooked River watershed.
- The information gathered through this proposal could lead to beneficial restoration projects.
- The applicant’s partner at Oregon State University (OSU) has successfully completed similar monitoring projects within other watersheds in Oregon.

Concerns

- An objective in the proposal is to better understand fish barriers. It is unclear if the applicant is aware of ODFW’s fish barrier database, and whether this effort will add data if gaps are discovered.
- The application mentions the use of pit tags and radio tags; however, it was unclear which method will be used. It would have been helpful to provide more clarity on methods used for tracking fish.
- It is unclear what methods will be used to capture adult fish, and whether ODFW is aware of the proposed project.

- The application did not describe the locations where temperature monitoring would take place nor the methodology for data collection and analysis.
- Understanding where thermal refuge and cold springs are located throughout the study area is valuable information; however, the application did not describe the method for data collection and analysis.
- The study area for this proposal is almost exclusively private land. It is unclear whether landowner access would be granted if access to sites from public roads is not feasible.
- The study proposes only one year of monitoring adult fish. This approach is limited to a narrow snap shot in time of only adult fish movement.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal seeks to engage with OSU staff to better understand redband trout use and distribution in the Upper Crooked River watershed above Prineville Reservoir. The application fell short on providing critical information regarding methodology and protocols relating to data collection, analysis, and reporting. There was not enough information provided in the application to understand how this project would be implemented and reported. The applicant is encouraged to coordinate with OSU and ODFW to develop a detailed plan that clearly outlines the project methods, protocols, and rationale. Once this occurs the applicant is encouraged to reapply.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4034-17391

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Final Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $130,577

Total Cost: $166,296

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 Stream 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 for the second and final phase 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. Planned 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. ODF will be communicating and coordinating with the state level to provide data to the USGS for the National Hydrography Dataset. 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

- The application describes the need for the information to update the stream classification database to inform forest management on private lands.
- This information will benefit landowners, local partners, and ODFW by better describing where fish are present, identifying barriers and informing potential restoration projects.
- The applicant is working with ODF to use the same staff to build on the success made under the current OWEB monitoring grant collecting the same information.
- The applicant's contractor, ODF, will be coordinating with USGS to share data to improve resolution and accuracy of the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) in the upper Klamath Basin.

- The contractor (ODF) is working closely with ODFW to follow up on observations to confirm fish presence.
- The application well describes the monitoring protocols, including data collection above natural barriers.
- The applicant provided a response that explains how the application addressed previous review team comments.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- Although the application describes that the database protocol will be refined, the timeline does not indicate when this will occur.
- The application lacked detail about how the monitoring locations will be prioritized.

Monitoring Team Comments

Encourage data sharing to inform the USGS Probability of Streamflow Permanence (PROSPER) model.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Phase I of this project was funded by OWEB in 2017. Thus far, the project has yielded tangible results that have proven valuable to ODF and ODFW.
- The project addresses a critical need in field verifying gaps and opportunities regarding stream presence, habitat availability, fish use, and restoration potential.
- The data collected through this project is uploaded to the USGS's National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) providing broad access to the data.
- The project has been beneficial in engaging with ODFW in validating fish presence.

Concerns

- No concerns were raised.

Concluding Analysis

This application is for the final phase of field verifying the network of streams in Klamath and Lake Counties. To date, the project has been successful in achieving the goals and objectives outlined in the proposal. While the project has resulted in limited restoration opportunities, the proposed geography for this final phase include the upper North Fork Sprague, upper Sycan, and upper Williamson watersheds, all areas of importance for native fish where priorities for restoration projects may be higher.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$130,577

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$130,577

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4035-17435

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Groundwater and Surface-water Trends in Klamath Marsh, Oregon

Applicant: The Klamath Tribes

Region: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $265,298

Total Cost: $356,940

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in the Klamath Marsh area in the Upper Williamson River watershed located 50 miles north of Klamath Falls and 15 miles east of Crater Lake. Water levels in the Klamath Marsh have been very low in recent years leading to negative impacts on plants, fish and waterfowl that inhabit the marsh. Also water flowing out of the Marsh into the middle Williamson River has been low and intermittent except during the spring months. Various hydrologic stresses cause decreased water levels in the Marsh and flows downstream of the Marsh; these stresses include climatic and anthropogenic factors such as surface-water diversions and groundwater pumping. It is important to monitor groundwater and surface-water levels in the Marsh to better understand the hydrology of the system to refine programs which protect, manage and restore wetlands within the historic Klamath Tribes reservation. This project will monitor groundwater and surface-water levels in and adjacent to the Klamath Marsh for two years. The Klamath Tribes will monitor 10-15 shallow groundwater wells in the Klamath Marsh and conduct surface-water monitoring at 3 established stations in the Williamson River. Additionally, water balance monitoring including snowpack, rainfall, and evaporation will be conducted by the Klamath Tribes. USGS will conduct monitoring on 12 groundwater wells adjacent to the Klamath Marsh; develop a multidecadal time series of irrigated land surrounding the marsh using Landsat imagery; develop a time series of the extent of open-water in the marsh using Landsat imagery; and publish the data in the USGS data archive, ScienceBase.The project partners include: the Klamath Tribes, US Geological Survey, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- There is a clear need to collect information to better understand drivers of change between marsh water levels and Williamson River streamflow.
- The area to be monitored and the various monitoring parameters are appropriate to understand the inputs and outputs to develop a water balance for Klamath Marsh.
- The applicant is partnering with USGS and cites USGS protocols that will be used for groundwater and streamflow monitoring efforts.
- The application leverages the prior and ongoing data collection efforts in and around Klamath Marsh.
- USGS will make the data available on Science Base, and the Klamath Tribes will develop a final report in coordination with USGS.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application provided limited detail on monitoring methods and there was no mention of methods to collect the precipitation, snowpack, and evaporation data.
- The application did not describe how the different data sets will be analyzed and incorporated to understand what is driving the water levels in the Klamath Marsh and Williamson River.
- The application mentions that a model will be developed, but provides little detail about the process for developing the model, when it would be developed, or how it will be used to inform future restoration actions.
- The application does not describe the timeframe for the retrospective aerial imagery assessment.
- Overall, the information provided to describe the sampling design was limited.
- The different monitoring locations were not identified in a map, making it challenging to know which monitoring locations would be operated by USGS and The Klamath Tribes.
- It was not clear why the USGS will monitor their wells quarterly and The Klamath Tribes were sampling their wells weekly.
- The application lacked letters of support to understand how they have engaged local, state, and federal partners, and how they plan to integrate data into their decision making process.
- The budget lacked detail and included multiple lump sums, making it difficult to understand if the costs were reasonable.

Monitoring Team Comments

Coordinate with Ken Stahr at the Oregon Water Resources Department to access the field boundaries being mapped in the statewide evapotranspiration study that is underway.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Klamath Marsh is an important resource for a multitude of native fish and wildlife species; this effort aims to improve water availability and habitat conditions.
- The applicant and partners have a strong history of working collaboratively.
- The attached report on Klamath Marsh hydrology and water rights is helpful in establishing the context and need for this work.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks clarity in identifying where new wells would be installed, making it challenging to understand how they further the goals and objectives of the proposal.

- The application identifies the need to understand the impacts of irrigated agriculture adjacent to the Klamath Marsh, yet does not indicate any coordination with the agricultural community to understand the crops grown and water use for the time period of interest. This is a missed opportunity to engage key stakeholders.
- The intended use of the data is unclear. It would have been helpful to articulate what the data will be used for and how it will support actions that benefit native fish, wildlife, and water quality.
- There are recent groundwater studies in the Upper Klamath Basin; it is unclear how that data will be used to inform or be incorporated into this effort.
- The budget included lump sums, making it challenging to determine cost effectiveness.
- It is unclear if the surface water monitoring would use existing gages or install new ones. Due to aggressive aquatic plant growth, stream gaging in this area is challenging. It would have been helpful to understand what practices would be employed to mitigate the risk of aquatic plant growth on monitoring equipment.
- The application includes data collection for snowpack, but does not reference coordination with NRCS, who operate and manage SNOTEL sites in the basin.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes an extensive study within the Klamath Marsh to understand surface water and groundwater trends with assistance from the USGS. The applicant and partner have a history of completing scientifically sound projects together, yet this proposal fell short in providing critical detail. The project lacks clarity on where monitoring would occur and which entity would be responsible for data collection and analysis. The OWRD has completed similar studies in the basin, but there is no indication of agency coordination. It is unclear how the monitoring effort will inform the USFWS management objectives for Klamath Marsh.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4036-17473
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Odell Lake Monitoring & Analysis
Applicant: Integrated Ecosystem Sciences Inc
Region: Central Oregon
County: Klamath
OWEB Request: $165,870
Total Cost: $214,693

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

(1) The project location is Odell Lake, Klamath County, and contained within the Deschutes National Forest. (2) The need for the project is to document, describe and analyze water quality in Odell Lake over an annual time-frame to allow for better understanding of nutrient sources and cycling within the lake. Specifically, the project aims to test the hypothesis "does internal loading of nutrients from the pelagic fish population cause or contribute substantially to cyanobacterial blooms in the lake"? Past monitoring projects have collected water quality data for limited time-frames which were inadequate to calibrate water quality models that would be used for testing the relationship between nutrient sources and responses.(3) The proposed work will consist of (a) monitoring the lake at three locations and multiple depths for a full annual cycle. Additionally, major tributaries to the lake and the lake outlet (Odell Creek) will be sampled as well. If groundwater sources to the lake can be located, they will be added to the list of monitoring sites. The parameters that would be measured include TP, PO4, TN, NO3, NH3, SiO2, chlorophyll, phytoplankton community composition, zooplankton community composition, and in-situ lake profiles of temperature, pH, DO, conductivity. Data loggers for recording temperature, DO, pH and conductivity will also be deployed in the lake center. Fish biomass will be measured using . A weather station will be installed at the lakeshore. Rating curves will be developed for the major inflow (Trapper Creek) and outlet (Odell Creek) and discharge will be calculated using stage generated from pressure transducers. All of the relevant data collected will be used to calibrate a hydrodynamic model (CE-QUAL-W2).(4) ODEQ/PSU measured related WQ parameters 4 times in 2019. They have applied for funding to continue this monitoring in 2020 to verify the accuracy of satellite imagery in identifying cyanobacterial blooms in Odell Lake

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application will help address water quality impairments in Odell Lake and will build upon previous water quality and fish biomass monitoring efforts.
- Monitoring this headwater lake in the Deschutes Basin is important given the recreational and other beneficial uses it supports.
- The applicant proposes to develop a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) before monitoring begins.
- The applicant proposes collecting data for a variety of parameters and at several locations to develop a hydrodynamic model describing nutrient dynamics in the lake.

- The applicant has an effective track record collecting and reporting water quality data in lake ecosystems, including Odell Lake.
- The applicant plans to leverage ongoing monitoring efforts by ODEQ, Portland State University and Deschutes National Forest.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear how the source of the problem and proposed solution were determined; the solution may be unlikely to be implemented in a lake where few bull trout remain.
- While the application mentions the development of the QAPP, the timeline does not reflect when this would occur and there is no mention of submitting the water quality data to DEQ.
- The application lacks detail to describe the monitoring methods and there was no mention of methods to install and operate the gaging stations on the inlet and outlet of the lake.
- It is unclear if this monitoring approach will determine whether sediment is a source of nutrients.
- The application lacks sufficient information about the sample design to understand the location of the monitoring sites in the lake, depths at which samples are to be collected in the lake, and timing of the sampling events.
- It is not clear if the applicant is closely coordinating with DEQ to incorporate the agency's existing data set, and if this is an appropriate source of match.
- The application lacks support letters from USFS and ODFW explaining how this information could be applied to address the water quality issue in Odell Lake.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan (SAP) for all of the water quality monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.
• Clarify the DEQ match and ODFW coordination on this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal seeks to understand solutions to a known water quality problem in Odell Lake.
- The applicant is considered a regional expert in water quality and is well qualified to undertake this study.
- Odell Lake has a small remaining population of ESA listed bull trout; improving water quality is likely to improve conditions for these ESA-listed fish.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description of how the partners will work together. It is unclear what each of

the partners' roles will be.

- It does not appear that agency partners are aware of or support this project.
- The need for this project is not clearly identified. The referenced water quality report informing the project was completed in 2006. The application failed to articulate the water quality problem in relation to its impacts on native fish and wildlife. Odell Lake is not hydrologically connected to the Upper Deschutes River.
- DEQ is listed as match, however the work referenced was conducted on Odell Lake in 2019 and is separate from this proposed work. There is no commitment included from DEQ that describes their support of this project.
- The comparison made to problems identified on Diamond Lake is not relevant. The biological composition of Diamond Lake is different than that of Odell Lake, and cannot be used as an example of what future management considerations may look like on Odell Lake.

Concluding Analysis

This monitoring efforts aims to document, describe and analyze water quality in Odell Lake to better understand nutrient sources and cycling within the lake. It's acknowledged that Odell Lake suffers from toxic cyanobacteria blooms, and more information is necessary to understand the problem. The applicant has experience conducting this level of monitoring on Odell Lake, but fell short in documenting important components that suggest this project is being implemented in a collaborative manner with stakeholders. Due to the presence of bull trout, the USFWS should have been consulted. The land surrounding Odell Lake is owned and managed by the USFS; documented interest or support from USFS is not provided. The application hypothesizes that fish biomass is the cause of the water quality problem, yet there is no support or documentation from ODFW suggesting their interest or collaboration in this study. The application failed to make key connections regarding project partnerships and the value this effort would have on the watershed.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4037-17488

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: The Dalles Watershed Fish Monitoring

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Wasco

OWEB Request: $115,518

Total Cost: $154,067

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

We propose to provide status and trend monitoring of three anadromous salmonid populations (ESA listed steelhead, Coho salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout) present in three streams located in The Dalles Watershed: Mill Creek (located in Wasco & Hood River Counties), Threemile Creek and Chenoweth Creek (located in Wasco County). All three creeks flow into the Columbia River through the boundaries of the City of The Dalles. Baseline anadromous salmonid productivity and life history in the three creeks has not been established. Baseline data for salmonid production in the three creeks is also needed to provide a reference for evaluating the fish response to basin-wide efforts to improve the Mill Creek watershed and to restore riparian habitat. We propose to monitor the production and life history of anadromous salmonids in the three creeks for a period of four consecutive brood years in order to establish a baseline. The Mill Creek baseline will include brood years 2014–2017; and were selected for Mill Creek because the majority of baseline data was collected during the OWEB project “Lower Mill Creek Side Channel” as part of the effectiveness monitoring. The Threemile Creek and the Chenoweth Creek baseline will include brood years 2020–2023. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will provide technical assistance in estimating anadromous fish production metrics and in describing the life history of anadromous salmonids present in the Mill Creek, Chenoweth Creek, and Threemile Creek Watersheds for a period of four consecutive brood years. Deliverable metrics provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for the adnadromous salmonids include: annual migration year smolt abundance estimates, age structure, migration timing; and brood year smolt production estimates, smolt-adult return to Bonneville Dam & Mill Creek, and adult return timing to Bonneville Dam & Mill Creek. Project Partners include Wasco County SWCD, ODFW, & The Dalles Watershed Council.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application proposes to collect important information to better understand steelhead productivity in understudied streams in the Fifteenmile Distinct Population Segment.
- This monitoring will leverage the existing data and pit tag arrays established in Mill Creek with the current OWEB monitoring grant.
- The information will help understand freshwater productivity.
- The information will help provide baseline information to compare to after restoration actions are implemented.

- The application describes the fish monitoring methods in good detail.
- The budget is appropriate for the amount of work proposed in the application.
- The applicant is working closely with ODFW to collect the data, and a good track record exists for collecting data in Mill Creek.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear what efforts are underway to implement restoration actions in these tributaries that would help explain the immediate need for and timeliness of this work.
- The application does not describe the applicant's plans to prioritize restoration actions in these watersheds and how they plan to share findings with landowners to apply the data in a meaningful way.
- The application does not describe the methods or protocol to be followed to collect water temperature data and their plan to submit it to DEQ.
- The project management table listing the key personnel working on the project does not describe individual roles of each personnel member in the monitoring project, and does not include the Biological Aide for which a majority of the funds are requested.
- The timeline is unclear about when a final report will be produced to summarize the data collected under this monitoring application. The application describes a final report being produced in 2029, but provides no description to explain if additional monitoring applications will be submitted to collect data in the future to place this date in context.
- The application lacks detail about the process for analyzing together the various datasets for water temperature data, fish migration timing across all of the pit tag arrays and fish scale analyses, or who would perform this analysis.
- It is unclear whether ODFW water temperature loggers will be provided as in-kind match or if they are included in the requested OWEB budget.
- It is not clear what SWCD staff would be doing for the amount requested in the budget, given that ODFW is doing the monitoring.

Monitoring Team Comments

Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This proposal is timely and cost effective, building on a similar previous effort on Mill Creek and utilizing equipment, knowledge gained, and lessons learned that are applicable to the monitoring sites proposed in the application.
- The continuation of monitoring on Mill Creek will allow fisheries managers to understand a full life cycle utilization of Mid-Columbia steelhead for that system.

- This level of baseline fisheries data is important to justify and generate restoration projects to benefit listed fish within these urbanized streams.
- There is a lack of knowledge regarding fish presence within these three streams in and around The Dalles. The previous monitoring on Mill Creek provided surprisingly positive results in fish use; therefore there is a strong need and desire to learn what fish are using these streams.

Concerns

- The ability to generate trend analysis with only three to four years of monitoring for salmonids is questionable.
- The purpose and applicability of the temperature logger at each trap site is unclear

Concluding Analysis

This monitoring project seeks to understand fish use on three urban streams that flow through The Dalles before releasing into the Columbia River below The Dalles dam. The proposed effort on Mill Creek will continue efforts that were conducted for brood years 2014-2017. The Wasco SWCD and ODFW have partnered on past efforts along Mill Creek which have generated useful data. ODFW's role in the project is well documented; however, it is unclear how District staff will participate in the monitoring. This type of monitoring could help inform future restoration projects, although the application did not provide details in this regard.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$115,518

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$115,518

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4038-17436

Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement

Project Name: Upper Deschutes Forest Health Investment Project

Applicant: Deschutes SWCD

Region: Central Oregon

County: Deschutes

OWEB Request: $76,107

Total Cost: $114,220

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District and our partners through Project Wildfire are seeking a cooperative stakeholder engagement grant focused on private landowners in southern Deschutes and northern Klamath Counties. The project goal is to increase an understanding and awareness of dry forest ecosystems, forest management strategies and awareness of local, state and federal assistance to private landowners outside Home Owners Associations (HOA's) and Firewise USA sites, with the expectation of accelerating implementation of forest health practices. These private landowners provide a unique set of challenges associated with understanding forest health concepts and engagement in government programs. The project will engage landowners and stakeholders though three neighborhood forums within areas identified as high risk for wildfire. Engaging these landowners is vital to increase the robust effort of many local, state and federal partners in restoring the forest ecosystem in southern Deschutes and northern Klamath Counties. Key partners involved in this project are, Deschutes County, US Forest Service (USFS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), OSU Extension, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODF&W), Project Wildfire, Central Oregon Cohesive Strategy Initiative (COCSI), and Walker Range Fire Patrol Association (WRFPA). Both Klamath and Deschutes County Commissioners along with the Klamath SWCD endorse this project. In addition, this project reinforces goals and objectives of four Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), and ODF&W Conservation Strategy.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The need to address forest health in the proposal's geography is well documented.
- The project is well supported by the appropriate partners as documented by the letters of support included in the application.
- The concept of soliciting influential landowners to host public workshops at their properties for neighbors in the community is an effective approach.
- The application acknowledges that landowner engagement is a critical first step in seeking solutions to address forest health concerns.

Concerns

- The application does not identify the three landowners and their locations relative to the neighborhood workshops. This makes it challenging to evaluate whether landowner engagement is being focused in high priority areas.
- A contingency plan would have helped to build confidence that the activity would proceed if all three host landowners could not be secured for the workshops.
- The application maps provide appropriate context; however, it would have been helpful to include the highest priorities within this larger geographic area and to identify specific threats at the neighborhood scale. This type of information at a refined scale will be more impactful to landowners so they can understand the threats specific to their properties.
- The pathway from landowner engagement to on-the-ground restoration is unclear. Specifically, it is unclear who will be responsible for developing plans and funding agreements with the sources of funds identified (NRCS and Joint Chiefs). It is unclear who will facilitate treatment plans and funding agreements and how this work will be executed.
- With roughly 2% landowner involvement anticipated within the target area, the impact of this landowner engagement seems relatively low. This low participation rate across a large geography raises concerns regarding project effectiveness.
- The overall project cost associated with the deliverables is high. The budget describes developing workshop materials and putting on workshops as tasks associated with the applicant; however, the application also states that the partnering agency staff will be conducting the workshops. A better understanding of the applicant's role in the project would have been helpful to justify the cost for salaries, wages, and benefits.
- In order to better gage the likelihood of project success, detail on how the two SCWD's would coordinate across counties lines would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

This effort across two counties is seeks to increase awareness among thousands of rural, non-industrial forest landowners regarding forest health and to generate interest in developing and implementing restoration projects. This geography is characterized by poor forest conditions. The format and content of the workshops were not discussed in the application; it would have been helpful to describe a typical session and its format (e.g. presentations, hands-on, field tours). This geography has previously received Joint Chiefs funding for forest health; however, funds had to be returned because of a lack of private landowner engagement. It is not clear that this application applies lessons learned from previous work. The applicant is encouraged to work with their partners to evaluate strategic priorities, partnership roles, and define the mechanics for putting implementation funding on the ground to improve forest health on private land.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 220-4039-17495
Project Type: Stakeholder Engagement
Project Name: Mill Creek Stakeholder Engagement Project
Applicant: Think Wild
Region: Central Oregon
County: Crook
OWEB Request: $16,565
Total Cost: $22,025

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1-The Mill Creek Stakeholder Engagement Project will focus on landowners and stakeholders within the Mill Creek sub-basin, a tributary into Ochoco Creek, located in the Crooked River Watershed.2-Beavers (Castor canadensis) - recognized by OWEB, ODFW and other wildlife and land stewardship organizations as a beneficial species to riparian and wildlife habitat and watershed function (see * below) – exist within Mill Creek but only intermittently; as ecological and management conditions are not fully present for the animal's long-term success and establishment.With multiple landowners along the Mill Creek reaches (approximately 8 miles total in private lands along the stem) we believe a holistic, community sub-basin approach and a shared vision for beaver's presence within the Creek is essential to building long-term successful beaver outcomes in Mill Creek.(* Ref. 2011 Report on "Landowner Incentives and Tolerances for Managing Beaver Impacts in Oregon") 3-We will send print, phone and email surveys and conduct one to one interviews with approx. 20 different landowner and 10 stakeholders with interest along Mill Creek to gauge general attitudes about, interests in, and experiences related to beaver within the creek. We will also seek to understand overall knowledge of ecosystem benefits of beaver, and approaches to managing (actively or passively) beaver within landowner property areas. Informed by above we will create and distribute outreach materials on readily available, non-lethal, DIY mitigation techniques for when conflicts occur. We will facilitate a sub-basin wide shared vision for beaver among landowners and stakeholders. 65% participation with the shared vision will pave the way for in-stream field verification of the desktop data compiled from the Crooked River Basin BIP Mapping Project (Fall 2019 Grant Application).4-Confirmed project partners include CRWC, ONDA and SWCD and two private residents.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- One on one interviews with streamside landowners is an effective engagement tool that should yield meaningful results.
- Seeking to develop a middle ground with private landowners to help them live with beavers is an appropriate approach to achieve project objectives.
- The effort engages the right partners for the geography with a project focus necessary for success.

Concerns

- The application reads more like an opportunity to provide landowner tools and education to mitigate beaver damage, making it unclear how the engagement would lead to future restoration.
- The importance of Mill Creek relative to native fish and wildlife is not described making it unclear why this stream was chosen as a target for engagement work.
- The application discusses a shared vision, but does not elaborate on what this means or who shares the vision.
- Stream flow ranges provided in the application are inaccurate by a magnitude of ten.
- The application maps depict priority intrinsic potential locations but it is unclear if the landowner engagement will focus in these high priority areas or across the entire sub-watershed.

Concluding Analysis

This application seeks to engage streamside property owners along Mill Creek to inform and educate landowners about the positive impacts beaver can have on streams. The project will employ a variety of tactics to engage landowners, including mailings, one on one interviews, videos, and web content. It is acknowledged that beavers can play an important role in constructing, maintaining, and providing available habitat for fish and wildlife; however, the application failed to describe how engagement will facilitate on-the-ground restoration. The ecological context and priority of Mill Creek is unclear.

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

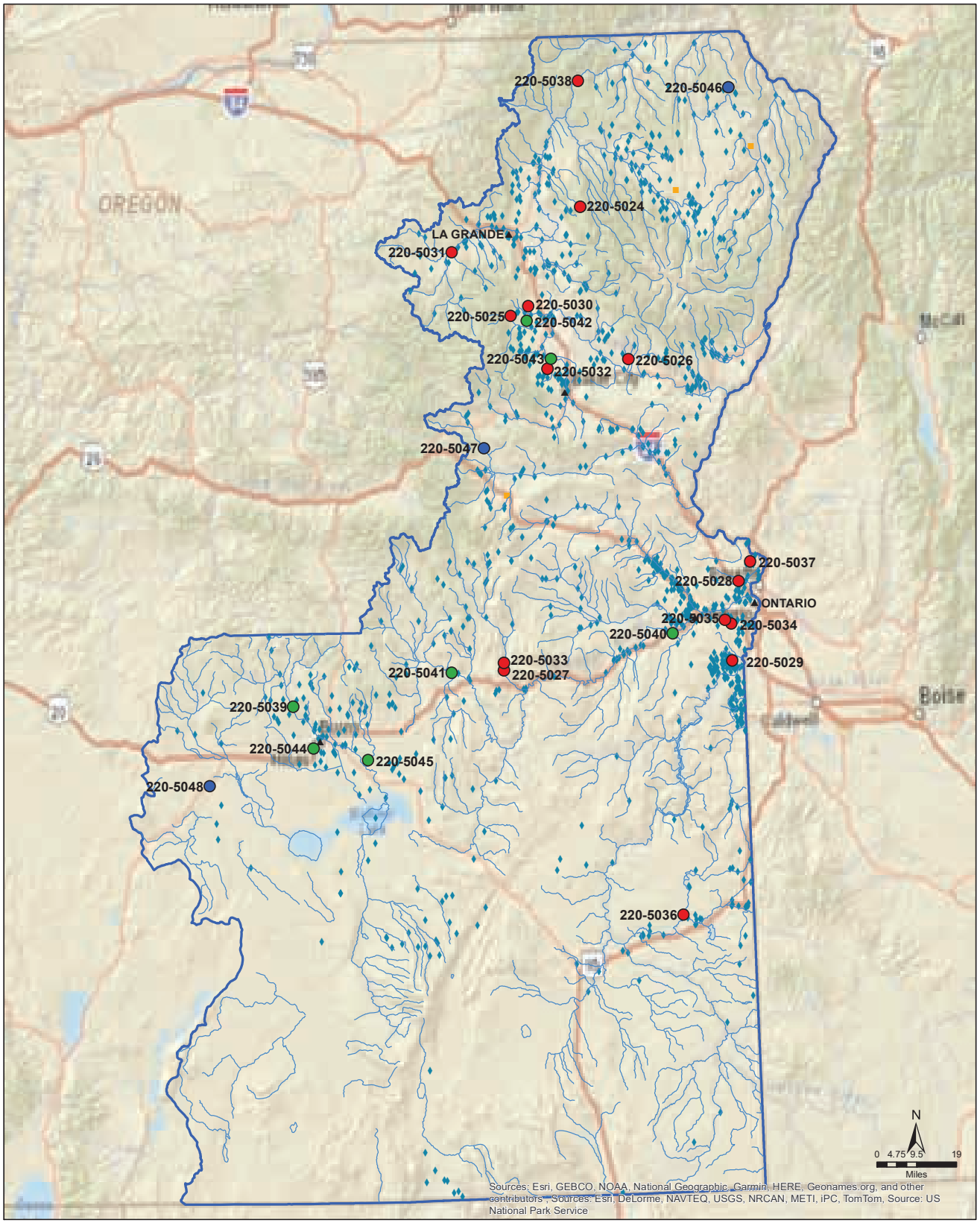
Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 Fall 2019 Applications



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ESRI ArcMap 10.6, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20191106

Grant Types

- Restoration
- Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring

Previous Grants: 1998 - Spring 2019

- Restoration
- Land Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

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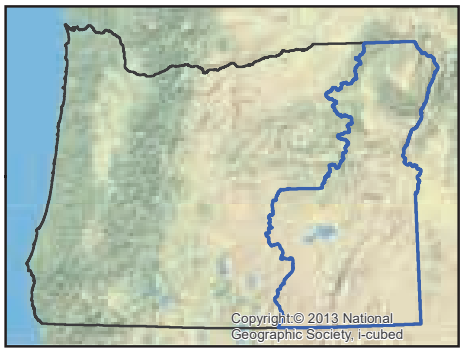

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-5033	Malheur WC	Restoring the NF Malheur in the Shadow of McClellan Mountain	Streambank conditions, water quality, and stream habitat will be improved by restoring streamside plant vegetation and fencing the project area, which is located on the North Fork Malheur River north of Juntura.	95,706	Malheur
220-5025	Baker Valley SWCD	Elkhorn Wildlife Improvement X 2	A temporary stream crossing will be purchased to implement best management practices while thinning overstocked forests in the Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area near North Powder, Oregon. The crossing will eliminate vehicles driving through streams and prevent adverse effects to water quality.	47,375	Union
220-5027	Malheur WC	Having a Halladay on the North Fork Malheur River	Water quality, stream habitat, and floodplain connectivity will be improved by fencing streamside acres, planting native hardwoods, and removing a berm along the North Fork Malheur River, north of Juntura.	109,009	Malheur
220-5034	Malheur SWCD	Morgan Feedlot Pipeline	Sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport to the Malheur and Snake River will be reduced by converting an earthen irrigation delivery canal that serves 333 irrigated acres to pipe, which will also improve irrigation water managment in the area.	179,925	Malheur
220-5024	Union SWCD	Union Soil and Water Conservation District/Clark Creek Pasture Fence	Portions of Clark Creek and twelve acres of wet meadow and wetlands will be protected from domestic livestock impacts by installing an exclusion fence. This will improve streambank and channel conditions, which will benefit water quality and ESA-listed steelhead habitat in Clark Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River near Elgin.	19,181	Union
220-5029	Owyhee WC	Branch Water Quality Improvement	Sediment, nutrient, and bacteria contributions to irrigation water conveyance canals will be elimiated by converting 88 flood irrigated acres to center pivot and big gun sprinklers, which will improve water quality in the Owyhee and Snake Rivers.	80,365	Malheur
220-5031	Tri-County CWMA	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase V	A long standing effort to control leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed will be continued in the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed, and will complement stream and floodplain as well as upland restoration work occuring in the project area.	34,670	Union
220-5035	Malheur SWCD	Horses on the Corner II	Water quality will be improved by converting 40 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application with a center pivot and solid set sprinklers. Waste water will be eliminated from these acres, which will improve water quality in the irrigation conveyance system and the nearby Malheur River.	76,729	Malheur

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (continued)

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-5030	Baker Valley SWCD	Little Creek Stockwater	Water quality will be improved in the Powder River and rangeland health will be maintained on 620 acres by installing upland water sources that will reduce livestock pressure on Little Creek, a tributary to the Powder River, and improve domestic livestock distribution.	19,943	Union
220-5026	Keating SWCD	Clover Creek Irrigation	Sediment, nutrient, and bacteria contributions to Clover Creek and the Powder River will be reduced by converting flood irrigated acres to center pivot irrigation, which will eliminate wastewater runoff from the property and improve water quality.	45,975	Baker
220-5028	Malheur WC	It Can't Get Much Steeper: Jacobsen Gulch revised	Sediment, nutrient, and bacteria contributions to Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River near Ontario, Oregon will be eliminated by converting flood irrigated acres to center pivot, solid set sprinklers, and mobile big guns.	37,061	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**745,939**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-5037	Malheur SWCD	Unruly Conversion	Sediment, nutrient, and bacteria contributions to adjacent irrigation canals and the Snake River near Ontario, Oregon will be eliminated by converting 61 flood irrigated acres to center pivot and hand line sprinkler systems.	74,160	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**820,099**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
220-5032	Baker Valley SWCD	Old Wingville Irrigation	114,366	Baker
220-5036	Malheur SWCD	Mind Over Matter	226,447	Malheur
220-5038	Wallowa Resources	Wallowa Canyonlands Landscape Scale Integrated Weed Management	95,653	Wallowa

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance (TA) Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-5043	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin Groundwater Records Review	Groundwater levels will be assessed in Baker County using a protocol by DOGAMI and OWRD to summarize existing groundwater records, compile geologic information from well logs, identify groundwater level trends, and use this information to identify restoration needs and data gaps.	29,390	Baker
220-5040	Malheur WC	Improving Wildlife and Riparian Habitat Along the Malheur	A multi-disciplined partnership will develop a conservation and restoration plan along 2.6-miles of the Malheur River that will include enineered designs to address streambank erosion, strategies to improve streamside and wildlife habitat conditions, farm practice guidance, and a prescription to address invasive plant species.	36,564	Malheur
220-5045	Harney SWCD	Harney Basin Water Conservation Through Irrigation	The NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy for Saving Groundwater will be implemented by working with irrigators to complete structural and management practices that improve irrigation application efficiency in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern.	72,881	Harney
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**138,835**	

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-5044	Harney SWCD	Addressing Gaps in Sage-Grouse Habitat	Site Specific Plans will be developed with landowners participating in the Greater Sage-Grouse CCAAs in Harney County to promote land stewardship and sage grouse survival by addressing the primary sage-steppe ecosystem threats, including juniper encroachment, annual grass invasion and wildfire.	74,972	Harney
220-5041	Malheur WC	Drewsey Reclamation Ditch: Can We Pipe it?	Engineered plans to pipe the Drewsey Reclamation Ditch will be developed to improve irrigation water delivery efficiency, reduce erosion, and improve water quality in the Malheur River.	24,035	Harney
220-5042	Powder Valley Water Control District	C-1 Pipeline Water Conservation Project	Engineered designs will be completed for converting 11 miles of earthen delivery canal to pipeline serving 1,950 irrigated acres, which will prolong reservoir storage, improve water quality in the Powder River, and enable on-farm irrigation conservation in the area.	35,000	Union
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**272,842**	
Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
220-5039	Harney County Watershed Council	Silvies River Watershed Riparian Assessment		18,920	Harney

Region 5 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

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**	**County**
None				**0**	

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-5046	Wallowa Resources	Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 2	The Multiple Indicator Monitoring protocol will be used to collect data on streambanks, stream channels, and streamside vegetation that will inform adaptive management of instream and riparian resources in actively grazed livestock alotments.	30,308	Wallowa
220-5047	Powder Basin WC	North Fork Burnt River Stream Gage	The operation, maintenance, and flow record production for a stream gauge located north of Unity, Oregon on the North Fork Burnt River will be continued to inform fisheries, irrigation, and restoration actions.	38,088	Baker
220-5048	OACD	Sage Grouse Monitoring - OACD	Sage grouse protection plans in Crook, Harney, Lake, and Malheur Counties will be monitored at 41 private lands locations to determine sage gouse population viability, document increased habitat connectivity, and provide guidance to conservation efforts.	58,250	Harney
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**126,646**	
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				**126,646**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount**	**County**
None				**0**	
Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,011,420**	**9%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**10,877,263**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5024-17341

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Union Soil and Water Conservation District/Clark Creek Pasture Fence

Applicant: Union SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: $19,181

Total Cost: $28,951

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Clark Creek Riparian Fencing Project is located on the La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest within the West Minam C&H allotment. The project area lies in the headwaters of Clark Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River, and specifically within the Grande Ronde River sub basin, Grande Ronde-Indian Creek watershed, Clark Creek sub-watershed (HUC 170601040904).Past land management activities have impacted geomorphic processes and aquatic habitat along Clark Creek and resulted in poor stream channel and riparian area conditions. Specifically in this project area, livestock concentrate in the riparian and wetland areas during the late summer and early fall as upland forage dries and water becomes more scarce. This project proposes to construct fencing to exclude livestock from a fragile portion of the Clark Creek channel, floodplain and associated wet meadow where riparian management objectives are not being met. Project objectives are to improve streambank vegetative cover and streambank stability, reduce herbivory of streamside deciduous hardwoods and reduce livestock trampling of wetland soils and features adjacent to the stream channel. This project proposes to construct approximately one mile of three-strand barbed wire let-down fence to control livestock access to 1,990 feet of stream and 12 acres of wet meadow and wetlands. Project partners include the USDA Forest Service, Union Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the West Minam C&H allotment permittees.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A letdown fence design is proposed rather than a conventional fence. The proposed design will reduce impacts to wildlife and increase longevity in this area of heavy snow loads.
- The project will benefit water quality by providing off-channel water opportunities for livestock. The proposed fencing design will include a water gap and an off-channel water development will be installed.
- Watershed concerns in the project area are livestock-induced streambank instability, streambank erosion, and suppressed riparian vegetation. The letdown fencing as prescribed will help address the cause of watershed degradation.
- PACFISH INFISH Biological Opinion (PIBO) monitoring sites are established in the project area and will help inform project results.

- The new permittee in the allotment has taken initiative to implement the allotment management plan and is interested in finding a solution to reduce the livestock damage evident in the project area.
- Similar fencing work has proven effective on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.
- Fencing costs are reasonable and were calculated based on recently completed projects on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest.

Concerns

- Aerial photos would be helpful in the application to provide information on existing conditions and identify site preparation necessary for fence construction.
- The proposed letdown fence design will not address elk browse occurring in the project area.
- Fence construction costs for the type of fencing proposed are more expensive than permanently standing fence. The lack of aerial photos showing the landscape make it difficult to determine if this added cost is justified.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is proposing to restore stream channel function and floodplain conditions that will support the riparian vegetation community and improve water quality in Clark Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River near Elgin, Oregon. The installation of letdown fence will provide the grazing permittee the necessary infrastructure to exclude livestock from Clark Creek and the adjacent riparian area. Clark Creek is host to steelhead and the proposed project will improve riparian habitat for this ESA-listed fish species. Letdown fencing costs are higher than costs for typical fence construction; however, this type of fence has less impact on wildlife, is less prone to damage in high snow load areas, and will last longer than typical fencing if well maintained by the permittee.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$19,181

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$19,181

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5025-17367
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Elkhorn Wildlife Improvement X 2
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Union
OWEB Request: $47,375
Total Cost: $63,475

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) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has realized these issues and came to the Baker Valley SWCD seeking assistance in acquiring the necessary temporary bridges to complete the thinning project. ODF will oversee and manage pre, active, post and fire inspections/operations during the forest thinning as well as bridge installations on Anthony Creek (a fish bearing stream) and the Coughenour ditch (a tributary to Pilcher Creek reservoir). It is also worth noting that no revenue will be paid to ODF through the thinning of the proposed 400 acres. ODFW will complete both bridge installation and de-construction for this proposed project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is a resubmittal and the applicant has addressed most of the concerns identified in the prior review, including a letter of support from ODFW and documentation of secured match.
- The availability of temporary stream crossings will reduce aquatic impacts resulting from forest management operations in Baker County, specifically erosion and sedimentation, aquatic habitat degradation, and channel substrate compaction.
- Forest thinning provides ecological benefit from a forest health perspective and can reduce wildfire severity.
- The Elkhorn Wildlife Management Area (EWA) near Baker City is used as an outdoor classroom by local schools and Scout Troops in Baker County.
- The current timber management plan for the EWA is to relocate roads from the draw bottom and riparian areas upslope to reduce stream impacts.

- Investing in temporary bridge structures will have a long-lasting water quality benefit as demonstrated by similar structures currently in use in neighboring counties over the past twenty years.

Concerns

- Details regarding how revenues generated from forest thinning will be used are not included in the proposal.
- Soil moisture monitoring in actively managed forests is helpful to quantify long-term watershed health benefits resulting from vegetation management. Monitoring is not included in this application and would have been a beneficial addition.

Concluding Analysis

The availability of temporary stream crossings will assist in implementing best management practices during forest management operations in the upcoming EWA thinning project in Baker County. Temporary crossings eliminate the need for log hauling across stream fords which compromises stream channel integrity and water quality. The project partners involved are appropriate for the proposed action where Baker SWCD is the fiscal agent, ODFW will install and remove the crossings for the EWA thinning project, and ODF will store, manage, and make the crossing available for future work in Baker County. Thinning in the area will reduce fire risk, reduce forest stand compromising insects and disease, and improve wildlife habitat. A temporary crossing will benefit aquatic habitat in the EWA as well as in upcoming forest management projects in the area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$47,375

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$47,375

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5026-17373
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Clover Creek Irrigation
Applicant: Keating SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $45,975
Total Cost: $95,975

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Keating Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Lower Powder Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) and the Powder Brownlee Ag Water Quality Management Plan, the Clover Creek Irrigation project will address water quality and water quantity in Clover Creek, a tributary to the Powder River.Currently 65 acres of agricultural farm ground is flood irrigated through a series of four earthen ditches diverted out of Clover Creek, a perennial stream. The tail water from the use of flood irrigation at the project site contributes all sediment, debris, organic matter and inorganic matter directly into the Powder River Watershed. In addition to degraded water quality, the current inefficient form of irrigation requires 1.4 cubic feet per second (CFS) to be diverted out of Clover Creek using 36% more water than a center pivot system would require at 0.9 CFS. This project proposes to install one center pivot irrigation system improving the use of and water quality on 65 acres. Project partners include the Keating SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposal is straightforward and clearly describes the irrigation conservation actions proposed on this 65-acre farm field.
- Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation will have water quality and quantity benefits to Clover Creek.
- The project area is located in the Lower Powder ODA Strategic Implementation Area (SIA).
- If installed, this irrigation conversion could be a catalyst for other conservation projects in the Lower Powder SIA.
- The landowner is actively working to treat weeds on their property and is engaged in proactive land management indicating that the project would be implemented appropriately.
- Project costs are reasonable based upon past similar projects and the budget contains ample detail to understand project costs.

Concerns

- The application does not describe the watershed context for the project, including surrounding land use, farm practices, and irrigation water use in the area.

- While on-farm irrigation benefits are understood, overall watershed benefits expected from the project are not well described.
- Water quality benefits expected from the project are limited to a short stretch of Clover Creek below the proposed pivot installation due to the presence of several irrigation ditches and a small reservoir downstream from the project site.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 65 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the Keating Valley will reduce water diversion and improve water quality in Clover Creek. The Partnership of the Keating SWCD and the landowner working to improve water resource conditions is in support of ODA's Lower Powder SIA program and may encourage additional on-farm conservation in the area. While overall watershed benefits are not clearly described the proposal and budget articulate a flood to sprinkler irrigation project that will have clear benefit at the point of installation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$45,975

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$45,975

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5027-17385

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Having a Halladay on the North Fork Malheur River

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $109,009

Total Cost: $192,051

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is on the NF Malheur River about 7 air miles to Juntura. It is part of the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) designated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.2) Need: Riparian vegetation is not in good condition at the site. There is not enough woody species present to modify water temperature and improve aquatic habitat. The banks have been trampled and are eroding which iscontributing to excessive sediment entering the stream. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and for lacking aquatic habitat. According to ODFW, redband trout a state designated sensitive species use the area.3) Our goal is to improve stream, and riparian function. This will improve water quality, habitat for fish, amphibians, and other aquatic life. To accomplish this we propose to:-- Build 2,500 feet of fence to control livestock access to the river. The fence will will be built 35 feet (on average) away from the top of the bank on the west side of the NF Malheur River. The enclosed riparian area will be about 12.4 acres. --Plant: -- 750 vertical bundles and/or cluster plantings planted at waters edge -- 600 posts (cottonwood and tree willow) planted up from the bank in 2 rows -- 1,004 willow clumps or bundles along 4,0016 feet of side channel emergent wetland areas-- Remove 8,455 cubic yards of rock and gravel artificial berms from 4 acres along the NF Malheur. This will: -- Increase flood plain connectivity, reconnect side channels, relieve erosion pressure on adjacent banks, and trap sediment from upstream sources.-- Install a bridge across the NF Malheur to help restrict cattle access to the river and riparian area, and facilitate proper management of the pasture. 4) Partners include the Landowners, RSI engineering, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project addresses watershed function and ecosystem processes by removing a berm, which is the cause of channel confinement and a disconnected floodplain.
- Fence construction and livestock exclusion from the river and riparian area will reduce bacteria input to the North Fork Malheur River and will result in improved management of the property.
  The project is located within an ODA Strategic Implementation Area (SIA), a prioritized geography, which includes monitoring that can help inform adaptive management decisions. The project is the result of change in land ownership and management direction. There is confidence that the new landowner will continue to improve stewardship on the property.

- The project site is adjacent to a public road, is highly visible, and could encourage future restoration in the area.
- While the focus of the project is water quality, significant watershed benefits will be realized through floodplain connectivity and aquatic habitat improvement.
- Budgeted costs for materials and contracted services are reasonable.

Concerns

- Concerns
- The landowner is not interested in entering the project area into a CREP agreement, and is instead considering flash grazing the riparian area. Flash grazing is not defined in the application and if the project area is overgrazed, benefits will be reduced.
- A grazing management plan should be produced as part of the project and should include a description of proposed flash grazing and consider whether fall grazing would be detrimental to riparian vegetation conditions.
- The application did not articulate the purpose and ecological value of the bridge.
- Riparian planting on its own may not allow the channel to aggrade and a riparian buffer averaging 35 feet may not provide enough room for the unconfined stream following berm removal.
- Project actions address the symptoms of erosive flows during high flow events and not the root cause, which is altered hydrology due to the upstream Beulah Reservoir. Flow volume fluctuates dramatically as a result of irrigation or storage practices, and this management is out of the control of the landowner.
- It is unclear why the lower berm is not included as part of the project; it may be feasible to remove and provide additional ecological benefit to the project.
- Bridge costs are a high portion of the project budget and the ecological value is questionable.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in an ODA Strategic Implementation Area and on a stream reach listed by Oregon DEQ as impaired for dissolved oxygen, temperature, and biological criteria. Controlling livestock access to the river, planting locally adapted riparian hardwoods, reconnecting the river to its floodplain, and improving land stewardship are all actions that will support water quality improvement in the area. A new conservation minded landowner manages the property and the addition of Malheur Watershed Council and a locally experienced consultant comprise a capable team to implement this project and additional phases as they are developed. While some proposed actions are the treatment of symptoms rather than the root cause of landscape degradation it is understood that flow management on the North Fork Malheur River is beyond the project team's control. This project is a logical first step to improving on-farm management, may lead to additional project phases, and due to visibility may catalyze future restoration in the area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$109,009

Review Team Conditions

Provide a grazing management plan with a primary objective of riparian planting success prior to the first funding request.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$109,009

Staff Conditions

Provide a grazing management plan with a primary objective of riparian planting success prior to the first funding request.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5028-17386

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: It Can't Get Much Steeper: Jacobsen Gulch revised

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $37,061

Total Cost: $87,471

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) Jacobsen Gulch -- an NRCS priority Area. About 6 air miles to Ontario. Adjacent to I -84.2) A 20-acre hay/pasture field and an adjacent 11- acre pasture are currently being flood irrigated. The water flows off the 20- acre field and down a extremely steep slope, flows to Jacobsen Gulch and eventually the Snake River. Tail-water from the 11- acre pasture enters the Gulch at the same point. This tail-water is causing several large gullies to form on the steep hill between the two fields, and gullies are forming in the fields themselves. Thus, a significant amount of sediment is being delivered to the Snake. Since both the 20 and 11-acre pastures are grazed, a substantial amount of bacteria and nutrients are in the irrigation tail-water as well. 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 an NRCS priority area.3) We plan to convert the 20 acre field from flood to pivot and the 11 acre pasture to big guns moved by a cart. This will mean installing ;pivot on the 20 acre fieldhooking up to the electrical grid, 1,000 feet of 6-inch mainline,7.5 hp pump for the pivotsprinkler system for the upper corner missed by the pivot 160 feet of 4-inch pipe 720 feet of 3-inch pipe 10 riser assemblies 2 hp booster pump for the corner sprinklers2 big guns to irrigate the lower 11 acre field 1,540 feet of 4 inch pipe to supply water4 riser assemblies4) Partners are the landowner, NRCS, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is improved from the previous submission, is technically sound, and addresses concerns identified in the previous review.
- The proposal is straightforward and proposed actions are well-described.
- Submitted designs are reasonable and represent a clear improvement over what was previously submitted. Prior submitted designs were challenging to decipher, included flood irrigation, and allowed for continued contaminated runoff to enter Jacobsen Gulch
- The project area is located on steep ground in the Jacobsen Gulch NRCS priority area and the project addresses irrigation practices compromise Snake River water quality.

- Converting from current flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation will reduce irrigation waste water with resultant reductions in sediment, nutrients, and bacteria entering Jacobsen Gulch and the Snake River.
- Located near Ontario and adjacent to Interstate 84, the project location offers high visibility and contributes to public awareness of on-farm conservation.

Concerns

- Irrigation of the upper southeast corner could be accomplished more cost effectively than the proposed solid set sprinkler approach.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant proposes to convert 31 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the NRCS Jacobsen Gulch priority area. In addition to providing design clarity, the application includes more than one irrigation company quote and an alternatives analysis. The project team is capable of implementing this conservation project and obtaining proposed watershed benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,061

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$37,061

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5029-17394
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Branch Water Quality Improvement
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $80,365
Total Cost: $242,839

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The Branch WQ Improvement project is located approximately 6 miles NW of Adrian2. 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 Branch Water Quality Improvement project will implement 2 pivot systems, big gun sprinklers and related conveyance infrastructure to convert 88 Acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve water quality in the Lower Owyhee and Snake Rivers. 4. Project partners include Owyhee Irrigation District, private landowner, and Owyhee Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal is well written, addresses water quality parameters of concern in the area, and proposed project actions will address ODA and DEQ priorities.
- Watershed benefits, specifically water quality in the Owyhee and Snake Rivers, are generally described, with reductions in sediment, nutrients, and bacteria expected based on modeled estimates.
- Maps and photos provided in the application are high quality and describe the project context well.
- The project team considered several alternatives, described those alternatives, and provided rationale as to why the selected alternative was chosen.
- Crops grown at the project site include alfalfa, corn, onions and sugar beets. The project location is steep, clearly eroding, and application maps show flood irrigation runoff routes to Bishop Drain.
- The Owyhee Local Advisory Committee has designated this area as a high priority and the Owyhee Watershed Council is leading the way to implement irrigation conservation work.
- The capacity of the applicant is demonstrated by a long track record of similar work and consistent submittal of high quality applications.
- The application budget contains appropriate detail, units, and unit costs.

Concerns

- The designs show that pivot end guns provide sufficient irrigation coverage in the field corners. It is not understood why solid set corner big gun sprinklers are also included in the design. Big guns on the corners are not as cost effective as other alternatives.

- The applicant provided only one irrigation system cost estimate. The application states that the landowner chose the less expensive estimate and that the second estimate was lost in a house fire.

Concluding Analysis

This project proposes to convert 88 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the Bishop Drain watershed near Adrian. Located in an area designated as a high priority by the local NRCS working group this conversion would eliminate sediment, nutrients, and bacteria laden runoff to Bishop Drain, the Owyhee River, and the Snake River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$80,365

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$80,365

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5030-17395
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Little Creek Stockwater
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Union
OWEB Request: $19,943
Total Cost: $26,227

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District near North Powder, Oregon; the Little Creek Irrigation project aims to improve water quality entering the Powder River Watershed and maintain upland rangeland health. The project site consists of two pastures; pasture one (150 acres) and pasture two (470 acres) totaling 620 acres with Little Creek, located in pasture two serving as the only source of water for both pastures. Utilizing Little Creek as the only source of livestock water for these pastures contributes additional sediment, debris, inorganic and organic material to flow into the Powder River Watershed through the channel degradation created from livestock use. In addition to water quality concerns, pasture one is currently enrolled in CRP expiring in 2022. After being enrolled in CRP for 10 years, the landowner would like to re-introduce this pasture into his grazing rotation which would extend the amount of time needed by livestock to use Little Creek as a watering source. The completion of this project will provide two reliable off channel watering locations in two separate pastures through the installation of one solar pumping station in an existing well, one 2,500 gallon cistern, two rubber tire watering troughs and grazing plan. Project partners include the Baker Valley SWCD and the landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal to develop a well, install service pipeline, and install 2 rubber tire watering troughs serving two pastures is clearly written.
- The landowner has a flexible management approach, will consider water quantity in the stock water system, and adjust pasture stocking rates according to water availability.
- The stock watering system design will facilitate improved distribution of domestic livestock on the property, encourage upland use, and reduce pressure on Little Creek.
- Developing upland water sources may encourage wildlife to stay in the uplands and out of nearby farmland, reducing human and wildlife conflict while adding potential water quality benefit.
- Encouraging domestic livestock to occupy the adjacent uplands will have water quality and riparian area benefits along Little Creek.
- The landowners have been successful with prior conservation efforts, are diligent with grazing management, and have been exemplary rangeland stewards.
- The stock watering system will be served by an existing and tested well, improving cost effectiveness.

Concerns

- Pasture use, feed availability, and capacity are not well described in the application and the grazing management plan should describe animal unit months (AUM's) available in each pasture.
- The project need is unclear given the distance of the project site to the Powder River.
- Per NRCS standards the water storage tank is undersized for the number of livestock the landowner intends to graze on the property.
- Pasture #1 will be removed from CRP in 2022 which may represent a lost benefit to wildlife.
- Due to project size and cost the application may have been better suited for an OWEB small grant application.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant and landowner intend to provide off channel livestock water in 2 pastures totaling 620 acres of rangeland near North Powder. Off-channel water will provide the infrastructure necessary to improve grazing management on the property and reduce cattle pressure in and along natural waterways coursing through the area. Improving rangeland conditions, water quality, and wildlife habitat are all priority actions in the Powder Basin and installing watering troughs in the area will work towards meeting those objectives. Overall the project is cost effective and the likelihood of success to improve watershed conditions is high.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$19,943

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$19,943

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5031-17399

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase V

Applicant: Tri-County CWMA

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: $34,670

Total Cost: $61,670

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Upper Grande Ronde River Watershed, approximately 10 miles west of La Grande, the Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase V project seeks to contain and control leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed. Since 2016, OWEB has continuously supported Tri-County's efforts to inventory, treat, and monitor leafy spurge, spotted knapweed, and diffuse knapweed in this watershed. Leafy spurge is the primary target of this project and due to its longevity, consistent herbicide treatments are necessary for effective control. Historic anthropogenic disturbances in this area have negatively impacted many fish and wildlife species, including Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Many of these disturbances have introduced invasive species, such as leafy spurge, and have promoted the spread of these species throughout the watershed. This project began treating high priority areas, such as the Grand Ronde River, in Phase I, and has worked outwards towards the larger infestations by Phase IV. The goal of Phase V is to treat all known leafy spurge sites along the Grande Ronde River and provide follow-up treatments of leafy spurge in the Phase IV project area. Tri-County is already contracted with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Oregon Parks Dept. to treat all noxious weeds within their project areas along the Grande Ronde River in 2020 and coordinates treatment efforts with the US Forest Service. Given the aggressive nature of leafy spurge, this project is more important that ever to continue given the recent large-scale efforts to restore native fish habitat in the Upper Grande Ronde Watershed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The selected protocol of early detection and rapid response is appropriate for this project location, given the topography and existing vegetation in the project area.
- The application targets priority weed species in an important location of active riparian, floodplain, and stream channel restoration.
- Working in the upper Grande Ronde River Watershed helps to prevent weed seed transport to the lower watershed.
- Over the previous four phases of this weed treatment effort the applicant has achieved demonstrable success in treating priority listed weeds.

Concerns

- Providing spatial information demonstrating how target species have responded to treatments would have been useful in evaluating prior project phase success and inform progress at the watershed scale.
- The maps provided in the application do not have information demonstrating trends over time, which would be helpful to assess effectiveness of this type of investment.
- While photos submitted with the application are descriptive, adding dates would provide more clarity.
- Weeds are a persistent problem that require annual treatment and the application only covers one season. The applicant should consider developing a multi-year proposal, which may also be a more cost-effective approach.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant is working cooperatively with many restoration partners in the Upper Grande Ronde River watershed, a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) area. Weed treatment is not an identified action in the FIP geography and the work proposed is complementary to ongoing river, floodplain, and riparian restoration actions implemented in the watershed. Proposed weed treatment follows standard protocols, success has been demonstrated over the previous four phases of work, and the applicant works across social, political, and land management boundaries. While the application lacks clarity regarding spatial success over the history of work, the actions described in the proposal support work ongoing in this watershed that is home to ESA-listed Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$34,670

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$34,670

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5032-17403
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Old Wingville Irrigation
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $114,366
Total Cost: $210,663

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Located within the Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), near Baker City, Oregon the Old Wingville Irrigation project will address 92 acres of flood irrigated pasture receiving surface water from and returning to Pine Creek, a tributary to the Powder River. Sourced from Pine Creek Reservoir, Pine Creek a continuous perennial fish bearing stream collects cool clean water from the Pine Creek drainage located within the Elkhorn Mountains. Once in the Baker Valley floor, Pine Creek is used as a source for many irrigation diversions as it meanders through the valley joining Salmon Creek and then the Powder River. 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 when and where it is needed. The completion of this project will convert 92 total acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation through the installation of two pivots: one three quarter circle (37 acres) and one full circle (55 acres). Project partners include the landowners and the Baker Valley SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project designs submitted with the application are appropriate for the setting.
- Local agencies including ODA, NRCS, and Baker SWCD are focused on improving irrigation efficiency and water quality in the area.
- The applicant has a track record of completing similar work in Baker County and the project team has the capability to successfully implement the proposed project.

Concerns

- A water right transfer of 92 acres is part of this project and it is unclear if the transfer is temporary or permanent. A permanent transfer is necessary for the project to be successful.
- The application does not articulate watershed benefits beyond the project footprint.

- An alternatives analysis describing why pivots were chosen over other irrigation application methods is lacking in the application. The proposed irrigation method requires a long conveyance pipeline, increasing project cost, and there may be less costly alternatives to apply irrigation water to pasture #2.
- The project site is flat and water quality benefits may not be as robust as other similar irrigation projects located on steep ground with greater potential for erosion.
- The application does not describe how irrigation water will be managed following the water right transfer and pivot installation. Currently Pasture #1 is not irrigated due to water emerging subsurface; transferring those rights to Pasture #2 will increase demand for irrigation water, and it is unclear how OWRD will manage calls for water during irrigation season.
- Project costs were generated by averaging similar project line item costs in the basin. Cost estimates generated by quotes from irrigation company suppliers would have been more informative and the lack of irrigation company bids creates uncertainty around project cost.

Concluding Analysis

Located in Baker Valley north of Baker City, the application proposes to transfer the place of use for a water right from a 92-acre field where irrigation is compromised due to a high water table, to a field without a water right, and install pivot irrigation systems. While these actions may have merit by improving water quality, the application would benefit by including an alternatives analysis describing why this action is chosen, providing bids from irrigation company suppliers, describing watershed benefits beyond the project footprint, describing irrigation water management and distribution in the area, and coordinating with other agencies to implement conservation resulting in greater watershed benefit. The applicant is encouraged to complete the required water right transfer prior to seeking restoration funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5033-17405

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Restoring the NF Malheur in the Shadow of McClellan Mountain

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $95,706

Total Cost: $126,854

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1)The project is on the NF Malheur River about 7 air miles to Juntura. It is part of the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) designated by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.2) The sites for bank stability restoration were chosen after 2019 drone survey data was compared to 2015 LIDAR data taken at the same location. These two selected sites lost a combined 787 cubic yards of material in the four intervening years. The North Fork is listed by DEQ for not attaining water quality standards for dissolved oxygen and because it lacks aquatic habitat. According to ODFW, redband trout, a state designated sensitive species, use the area.3) The bank stability techniques were chosen to maximize protection of the bank, improve riparian vegetation, and to maximize aquatic habitat improvements. We plan to treat 1,400 feet of bank at two sites by installing:-- 78 large juniper trees with limbs still attached (20 foot long 24 inch dbh)-- 83 rocks (3 foot by 3 foot by 3 foot)-- 1,400 willow whips forming a brush mat/bundles/ clumps behind the juniper trees-- 463 cubic yards of mixed native fill. We propose to improve riparian vegetation by planting two rows of tree willows/cottonwoods on the top of the bank behind the bank stability work. The post plantings will be protected from grazing by cages and fencing. We will fence an additional 4,000 feet of eroding areas to protect them until we can do more bank stability measures. Total riparian acres protected will be about 4.8 acres.4) Partners are the landowner, RSI engineering and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed fencing will help with localized erosion by keeping cattle off the eroding streambanks in the project area.
- The proposed project is the result of a prior OWEB Technical Assistance grant and 90% designs are included in the application. The final designs will be completed in the project construction phase.
- The project will improve the health of the riparian buffer which will address water quality concerns in the project reach.
- The project location is adjacent to and complementary to neighboring proposal 220-5024, expanding ecological benefit of both projects.
- The applicant has completed similar project types successfully and has direct experience with the proposed restoration techniques.

- Prescribed work protects the toe of slope rather than laying the streambank back. This is a more cost effective method to achieve streambank stabilization and riparian vegetation improvement.
- Cost efficiencies are achieved with the complementary project 220-5027 nearby offering the opportunity to procure one contractor to construct both projects, therefore reducing mobilization and administrative costs.

Concerns

- The fence design is not continuous within the project area and rationale for this is not explained in the application.
- Streambanks in the project reach are steep and it is unclear if vegetation alone without grading will achieve project objectives.
- The project actions address symptoms and not the root cause of bank instability, which is altered hydrology due to the upstream Beulah Reservoir. Flow velocity fluctuates widely based on management of water in the reservoir, and this management is beyond the project team's control.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in an ODA Strategic Implementation Area and on a stream reach listed as impaired by Oregon DEQ for dissolved oxygen, temperature, and biological criteria. Controlling livestock access to the river, planting locally adapted riparian hardwoods, and improving land stewardship are all actions that will promote water quality improvement in the area. A conservation-minded landowner, Malheur Watershed Council, and a locally experienced consultant comprise a capable team to implement this project and additional phases as they are developed. This project is a logical first step to improving on-farm management, may lead to additional project phases, and due to visibility may raise public awareness leading to future restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$95,706

Review Team Conditions

Provide a grazing management plan with a primary objective of riparian planting success prior to the first funding request.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$95,706

Staff Conditions

Provide a grazing management plan with a primary objective of riparian planting success prior to the first funding request.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5034-17437
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Morgan Feedlot Pipeline
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $179,925
Total Cost: $245,095

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project is in the Malheur SWCD, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and NCRS designated priority area of Morgan Bench. The pipeline is located 6 miles west of Ontario and services bench ground. Owyhee Irrigation District identifies the feedlot lateral as their top priority to pipe.2) Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria are being delivered to the Malheur River caused by irrigation induced erosion and a leaking lateral in the feedlot. This lateral ditch serves 333 acres of crop ground. We have 111 acres under under flood irrigation on the lateral to date. Potentially these fields could deliver 2 to 5 tons of sediment per acre per year to the Malheur River, that empties into the Snake River. The lateral itself is a source of sediment and e-coli as it is a open ditch until it reaches the feedlot and goes into a buried concrete pipe that is leaking before it ends a t the junction box on the other side of Morgan Avenue. Because of this problem, the runoff from the lateral is picking billions of bacterial colonies from animal waste . 3) We are proposing to:-- Abandon 484 feet of leaking buried concrete pipe-- Pipe 6860 feet of open lateral canal.-- Install 7 turnout assemblies with flow meters to feed adjacent fields-- Remove junction box on the north side of Morgan Avenue and connect the two landowners at the end of the pipeline. -- Install a cleaning screen at the lateral in the North Canal to keep debris out of the pipeline.-- Install various kinds of air vents, pressure reducers, valves, and gates.4) Partners are:-- NRCS-- Owhyee Irrigation District-- Malheur SWCD-- Oregon Department of Agriculture-- Malheur Watershed Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The conversion from open lateral conveyance to pipeline will improve water quality and promote DEQ and ODA water quality improvement objectives.
- The proposed solution is appropriate for the site and piping the irrigation lateral will provide the opportunity for future irrigation water management and flood to sprinkler irrigation conversions.
- The project is located in the NRCS designated Morgan Bench priority area, is supported by ODA, and is a high priority for the Owyhee Irrigation District.
- The project will reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport to local waterways. The installation of this piped lateral carries additional benefit by abandoning a leaky pipeline under a feedlot, further reducing bacteria transport.
- Installing this lateral and infrastructure will build on prior work done in the priority area.

- The project team has done a considerable amount of water quality sampling to refine the project location and proposed actions.
- The project team of Malheur SWCD, Owyhee Irrigation District, and NRCS are experienced and have a long track record of installing similar projects in the Malheur River Basin.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity regarding how many turnouts and flow meters will be installed. Clarity is also lacking regarding existing and proposed water quality and quantity monitoring, and connections to other nearby projects.

Concluding Analysis

Converting an open lateral conveyance canal in the Morgan Bench priority area to a buried pipeline will continue the long standing effort to improve water quality in the Lower Malheur River Watershed. The continuation of these actions reduces sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport into irrigation conveyance systems, the Malheur River, and the Snake River, which are all high priorities as stated in both DEQ's TMDL and ODA's Senate Bill 1010 Plans. The application lacks clarity, however the applicant is supported by a capable project team with ample experience installing similar projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$179,925

Review Team Conditions

Consult with Oregon DEQ and ODA regarding the locations of the flow gauges and water quality sampling sites.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$179,925

Staff Conditions

Prior to first payment, consult with Oregon DEQ and ODA regarding the locations of the flow gages and water quality sampling sites and report the results of consultation to the OWEB project manager.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5035-17443
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Horses on the Corner II
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $76,729
Total Cost: $127,414

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, NRCS, ODA, and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Piping 1520 feet of open ditch irrigation canal will maintain water quality of the irrigation water that moves through the project site and to downstream users.
- The project is located on erodible steep ground in the 3,275 acre NRCS Valley priority area.
- Converting from flood to sprinkler irrigation on the 40-acre project site will eliminate irrigation waste water and reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport to local waterways.
- Piping the irrigation lateral will provide the opportunity for future irrigation water management and flood to sprinkler irrigation conversions for down ditch water users.
- The project team of Malheur SWCD, Owyhee Irrigation District, and NRCS are experienced and have a long track record of installing similar projects in the Malheur River Basin.

Concerns

- The application lacks clarity regarding water quality and quantity monitoring. It is difficult to ascertain sampling locations in relation to the project area, how the monitoring will inform project results, and how budgeted costs relate to the monitoring.
- It is assumed the pipeline that is replacing the open delivery ditch is sized appropriately for delivery to down ditch water users; however, this is not stated in the proposal.
- As designed, delivering water to the field corners for the solid set sprinklers is less cost effective. Less expensive and effective options may exist.
- The proposed installation of 4-inch and 8-inch pipe in the same trench will save costs on backfill and this was not accounted for in the budget

Concluding Analysis

Converting an open lateral conveyance ditch to buried pipeline and converting 40 flood irrigated acres to sprinkler application in the Valley View Priority area will continue the long standing effort to improve water quality in the Lower Malheur River Watershed. The continuation of these actions reduces sediment, nutrients, and bacteria transport into irrigation conveyance systems, the Malheur River, and the Snake River. These actions are high priorities as stated in both DEQ's TMDL and ODA's Senate Bill 1010 plans.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$76,729

Review Team Conditions

Consult with DEQ and ODA regarding the locations of the flow gages and water quality sampling sites.

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$76,729

Staff Conditions

Prior to first payment, consult with DEQ and ODA regarding the locations of flow gages and water quality sampling sites and report the results of consultation to the OWEB project manager.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5036-17458
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Mind Over Matter
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $235,563
Total Cost: $327,127

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The Mind Over Matter project is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Jordan Valley in the community of Danner, and consists of 1556 acres of sagebrush steppe rangeland that is bordered by both Jordan Creek and Cow Creeks. The site profile includes elevations ranging from 4000-4600 feet, with average precipitation of 8-12 inches per year. Terrain is very rocky, comprised with dense basalt formations, and soils in the range of silty-loam. The project site, located within a 2 HUC priority area, with Greater sage-grouse being the species of concern. Thisk is the first phase of a NRCS rangeland management plan on 6,729 acres to restore plant communities, and improve habitat and forage quality for a number of species.2) Medusahead (Taeniatherum caput-medusae) and Cheatgrass (Bromus tectorum) have extensively invaded this project site and now dominate the plant community, both within project bounds and on bordering BLM lands. Annual grass invasion has placed considerable strain on this section of sagebrush steppe rangeland, and in some other sections, has created thatches so dense that all other vegetation has been eradicated.3) The work proposed for this project includes aerial application of herbicide in the fall of 2020, followed by broadcast seeding of a drought tolerant, introduced seed mix in fall of 2021. A grazing management plan has also been included to allow for proper rest rotations and establishment of plant seedlings.4) Project partners include Jordan Valley CWMA, NRCS, and Malheur SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Fall and winter grazing is unlikely to impact the reestablishment of perennial grasses.
- The grazing plan is based on utilization and this approach implies they will be monitoring the site and making grazing decisions according to vegetation health.

Concerns

- No descriptions are provided with the photos, making it hard to understand application content.
- The application states that the project will improve sage-grouse habitat; however, the maps lack clarity regarding whether the project site includes such habitat.

- It is unclear whether the extent of native vegetation has been appropriately assessed. The NRCS plan describes the presence of some native vegetation and adaptive management should have been considered as an approach to see if there is natural recruitment of native vegetation.
- Success rates for the proposed type of work are variable and the applicant did not identify an adaptive management approach with the project plan.
- Objectives are not defined for resuming grazing in the project area following seeding.
- Seeding options are not well described and no alternatives analysis was presented. More details explaining the approach, including whether certified seed will be used, would have been useful in evaluating the application.
- The applicant did not provide significant information about the importance of working in this area, especially as it does not encompass designated high priority sage grouse habitat. The project is located in an area comprised of low priority habitat or in areas without a designation.
- Capacity of the applicant to implement this type of project is unclear since the application did not indicate experience implementing similar project types.
- It is unclear what the budget line item “project consultation” entails.

Concluding Analysis

The application proposes to restore 1,554 acres of sage-grouse habitat located in a 6,729 acre NRCS rangeland management area. Project objectives include the control of Medusahead and cheat grass, restoring the sage brush understory with desirable grasses, and improving the overall health of the landscape. Project objectives are consistent with rangeland priorities in southeast Oregon; however, the application lacks necessary detail to inform a funding decision. The application lacks a compelling argument describing why the project is necessary at this location and at this time.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5037-17460
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Unruly Conversion
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $74,160
Total Cost: $221,934

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located 12 miles north of Ontario on Hyline Road, across from 218-5047 Circling Hyline, and 1 mile from 217-5050 Hunting WQ in Sheperd Gulch and is located in the Sheperd / Coyote Focus Area Action Plan (FAAP).2.) Approximately 61.5 acres of irrigable cropland drains into Sheperd Gulch) to be used by other farmers or spilled into the Snake River. Sediments and nutrients that wash off fields are passed onto the downstream users and contribute to overall water quality impairments. Most of the sediment, nutrients, and bacteria in Sheperd Gulch come from polluted irrigation return flows or livestock access to surface water. Historically farmers in the area fertilize their land and a residual amount of chemicals, e-coli and nutrients can be carried off the field with the runoff from flood irrigation. This farm is fairly typical and currently using 100% surface irrigation. 3) We are proposing to: Install, hand lines for the corners on 57.5 acres.Install 3 pivots; 1 full circle pivot and 2 wipe pivotsHandlines on corners and field XBury 2700 ft of 10 inch pipe Bury 4999 ft of 6 inch pipeBury 1512 ft of 8 inch pipeBury 2609 ft of wireInstall 1 orifice weir to measure on farm delivery by Owyhee Irrigation District with with Weed Rack4) Partners are:--Landowner-- NRCS-- Owyhee Irrigation District-- Malheur SWCD

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project designs including pipeline, pivots, and hand lines appear reasonable and appropriate for the terrain.
- The project is located a half-mile from the Snake River and will result in water quality benefits including reduced sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport to local waterways.
- The project team of Malheur SWCD, Owyhee Irrigation District, and NRCS is experienced and has a long track record of installing similar projects in the Malheur River Basin.
- The project budget is reasonable and the use of hand lines in the corners results in a more cost-effective project.

Concerns

- Uploaded maps are limited in detail, do not demonstrate existing conditions, and lack clarity.

- Data provided for water quality monitoring in the area is not summarized and therefore has limited utility for project review. More current data exists for this area and could have been used in the application to better make the case for the project.

- The need for the project is not made clear from the application. The application does not describe why the applicant chose the project location and why it is critical to implement at this time.
- The installation of pivots as proposed can result in reduced wildlife habitat due to the removal of brush, fence lines, and irrigation ditches which are often the only remaining wildlife habitat in farmland settings.
- The project vicinity map does not demonstrate how this project fits in with other projects in the Shepard/Coyote priority area.
- The description of the bacteria and water quality issues needs improvement as the information provided is outdated and from previous funding applications.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 61.5 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation in the Shepard/Coyote focus area will reduce sediment, nutrient, and bacteria transport to the nearby Snake River, all water quality improvement priorities in the area. The applicant is supported by an experienced project team including NRCS and the Owyhee Irrigation District, project designs appear appropriate for the setting, and cost effectiveness is reasonable. Application maps lack detail, photos are not annotated, and water quality data is not summarized, all of which compromise understanding of the project and setting. The applicant is encouraged in future applications to upload supporting materials that help to demonstrate project need.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,160

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5038-17466

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wallowa Canyonlands Landscape Scale Integrated Weed Management

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $95,653

Total Cost: $163,365

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership (WCP) is a cooperative weed management area and a program of Wallowa Resources. WCP strives to implement land management strategies across jurisdictions. A key element to the success of WCP has been to engage private landowners neighboring federal lands on key invasive weed treatment issues to find creative solutions that benefit the entire landscape. The project area encompasses the Oregon portion of the Grande Ronde River watershed, the Imnaha River watershed and the Zumwalt Prairie (See Map?). Within the project area the USFS is the largest landowner and they continue to experience declining resources for treating noxious weeds, most recently with the unpredictability of Title II funds. Their declining capacity to address infestations shared with neighboring landowners puts the efficacy of past and future weed management efforts on both public and private lands at risk. This application would provide crucial resources for continuing landscape-scale integrated weed management strategies. Our USFS partners and the numerous private landowners that neighbor USFS land support this project because they see it as key to maintaining the land's ecological and economic integrity.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- None identified.

Concerns

- The maps provided with the application have numerous data points and are challenging to understand.
- The application lacked maps with spatial information regarding population trends of target species over time. The static maps provided are not useful in evaluating the success of this type of investment over time.
- No photos were provided with the application and photos are critical to understand the landscapes proposed for treatment.
- OWEB has made numerous previous investments in this project area and the outcomes of funded projects were not described within the application.

- It is unclear how the priority areas were determined. Rationale supporting priority area selection would be helpful in determining where there is the best chance of success and how the strategy has been developed.
- Wallowa County Weed Department support is missing from the application. It is unclear how the various weed treatment entities are coordinating in the project area and whether the appropriate partners are engaged in this project.
- The project costs seem unusually high for some of the budget categories, including project management.

Concluding Analysis

The application proposes to continue a long standing weed treatment effort in Eastern and Northern Wallowa County in an area that is remote and characterized by deep canyons and prairie grasslands. The application lacks critical detail to inform the likelihood of project success, partnerships are not well described, and past project monitoring results are not included in the application. Future applications should include monitoring results that demonstrate results of past weed treatment efforts, rationale supporting the selection of prioritized areas, and a description of partner roles and responsibilities.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5039-17371

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Silvies River Watershed Riparian Assessment

Applicant: Harney County Watershed Council

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $18,920

Total Cost: $23,920

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The purpose of the technical assistance is to provide dedicated staff to compile agency and private landowner information on riparian conditions for the purpose of providing a uniform assessment of conditions across the Silvies River watershed. There has been significant discussion among the public agencies and private landowners about current evaluations and a Calibration Group made up of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Forest Service(USFS), Oregon Stare University Extension Service Rangeland Specialist (OSU) and Harney Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) riparian specialists has developed a method to use different forms of information to provide a common evaluation of riparian conditions as it affects water resource conditions. The evaluation will use existing photographic records and other common data that can be applied to a basin wide evaluation. This effort will provide a uniform evaluation usable to identify restoration opportunities and management options. Project partners include the USFS, BLM, Harney SWCD and private landowners as they are willing to share information. The primary purpose of the project is to compile existing information and use it to develop a common understanding of what appears to be riparian conditions and where significant information gaps exist that could affect water resource planning.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The budget request is reasonable for the proposed deliverables.

Concerns

- The application would benefit by more information on cursory outreach results that are indicative of the potential for landowner recruitment success.
- It is unclear who would be taking photographs of the properties, whether a photo taking protocol would be established, and it is unclear whether existing photographic records would provide an accurate depiction of restoration needs.
- It is unclear how different data types would be aggregated and incorporated into an evaluative analysis. The applicant plans to use existing and common data as a starting point, but no other details are provided.

- The application specifies that the community based integrated water planning program has developed a methodology that will integrate private landowner information, but this methodology is not described.
- The number of miles involved in the proposed assessment may not be possible to complete with the limited hours that were included for project management. More detail on the project management approach would strengthen the application.
- Consultation with ODFW would be helpful to describe what metrics will be valuable for fish.
- Cost-benefit is difficult to ascertain as it depends upon how many landowners will participate in the effort.

Concluding Analysis

This applicant seeks to develop an evaluation of riparian conditions and how those conditions affect water resources using common and available data. Supported by many stakeholders in the Silvies River Watershed, comprised of public land management agencies and the recruitment of private landowners, the applicant proposes to hire one staff person to accomplish the assessment of over 595 stream miles in the watershed. Project deliverables do not appear attainable for the amount of funds requested and the application lacked clarity to determine likelihood of success.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5040-17377

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Improving Wildlife and Riparian Habitat Along the Malheur

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $36,564

Total Cost: $50,764

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The project is located approximately 6 miles west of Vale and south of Highway 20 on 980 acres.2. This 2.6-mile section of the Malheur River was adversely affected by significant high flow events in the 1980's and again in 2017. Sections of the banks are eroding as a result of these high-flow events that impacted water quality, riparian habitat and infrastructure. 3. OWEB funds are all targeted to the riparian and streambank issues-the primary focus of this project. A drone will be used for a topographic survey of the entire 2.6 mile reach of the Malheur. Riparian and geomorphic analyses and hydrologic and hydraulic analyses will be conducted. A 60% design will provide alternatives for future restoration project. Sections of the riparian area (32 acres) requiring future planting will be identified along with a suite of optimal shrub and tree species. A secondary focus addresses upland issues more generally-- providing a road map for future action. Upland areas will be reviewed for further improvement options. --Wildlife habitat to be reviewed and recommendations developed by ODFW. -- Planted fields will be assessed by NRCS to determine if improvements can be made. -- Invasive weeds adversely affecting wildlife habitat will be identified for treatment options with recommendations by Malheur County Weed Department. A prescription addressing expanding Russian-olive will also be sought.4. Project partners include Bully Creek LLC, Malheur Watershed Council, Warm Springs Irrigation District, NRCS, ODFW and Malheur County Weed Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes how conservation and restoration alternatives will be developed and that alternatives will be reviewed and considered by the project team.
- The alternatives analysis as described will address project area concerns and is a reasonable approach to evaluate future project options.
- This reach of the Malheur River has good potential for restoration work, is used by wintering deer, resident and migratory birds, and riparian and streambank work would improve water quality.
- The applicant extensively collaborates with partners including ODFW, NRCS, Malheur County Weed Department, and others as clearly stated in the proposal.
- The landowner(s) are engaged and enthusiastic and presented many restoration options during the project site visit.

- Malheur Watershed Council has a proven track record having implemented many similar projects in the past.
- Cost saving measures will be developed with the alternatives analysis approach as stated in the proposal.
- Project footprint is 2.5 river miles and adjacent floodplain and is a broad geography for the proposed cost.

Concerns

- The application addressed project scope and scale, and that subsequent restoration would enhance storage and release of floodwaters; however, it is unclear whether proposed designs will consider the how restoration could affect neighboring areas, adjacent infrastructure, and erosion.

Concluding Analysis

• The application addressed project scope and scale, and that subsequent restoration would enhance storage and release of floodwaters; however, it is unclear whether proposed designs will consider the how restoration could affect neighboring areas, adjacent infrastructure, and erosion.

Concluding Analysis

The project team comprised of diverse partners representing multiple disciplines proposes to develop a restoration project that will not only improve instream conditions and water quality in the Malheur River, but address upland resource issues including farming practices and invasive plant species management. The project proposal clearly describes the technical assistance process of planning, survey, analysis, modeling, and identification of treatments through an alternatives analysis. While it is unclear how restoration actions may effect adjacent or downstream landowners, the methods proposed are sound and have been implemented by this applicant in past projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,564

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$36,564

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5041-17387

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Drewsey Reclamation Ditch: Can We Pipe it?

Applicant: Malheur WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $24,035

Total Cost: $33,335

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The Drewsey Reclamation Ditch diverts water from the Middle Fork of the Malheur River, and ends 14-miles later near the town of Drewsey. This project is within ODA's Strategic Implementation Area.2) The Ditch is old and leaky. A conservative estimate made by a consultant firm in 2007 estimated ditch loss at 25 to 30%. Managers of the Ditch estimate that it could be as high as 50% loss. They can divert 90 cfs into the ditch, and over the course of the 14-mile-long ditch there is a notable amount of lost water. If one projects this percent loss to the projected maximum flow of 90 cfs in the canal, the potential seepage losses could be as high as 22.77 cfs.Maintaining the ditch is becoming more difficult. There is the possibility of bank failure, similar to what happened to the Smith Ditch in Baker County. If the ditch were to fail the soil deposited into the river would be enormous and would cause great environmental damage.A solution to address both problems would be piping at least part of the ditch in the most critical areas. That is the leakiest spots and the most unstable. The saved water would be protected as an instream right.Keeping more water in the stream will benefit aquatic habitat in general but specifically help redband trout, a state sensitive species, and bull trout, a federally listed species. Historically, bull trout used this part of the river for a least part of their life cycle and redband are present for some part of their life history. About 5 years ago, ODFW and others helped the Ditch Company install a fish friendly diversion and fish screen at the point of diversion for this ditch. 3) We are applying for funds to hire an engineer to complete a survey, conduct a feasibility analysis, develop alternatives, conduct a water right review and develop a 60% design.4) Project partners include the irrigators and Board Members of the Drewsey Reclamation Ditch Company, Malheur WSC, ODFW, USFWS, DEQ, ODA, and NRCS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This reach of the Malheur River is designated as a migratory channel for bull trout.
- There is a fish screened irrigation diversion at the head of the ditch installed by the irrigators and ODFW.
- Piping the ditch would result in additional on-farm conservation measures including conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation due to the availability of pressurized water.
- Current flood irrigation practices are contributing to erosion and sedimentation and this project would begin to address this resource concern.

- The applicant has assembled a diverse and experienced project team who have the demonstrated capability to implement this technical assistance project.

Concerns

- The application did not include a process to quantify instream water rights resulting from Allocation of Conserved Water, which is necessary to estimate instream benefits following project implementation.
- Letters of support from potential restoration funding agencies would strengthen the application.
- The resultant pipeline project will be expensive given the length of the ditch (14 miles) and the size of pipe that will be required (5'). The cost of the pipeline compared to the watershed benefit may not be favorable given the uncertainty of bull trout presence and uncertain water quality benefits.

Concluding Analysis

Redband trout currently exist in the project reach and bull trout are thought to have used this stretch of the Malheur River in the past. Improvement to instream flow through water conservation with resultant water quality benefits would benefit these fish and other aquatic species in an identified ODA Strategic Implementation Area. While converting from open canal irrigation delivery to pipeline would enable additional on-farm conservation, watershed benefits stated in the application are uncertain at this time.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$24,035

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5042-17406

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: C-1 Pipeline Water Conservation Project

Applicant: Powder Valley Water Control District

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Union

OWEB Request: $35,000

Total Cost: $45,500

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1. The project is located in the City of North Powder, Union County, Oregon.2. The Powder Valley Water Control District (PVWCD) is an irrigation district within the Powder Basin Watershed in the City of North Powder, Union County, Oregon. The PVWCD delivers water to irrigators in Baker and Union Counties. Water is stored for irrigation and recreational use in Wolf Creek and Pilcher Creek Reservoirs. Much of the water distribution system is composed of historic open ditches that are inefficient and represent significant water loss. This water could be used more efficiently for irrigation purposes or to meet in-stream needs. 3. The Baker Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) obtained an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) grant for the design of a 6,780-foot long pipeline to replace approximately 8,330 feet of open ditch from the PVWCD's Coughanour Ditch to a farm with approximately 400 acres of irrigated land. The engineered design drawings have been completed for the original project. During the design phase of the original pipeline project, the PVWCD contacted landowners in the vicinity that could benefit from an extension to the original pipeline. The first portion of the pipeline could be increased in size and the pipeline would then continue on to irrigate a total of approximately 1,950 acres. The larger pipeline would eliminate the original 8,330 feet of open ditch with the potential to eliminate another 51,800 feet of open ditch that currently delivers water to the additional acres. This request to OWEB would be to help fund the design engineering and Contract Documents for the pipeline that would serve the larger project area. The larger pipeline would serve almost five times the number of acres as the original design. The pipeline would be a significant step forward in the efficiency of irrigation water delivery. 4. PVWCD members are the project partners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project proposal is clear and the approach well-described.
- The restoration project resulting from the proposed project designs is likely to improve water quality.
- In addition to saving water from ditch loss, the resulting pipeline project would lead to on-farm conservation measures being implemented including conversion from flood to sprinkler irrigation.
- The prior OWEB funded technical assistance project engaged additional landowners, resulting in an expanded project footprint.

- The applicant has demonstrated capacity in completing similar successful work. Previous projects implemented by PVWCD have conserved irrigation water and saved the District money by improving water management efficiencies.

Concerns

- Increasing fall storage in Wolf Creek Reservoir is stated in the application as a benefit to bull trout. This increased fall storage will benefit stocked rainbow trout, not bull trout.
- The proposal does not identify a benefit to instream flow. There are not direct benefits to instream flow by improving reservoir storage longevity.
- Designs produced with the previous technical assistance grant will not be utilized, although that prior phase did encourage more landowner participation.

Concluding Analysis

The application is clearly written. Water conservation and water quality improvement are priority watershed concerns in the area; however these benefits are not well articulated in the proposal and extending reservoir storage is not a significant watershed benefit. The applicant has demonstrated the capacity to not only complete the proposed technical assistance phase but the subsequent pipeline installation project.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$35,000

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5043-17407

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Powder Basin Groundwater Records Review

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: $29,390

Total Cost: $37,567

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, identify restoration needs to mitigate declines in groundwater 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 application is clearly written and the proposed actions and expected results are evident.
- Similar groundwater assessment work in neighboring basins and has proven effective for groundwater management and informed the technical soundness of this application.
- The proposed review will provide needed baseline information on groundwater and could lead to additional restoration work, refinement of groundwater monitoring, and identification of data gaps or anomalies.
- The applicant will work closely with OWRD and DOGAMI, both of whom will ensure proper protocols are followed and serve as mentors to project managers. Leveraging these agency resources also results in project cost savings.
- Broad support in the Baker Valley exists for the project including the identified report review team and the Baker County Court.
- The project is a cost effective way to get ahead of emerging groundwater issues in Baker County.

Concerns

- Wells are grouped within the analysis in order to protect landowner identities, potentially reducing the precision of the analysis. The rationale for this is unclear since the data to be collected from the OWRD database is public information.
- A majority of the wells in the OWRD database are sampled annually and this sampling frequency may not be representative of groundwater levels, which fluctuate by season. More reliable data could be obtained from the 20 wells sampled by OWRD quarterly. This sampling frequency will capture groundwater depth by season and be much more accurate than those wells sampled annually.

Concluding Analysis

The Powder Basin Watershed Council is taking a proactive approach to assess groundwater conditions in the Powder Basin in Baker County. In observance of neighboring counties where declining groundwater has led to moratoriums precluding additional wells, the watershed council is working with OWRD and DOGAMI to develop a database that will utilize existing groundwater data to determine if groundwater decline is a potential threat in the Powder Basin. Broad and diverse support is evident for this action in Baker County and when complete the database could inform future restoration actions, identify areas of concern, and advise monitoring to augment areas where data is lacking.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$29,390

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$29,390

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5044-17500

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Addressing Gaps in Sage-Grouse Habitat

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $74,972

Total Cost: $112,641

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) The project location is within Harney County and is focused on Greater sage-grouse habitat restoration outside of the current Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) areas. It is comprised of multiple private properties which border federally owned lands. These properties have signed letters of intent to enroll in the Harney Greater Sage-Grouse CCAA, or are currently enrolled in a CCAA.2)Harney county landowners have been waiting since 2014 to have their Site Specific Plans developed in order to be enrolled in the Greater Sage-Grouse CCAA. The limiting factor is lack of funding outside of the FIP boundaries. Another restricting element is the lengthy process that exists for CCAA, Site Specific Plan (SSP), development. Additional capacity is needed in order to complete SSP's in a timely manner. CCAA's are the keystone for landowners to obtain needed financial support for conservation measure implementation. The most limiting factor is that HSWCD lacks the resources to fund the positions that will inventory land , consult with landowners, and write the many SSPs for private landowners to enroll in the programmatic CCAA. HSWCD seeks to obtain funding for two Range Specialists, and one Range Technicians to continue developing SSPs that will expand sage grouse habitat conservation efforts.3)HSWCD employees will work with participating landowners to develop an individual Site Specific Plan that is intended to promote good land stewardship and sage grouse survival. Within the grant time frame, these employees will work with landowners and other partners to gather data, develop maps, write plans, plan treatments, and manage CCAA's. The primary sage-steppe ecosystem threats being addressed are juniper encroachment, annual grass invasion and wildfire.4.) Harney County Landowners, USFWS, BLM, ODFW , ODA and NRCS will assist as partners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clearly written and describes what is required when writing site specific plans (SSP) for each landowner enrolled in a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurance (CCAA).
- The Harney SWCD is experienced in writing SSPs, the methods used to develop the SSPs follow accepted protocol, and completed plans have produced intended results. At this time Harney SWCD has completed 18 SSPs covering 300,000 acres.
- Plans developed by the applicant have been highly regarded and have connected landowners to conservation funding sources helping them to implement prescribed work benefiting sage grouse

Concerns

- It is unclear whether plans are needed throughout the mapped geography.
- It is unclear whether SSP development will be prioritized based on habitat or other factors.
- The application states that at least 18,000 and up to 40,000 acres will be inventoried over the duration of the project. It is unclear why there is a range and how those amounts were determined.
- The staffing plans are unclear; the budget includes a CCAA Planner and a Sage-grouse Coordinator, but the narrative states that two Range Specialists and one Range Technician would develop the plans.
- The existing or proposed staff qualifications are unclear.

Concluding Analysis

Current staff at Harney SWCD have proven capacity to perform the proposed scope of work and are supported by many partners including US Fish and Wildlife Service, BLM, ODFW, ODA, and NRCS. The application would be improved with more information regarding geographic extent, prioritization methodology, required qualifications for project managers, and staff budget.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$74,972

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-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5045-17502

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Harney Basin Water Conservation Through Irrigation

Applicant: Harney SWCD

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $72,881

Total Cost: $180,118

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project location is in Harney County with prioritized focus within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (See the attached CIS for a Map of the GHVGAC). Groundwater dependent ecosystems have been analyzed and identified in the Great Basin Ecoregion that includes the Harney Basin. It has been found that there is a substantial aquifer decline. More detailed evaluations are being conducted, and conservation efforts have been employed by local working groups and federal partners. In this effort, there is a need for an employee to work specifically on implementation of the NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy for Saving Groundwater in the Harney Basin Using Efficient Irrigation Technologies (CIS). Specifically, the employee will Implement structural and management practices to reduce water use through the agricultural irrigation efficiency program. This person will serve as a member of the Community Based Water Planning Collaborative Agriculture Working Group, and will help producers convert to more efficient irrigation systems. The employee will also conduct outreach, educate consumers,and attend and conduct meetings. Project partners include NRCS, OSU, TNC, ODA, The Burns-Paiute Tribes, Private Landowners, Harney County Watershed Council, Harney County Court, and Oregon Water Resources Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project focus is aquifer decline and the need for groundwater conservation is well understood.
- Implementing plans developed for engineered sprinkler conversions from MESA (mid elevation sprinkler application) to LESA (low elevation sprinkler application) on pivot systems will result in water savings.
- NRCS engineering staff will approve the plans generated by the new staff person and provide mentorship.
- The position created will be a full-time position and combine two programs including the Conservation Implementation Strategy in the Harney Basin and the Bonneville Power Rebate Program.

Concerns

- It is unclear whether the new staff person will be a certified NRCS planner. An NRCS certified

planner would be an asset to the program as becoming certified incurs ample cost, training, and time.

- The application lacks detail regarding desired qualifications of the potential staff person.
- It is unclear why the budget includes over 700 hours of staff time for the NRCS position whose time will be reduced by the hiring of the new SWCD staff position.

Concluding Analysis

This application from Harney SWCD proposes to hire a groundwater conservation manager to develop conservation plans, guide landowners to appropriate financial assistance mechanisms, and develop conservation practice specifications. The staff person would be working in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern under the guidance and mentorship of NRCS who currently lack staff in Harney County to implement Farm Plan programs. The applicant proposes to convert 6,243 acres with MESA sprinkler systems to LESA sprinkler systems, reducing demand on groundwater resources in Harney County.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$72,881

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$72,881

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5046-17412

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring the Effects of Management on Stream Channels and Streamside Vegetation (MIM): Phase 2

Applicant: Wallowa Resources

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $30,308

Total Cost: $40,608

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The USFS, Wallowa Resources and Eastern Oregon University initiated the Eagle Cap Partnership to achieve the common goal of stewardship, and enable a larger and growing body of partners to participate in the social and scientific mission of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. The Partnership seeks to target civic engagement in natural resources management. Toward that end, the WWNF and WR developed a collaborative range monitoring initiative. Other partners include grazing permittees and OSU Extension.Multiple Indicator Monitoring (MIM) provides information to adaptively manage in-stream and riparian resources. The MIM protocol is designed to be objective, efficient, and effective for monitoring streambanks, stream channels, and streamside riparian vegetation. This protocol is considered to be the best available and is used by the National Marine Fisheries Service when evaluating grazing impacts.The WWNF has identified 128 pastures across 33 grazing allotments with 182 streams that host ESA-listed fish. The partners started establishing the 128 MIM sites in 2009 and have established 59 to date, 27 of which were supported in part by an OWEB grant. Most of these sites are actively grazed; however, a few reference sites are not. The interest in riparian status and trend data by range managers and fisheries biologists continues to increase and outpace the ability of the US Forest Service Range Program to collect the data. This OWEB Grant seek funding for two field seasons (2020-2021) to establish an additional 22 MIM sites. The partnership had originally hoped to complete the remaining plots in three fields seasons; however, the new schedule of establishing the plots over the next six field seasons better aligns with the US Forest Service Range Program's capacity to establish new plot locations and their long-term schedule of monitoring the plots on a five-year rotation.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This project will collect important information to assess grazing impacts to riparian areas and inform management changes on public lands that provide habitat for sensitive fish species.
- The applicant will follow well-established monitoring methods outlined in the MIM Handbook.
- The budget includes funding for training, if needed, given that U.S. Forest Service (USFS) may not be able to cover the cost of training.
- The data will be stored with the USFS and Wallowa Resources, and both entities are committed to sharing information with a variety of audiences as outlined in the application.

- The applicant has an effective partnership with USFS, which submitted a letter of support describing their contribution to the project.
- The monitoring objectives are clear and the information that will be collected will address the questions described in the application.
- The application describes the process used to select the designated monitoring area that is most sensitive to management influences, using a stratified random sampling design and illustrates the areas monitored in each phase in the uploaded map.
- The applicant has made progress on the previously funded monitoring grant to collect the same information they are proposing in this application, and will likely continue in a timely manner if this project is funded.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- There was no description of the specific process that will be used to apply the monitoring results in a timely manner to inform adaptive management to minimize grazing impacts to riparian areas.
- Because the information gathered is site-specific, it likely is not transferrable to other areas.
- The application lacked a description of when or how the data will be analyzed to create a report to answer the monitoring questions.
- It was not clear what role/tasks will be provided by Wallowa Resources relative to the staff wages requested in the budget.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Work with the applicant to be sure there is a clear path to report the monitoring findings to meet the project completion reporting requirements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- MIM protocol training emphasizes “key areas” which are intended to represent the area as a whole. If each site is placed and developed according to protocol, then monitoring data will demonstrate grazing management change effects on riparian and instream resources.
- The MIM protocol developed by BLM is a monitoring method accepted by the US Forest Service and National Marine Fisheries Service and is an established practice.
- Wallowa Resources, US Forest Service, and partners are methodically working through and prioritizing the establishment of MIM monitoring sites in Wallowa County on Forest Service managed lands where domestic livestock grazing occurs.
- This phase 2 monitoring effort is part of a long-term monitoring plan on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest that started in 2009.
- Information obtained from the MIM monitoring program will be used to inform domestic livestock herd management, ESA Consultation, the Forest Plan, Regional Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and restoration/conservation project effectiveness.

- Monitoring data resulting from the MIM protocol provides understandable information by which range managers can communicate with permittees regarding herd, range, riparian, and instream management.
- US Forest Service range staff have the capacity and funding to continue the MIM monitoring once each site is established. A plan is in place to monitor each site every five years ensuring the longevity of the monitoring investment.

Concerns

- Monitoring data gathered according to the MIM protocol is specific to each monitoring site and is not transferrable to other areas.
- The goal of this monitoring project is to provide baseline data to inform management decisions and activities to improve conditions in fish bearing streams. Achieving this goal on Forest Service managed lands in Wallowa County requires a long-term commitment to adaptive management by grazing permittees.

Concluding Analysis

The partnership of Wallowa Resource, US Forest Service, Eastern Oregon University, Oregon State University Extension Service, and grazing permittees are coordinated and have a plan to implement the program over the coming years. The establishment of a MIM site determines baseline conditions and subsequent monitoring at 5 year intervals will document status and trends in the monitored pasture. The monitoring data will inform future management and provide a tool for communication with grazing permittees.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$30,308

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$30,308

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5047-17446

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: North Fork Burnt River Stream Gage

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Region: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: $38,088

Total Cost: $48,463

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

PROJECT LOCATIONThe North Fork Burnt River (NFBR) watershed is located north of the town of Unity in Baker County, Oregon and encompasses roughly 124,202 acres. Its main stream, NFBR, is one of four main tributaries that drain into Unity Reservoir and it is a major contributor. A stream gage exists on the NFBR (Station ID # 13269450) on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (WWNF) and is approximately 6 miles upstream from Unity Reservoir. It measures stream flows off 76,800 acres of the watershed.PROPOSED NEEDIn 2019, Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) announced they were planning to discontinue operation of this stream gage due to budget constraints. In March of 2019 the WWNF solicited comments on the proposed Patrick Vegetation Management Plan in the watershed. The project would involve about 48,753 acres of forestland managed by the WWNF upstream of the NFBR stream gage in a watershed where all the streams are 303d listed for temperature and/or habitat conditions. The long period of record (27 years) makes the gage especially valuable for detecting changes in stream flow related to this project because past management actions have been limited to ongoing livestock grazing and limited harvest and prescribed burns.PROPOSED WORKThe Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) is requesting funds from OWEB on behalf of a group of partners to partially fund the continued operation of the NFBR stream gage from 2020-2022.PARTNERSGroups partnering with the PBWC via financial contributions are Greater Hells Canyon Council, Oregon Wild, OWRD, and local concerned citizens. Groups that have submitted letters of support include Burnt River Irrigation District, Idaho Power, and the WWNF. The broad support for the continued gage operation indicates its value. The information provided will document any management related changes that occur (positive or negative) to stream flows in the NFBR and help guide project development.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- Continued operation of the gage would provide input to the recently completed Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Patrick Vegetation Management Plan, which tracks changes in streamflow due to land- use management to inform the redband trout conservation plan and agreement.
- This streamflow gage is important to inform reservoir management by irrigators and other water users and managers.
- The Oregon Water Resources Department will continue to operate this gage through a contractual agreement and make the information available to the public on their website.

- The letters of support and monetary contributions to the budget demonstrate support from a wide range of partners.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe the process for analyzing data to determine if and how the vegetation management actions affect streamflow.
- The application does not state if a report will be written to summarize monitoring findings.
- Three years of monitoring likely will not be a long enough time period to determine if the streamflow change is associated with the vegetation management actions.
- It was not clear if a long-term funding strategy is in place to maintain this streamflow gage, which clearly has value to many stakeholders, including reservoir management for irrigation.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Encourage the applicant and partners to create a long-term funding strategy to operate this gauge.

• Confirm that water temperature data will be submitted to Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, in accordance with OWEB reporting requirements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This long-term data set can inform vegetation management projects planned for the watershed upstream of the gage while supporting other monitoring efforts including fisheries, habitat restoration, irrigation water management and storage, and the effects of climate change.
- The USGS protocol implemented by OWRD to operate and maintain the flow gage is established and appropriate to obtain high quality flow data.
- Flow data from this gage provides a useful comparison for nearby watersheds lacking flow data for development of instream projects, hydrologic analysis, and monitoring.
- In the context of landscape scale vegetative treatments flow data can provide information on the hydrologic implications of forest management.
- The North Fork Burnt River is the main tributary to the Unity Reservoir and the Burnt River Irrigation District uses flow data from this gauge to manage the reservoir and inform irrigation water distribution.

Concerns

- A long-term funding strategy to operate this gage is not in place.
- The duration of the monitoring timeframe (2 water years) associated with this grant is limited and it will take a longer time to show changes associated with vegetation management in the watershed.
- It is unclear whether the scale of vegetation management upstream of the gage will be significant enough to result in detectable hydrologic change at the gage.

Concluding Analysis

Continued flow data collection on the North Fork Burnt River will benefit many partners including irrigators, conservation and restoration project implementers, and natural resource management agencies. OWRD has maintained the gauge for many years, their continued operation will ensure that high quality data is collected using appropriate methods, and all data will be available in real time on the OWRD website. This project would provide two additional years of data for a long standing flow gauge and help bridge the gap until a stable funding source is identified.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$38,088

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$38,088

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 220-5048-17447
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Sage Grouse Monitoring - OACD
Applicant: OACD
Region: Eastern Oregon
County: Harney
OWEB Request: $58,250
Total Cost: $158,250

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

• The project location is on privately owned rangelands in four counties: Crook, Harney, Lake and Malheur. The uploaded map (CCAA Monitoring Project Map) shows habitat areas designated for greater sage-grouse protection within those counties. The 41 plans to be monitored lie within those boundaries. • The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) made a determination in 2015 not to list the sage-grouse as a candidate species, based largely upon securing letters of intent from landowners to enroll their acreage in Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAAs). Site specific plans (SSPs) were completed for the 41 plans, enrolling acreage in designated practices to protect habitat. • The plans must be monitored for 30 years and information made available to USFWS. The proposed monitoring will meet requirements from the agency. (See upload "CCAA Baseline Data Collection and Monitoring Requirements and Associated Cost-Estimate – 5 Year Forecast"). The schematic (upload) was provided by the USFWS. This grant would cover one year of monitoring these 41 plans when paired with funds from USFWS. • The four soil and water conservation districts—Crook Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), Harney SWCD, Lakeview SWCD and Malheur SWCD—have limited resources from which to provide monitoring services while maintaining their primary function of providing technical assistance services to all county residents. The districts have small staffs yet serve thousands of acres and many constituents. Without outside funding resources, the monitoring will not be able to be accomplished. • The CCAAs provide protection to the landowners similar to a "safe harbor" agreement under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). If the sage-grouse is listed in the future, these agreements will be particularly critical to the landowners so their actions will not be a take under the ESA for their customary operations. • Active partners include the four districts and USFWS.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes a clear need to collect information that is required by the Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) for sage-grouse.
- The data will provide information to track vegetation changes in sage-grouse habitat.
- The applicant is working with the Lakeview, Malheur, Harney, and Crook Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) to collect the data, with participation from landowners and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Staff collecting the data are experienced and familiar with the monitoring protocol.

- The applicant plans to communicate the summarized information to a variety of partners at regularly scheduled meetings.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear how all the objectives described in the application can be met with a single year of monitoring and no formal analysis.
- The application lacked clarity to understand what data would be collected and the methodology to be followed. It was unclear if all monitoring uses the Pace 180° method and where photos are taken. The monitoring design was not described adequately to determine if the proposed monitoring will be adequate to provide the information needed across the large area the CCAAs cover. It was not clear how many of the sites to be sampled would be annual or 5-year monitoring.
- The application does not describe how the data will be analyzed by the local SWCDs to apply the data in an adaptive management framework, and what role USFWS will play to analyze the data to inform progress across all of the CCAAs.
- It was not clear what information is provided to USFWS and if and how summarized information will be shared with partners.
- It was not clear if the landowners are contributing match to support the required annual monitoring, and if a long-term strategy to support completion of this monitoring exists.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Encourage the applicant and partners to collaboratively develop a long-term funding strategy to complete this monitoring and reporting.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The four SWCDs and OACD involved in this monitoring project are working on a long-term funding strategy.
- Monitoring on each property is done every 5-10 years, property enrollments are staggered, and every landowner participating in the program is not monitored annually making the proposed work manageable. Many of the 41 properties have the required baseline data collected at this time.
- Participating SWCDs have worked with a broad group of partners to develop the monitoring protocols. Partners providing protocol input include academic groups, regulatory agencies, and natural resource management agencies.
- The time consuming PACE 180 protocol was originally required for all participating landowners where restoration trajectory was unknown. Other protocols, including photo points are now allowed in place of PACE 180, adding efficiency while maintaining completeness.
- This is a comprehensive monitoring approach and the request covers four counties. Implementation of the monitoring will foster collaboration between landowners, SWCDs, and US Fish and Wildlife Service.
- The project covers a large geography with a wide distribution of landowners. As such, the work will achieve a landscape scale network of properties involved in sage-grouse conservation.

- Information is used in real time to inform conservation actions on private land. This enables the connection of what is happening on the land with what is prescribed in ecological assessments and provides a framework for land management recommendations.
- The monitoring and management recommendations can be used to link landowners with funding sources.
- Ecological threat based models have proven to be an effective communication tool with landowners due to their clear categories and identified steps that could be taken to improve ecological conditions.

Concerns

- This application provides funding for one year of a thirty-year monitoring program and it is uncertain how the remaining 29 years will be funded.
- For those properties that do not have baseline data collected, the proposed work establishes baseline data without security that there will be follow-up monitoring.
- Protocol information in the proposal may not reflect the most current monitoring approach.
- Due to the privacy requirements of CCAAs there may be limited applicability for off-site data use.

Concluding Analysis

The Partnership of OACD and Malheur, Harney, Crook, and Lakeview SWCDs are proposing to monitor 41 CCAAs on private land, in four counties, covering 508,283 acres to guide sage-grouse conservation over a large geography. The protocol guiding the monitoring effort has been assembled with input from several partners and has been tested in the region as demonstrated by compiling baseline data for several of the 41 landowners participating in the CCAA program. Staggered landowner enrollment, follow up monitoring every 5 – 10 years, and the allowance for protocol variance makes this annual monitoring effort achievable. At this time funding for this program beyond 2020 is uncertain, however the project partnership and US Fish and Wildlife Service are exploring stable funding sources with longevity to continue the effort.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$58,250

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$58,250

Staff Conditions

None

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 Fall 2019 Applications



Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2019FallCycle\Projects\Region6_RTM_apps_11x17_2019Fall.mxd
ESRI ArcMap 10,6. NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills 20191204

Grant Types

- Restoration
- Technical Assistance
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Monitoring

Previous Grants: 1998 - Spring 2019

- Restoration
- Land Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region Boundary

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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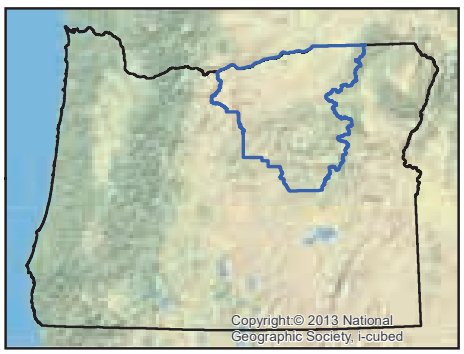

Region 6 - Mid Columbia

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6021	South Fork John Day WC	Murderers Creek Ranch Enrichment	Multiple partners are collaborating to enhance and protect over two and a half miles of Murderer's Creek, located on the ODFW Phillip Schneider Wildlife area in Grant County. Restoration actions include establishing beaver habitat, improving conditions for steelhead and other native fish, fencing to exclude livestock, and encouraging high flows to spread out on the floodplain.	197,808	Grant
220-6022	Gilliam SWCD	Upper Hay Creek Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitat	Expanding on existing riparian protection and enhancement along the entire Hay Creek system, low-tech restoration structures will be used to reconnect the floodplain to the stream, create more pool and wet sections for fish, fence off the creek, and plant native plants along a perennial stream in Gilliam County.	146,810	Gilliam
220-6025	Wheeler SWCD	Shoofly Watershed Restoration	Juniper will be removed to increase the health of native grass and shrub communities along slopes adjacent to Shoofly Creek in Wheeler County. In addition, three Aspen stands and one mile of Shoofly Creek will be fenced to exclude livestock; and three springs will be developed in the uplands to provide water for livestock and wildlife.	83,879	Wheeler
220-6015	South Fork John Day WC	Tex Creek Restoration	Structures, such as beaver dam analogs and channel spanning large wood structures, will be installed to trap and store water and fine sediments that will extend the season of flow in Tex Creek and provide improved conditions for steelhead in Grant County.	175,037	Grant
220-6023	Grant SWCD	Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative - Dads Creek Unit	Forest health will be improved over 500 acres of private forests by addressing overstocked conifer stands that are prone to severe fire and disease, and 250 acres of Juniper infested rangeground that is impacting natural grass communities and rangeland hydrology will be treated in the Dad's Creek basin in Grant County.	405,640	Grant
220-6017	North Fork John Day WC	South Fork Long Creek Uplands	Enhancing forest health on slopes adjacent to South Fork Long Creek and Jordan Creek in Grant County will be accomplished by removing juniper, and restoring and protecting three aspen stands.	50,310	Grant

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order (continued)

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6014	South Fork John Day WC	Brisbois Aspen Health	Junipers and encroaching conifers will be removed from declining aspen stands along Brisbois Creek in Grant County; aspen will then be protected with wire cages and an upland spring will be developed as a water source outside the riparian areas for both wildlife and livestock.	54,431	Grant
220-6020	Bridge Creek WC	Kahler Watershed Improvement 2	Native grass and shrub communities will be restored on Kahler Creek and an unnamed tributary in Wheeler County by removing juniper, treating invasive plant species, reseeding areas with native plants, and installing cross fencing to protect areas.	48,485	Wheeler
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,162,400**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6018	Grant SWCD	Greenwood Upland Improvements	Conservation actions will be implemented on a property in Grant County, located on a dry ridge above Isham Creek, that include improving four existing ponds and constructing four new ponds to catch runoff and snowmelt as a water source for wildlife and livestock, installing a solar pump to provide water for livestock in the uplands, and fencing portions of the creek.	132,800	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**1,295,200**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
220-6016	Sherman SWCD	Sherman County Range Restoration	152,461	Sherman
220-6019	North Fork John Day WC	Desolation - NoName Creek Restoration	41,628	Grant
220-6024	Monument SWCD	Bologna Basin Aspen Restoration	97,571	Grant

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6031	Grant SWCD	Ritter Fish Habitat Assessment	A comprehensive plan for identifying, prioritizing, and developing future restoration efforts that improve habitat and passage for ESA-listed summer steelhead will be developed for 23 miles of Six Mile, Eight Mile and Granite Creeks, which are tributaries of the Middle Fork John Day River.	53,244	Grant
220-6029	Umatilla Basin WS Foundation	Stanley Creek Culvert & Haskell Dam Removal Design	Engineered designs will be developed to remove an abandoned water diversion structure on West Birch Creek and correct an undersized culvert on Stanley Creek, which will address impaired fish passage to important cool water habitat upstream in Umatilla County.	40,475	Umatilla
220-6028	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Upper Walla Walla Ground-Based Habitat Assessment	A stream habitat survey will be completed along the Walla Walla River in Oregon in partnership with CTUIR to inform the CTUIR's watershed assessment and action plan.	60,389	Umatilla
220-6030	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Joe West Bridge Reach Walla Walla River Habitat Design	Construction-ready designs will be developed to improve conditions for aquatic species, including steelhead, Chinook and bull trout, along a stretch of the Walla Walla River with recent flooding that impacted nearby residences and degraded the river for fish.	61,620	Umatilla
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**215,728**	

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

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
220-6026	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Upper Walla Walla River Watershed Assessment and Strategic Action Plan	A Watershed Assessment and Strategic Action Plan will be developed to identify issues impacting salmon and other fish in the Walla Walla River and provide a guide to correcting those issues through restoration.	75,000	Umatilla
Total TA Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**290,728**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
220-6027	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In- stream Enhancement Design	75,000	Umatilla
220-6032	Grant SWCD	Increasing Summer Streamflow in the John Day Watershed	73,502	Grant

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

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**	**County**
None					

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
220-6037	Bridge Creek WC	Bear Creek Steelhead Monitoring	The effectiveness of Beaver Dam Analog (BDA) structures in restoration will be monitored to identify resulting impacts on steelhead, stream temperature, and stream conditions on Bear Creek in Wheeler County where more than 70 BDA structures have been installed.	84,834	Wheeler
220-6033	Monument SWCD	NF John Day tributary Smallmouth Bass Monitoring	The abundance, distribution, and diet of smallmouth bass will be assessed in three tributaries of the North Fork John Day River in Grant County to determine how bass interact with salmon and steelhead. This data will inform restoration prioritization and development that focuses on salmon, which is especially important as tributaries become warmer with climate shifts.	245,746	Grant
220-6036	Utah State University Office of Sponsored Programs	Long-term Population Impacts of Beaver Restoration: Bridge Creek Intensively Monitored Watershed	Long term monitoring of low-tech beaver dam analogs will continue on Bridge Creek in Wheeler County to assess impacts of these structures on steelhead and salmon and whether floodplain reconnection can prevent channel incision.	239,338	Wheeler
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**569,918**	
Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
None				**0**	
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**569,918**	

Region 6 ~ OWEB: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring October 28, 2019 Grant Offering

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount**	**County**
220-6034	Umatilla Basin WS Foundation	OXBOW Rapid Bio-Assessment	36,539	Umatilla
220-6035	OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin	Monitoring Groundwater Conjunctive Use in the Middle Fork of the John Day River	149,621	Grant
220-6038	South Fork John Day WC	Annual Grass Amendment	189,252	Grant
Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**1,948,046**	**18%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**10,877,263**	

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6014-17365
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Brisbois Aspen Health
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $54,431
Total Cost: $81,436

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Brisbois Creek is located on the Keerins Ranch, near Izee, Oregon, in the Southwestern corner of Grant County. Brisbois Creek is listed on DEQ's 303d list for temperature and sedimentation. The upper reaches of Brisbois Creek contain Aspen stands, and are forested. This project area continues from the previously funded OWEB grant #: 219-6015, Big Flat Juniper Removal, which included portions of the headwaters of Brisbois Creek for Juniper Removal.The NRCS Forest Health priority area has been identified as the Upper South Fork John Day region, and the Keerins Ranch has enrolled to have forest health practices in the Brisbois watershed. In between these Forest Health units there are many Aspen stands. These stands were identified in the South Fork John Day Watershed Council's Aspen Inventory as lacking overstory component and suffering from conifer encroachment. OWEB funds are being requested to remove encroaching Western Juniper and Conifer from the Aspen stands, install wire cage enclosures for Aspen sucker protection, and install an upland water source.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Strengths
- Removing conifers from aspen stands is an appropriate management practice.
- Using individual cages to protect saplings has proven successful in similar aspen restoration projects.
- The project site provides habitat for resident redband trout, deer, elk, and other wildlife.
- The proposed project builds on an OWEB-funded technical assistance project that located and prioritized aspen stands in the South Fork John Day Basin, including the proposed project sites.
- The applicant has a history of successfully completing projects similar in scope.
- The application budget provides detail needed to determine costs are reasonable, and cost-benefit for the restoration investment is favorable.
- The project expands ecological benefits realized by an adjacent NRCS-funded forest health project.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

Riparian vegetation in the Brisbois Creek drainage, particularly aspen, is showing the impacts of conifer and juniper encroachment. If not reversed, the habitat value on this stream corridor could significantly decline. The applicant is using their recent aspen inventory to assure the sites selected are most likely to flourish with treatment. Previous project experience indicates caging adjacent aspen saplings once aspen grows above browse height extends the life of the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$54,431

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$54,431

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6015-17372
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Tex Creek Restoration
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $175,037
Total Cost: $220,633

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Tex Creek within the Project area occurs in an unconstrained reach within the ODFW-owned Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area. The Project area is entirely on public land and includes the lower 0.35 miles of Tex Creek and associated floodplain at the confluence with Murderers Creek near river mile (RM) 15.6. Some of the earliest documentation of limiting factors in Tex Creek includes a study done in the early 1960s by the Oregon State Game Commission (OSGC 1965). This study noted losses of young steelhead due to dewatering in the lower reaches, and attempts were made to improve surface flows and fish survival by installing a series of eight weirs in the lower 0.5 miles of stream.The most recent documentation of aquatic conditions specifically in lower Tex Creek includes the South Fork John Day Fish Barrier Survey (Neal 2017, OWEB grant #:216-6031), and ODFW steelhead redd surveys. The fish barrier survey identified the lower 1,850 feet of Tex Creek as a fish barrier due to dewatering during the period from July 1 up until fall rains occur each year and ranked the site as the third highest priority for restoration in the Murderers Creek watershed. Annual redd counts by ODFW indicate that no redds have been found in the lower 2.5-mile survey reach of Tex Creek in the last five years (from 2014 to 2018). Prior to that counts ranged from 0.0 to 3.2 redds per mile in the period from 2009 to 2013 (ODFW 2019).The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) secured funding through OWEB grant #: 219-6011, in order to obtain design plans to remedy this dry channel passage barrier.We are requesting OWEB funds in order to implement design to install naturally occurring structures such as beaver dam analogs (BDA's) and channel spanning large wood (LWD) structures to trap and store water and fine sediments, with the goal of extending the season of flow in Tex Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the proposed actions and objectives.
- Design elements incorporating channel-spanning structures have shown success on streams with similar limiting factors.
- The proposed project builds on two previously funded OWEB technical assistance grants that identified this fish passage barrier as a priority in the South Fork John Day watershed and provided comprehensive, shovel-ready designs.
- ODFW records provide evidence that steelhead historically used Tex Creek and that dewatered sections cause fish mortality.

- The project will extend the timing of perennial flows that will allow fish access to upstream habitat and reduce fish mortality.
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs is collaborating on the riparian planting, sharing their extensive experience in successful vegetation establishment.
- The applicant has previously collaborated with ODFW on multiple restoration projects.
- Partners with the relevant technical expertise are involved in the project.

Concerns

- The overall project costs are high; however, ODFW will provide the trees to help offset costs.
- Certain budget items, such as “Clearing and Grubbing” and “Cleaning,” appear high for the short project reach.
- There is a natural barrier downstream on Murderers Creek that limits some passage during low flows, which could reduce benefits from addressing the proposed barrier.

Concluding Analysis

Local partners and ODFW have identified Tex Creek, a 5.7-mile long cold-water tributary to Murderers Creek, as a high priority for restoration. Historical documentation show this stream once produced high numbers of steelhead juveniles when flow and connectivity to Murderers Creek existed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$175,037

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$175,037

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6016-17376

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Sherman County Range Restoration

Applicant: Sherman SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Sherman

OWEB Request: $152,461

Total Cost: $203,737

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project takes place on 6 private properties: 2 in the Pine Hollow/Jackkife Watershed, 3 in the South Sherman Watershed, and 1 in the North Sherman Watershed. 4 properties are in the Deschutes River basin and 2 in the John Day River basin. The rangeland and riparian areas in Sherman County have been degraded over decades of overgrazing and livestock over-utilization. This watershed degradation has caused a decline in native grasses and other native plants, allowed increases in non-native weed populations, reduced upland water infiltration, and increased erosion. Further, livestock utilization of riparian areas has caused bank erosion and channel widening as well as reduced the native plant populations and available wildlife habitat. Range and riparian degradation have reduced upland and riparian function and hence wildlife and aquatic habitat quantity and quality. This project will implement several range restoration strategies to improve upland function and reduce the pressure on riparian areas. We will construct cross fences to improve rotational grazing opportunities and keep livestock out of riparian areas. This project will also develop springs and install solar pumping plants to provide upland water sources for wildlife and livestock and reduce the use of riparian corridors. Finally, 43 acres of range will be seeded with perennial grasses to improve forage, wildlife habitat, and water infiltration. Partners in this project are Sherman County Area Watershed Council, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), landowners and operators, and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There were no identified strengths.

Concerns

- Understanding project scope and assessing collective ecological benefit is difficult when project sites are scattered throughout multiple watersheds.
- The overall project cost is high for minimal ecological benefit.
- Since the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) requires landowners to keep livestock out of buffers and the original CREP contract could have covered fencing costs, it is unclear why OWEB funds are requested for fencing.

- The status of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) fields adjacent to or potentially affected by the proposed project components is unclear from the application. Additional information explaining whether the CRP contracts are being renewed or whether those fields will be grazed or farmed is needed to better understand the proposed project.
- A management strategy incorporated into the application explaining how grazing will enhance or maintain the project objectives and investments is needed to determine the likelihood of success for this rangeland restoration project.
- It is not clear how water developments and cross fencing will improve livestock distribution on some of the sites.

Concluding Analysis

Lands in Sherman County could benefit from more rangeland restoration; however, it is difficult to understand the cumulative impacts of the proposed restoration because the project sites are spread across a broad geography. Also, without information on grazing management strategies it is difficult to determine the cost effectiveness of the proposed work. If resubmitted, the application would be stronger by focusing on a watershed approach to restoration.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6017-17419
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: South Fork Long Creek Uplands
Applicant: North Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $50,310
Total Cost: $64,510

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located on the South Fork of Long Creek in Northern Grant County, a tributary to Long Creek, near the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River. The South Fork of Long Creek provides much needed cold water habitat to Long Creek, and subsequently, the Middle Fork of the John Day River system. The location of this significant cold water input to the Long Creek subwatershed is primarily located on private land and is being overrun by juniper encroachment. Landowners in this area have great concern for the quality and quantity of water available for livestock and wildlife, and have great concerns for their neighbors downstream. In addition to managing for phase II juniper encroachment, Quaking aspen is also a sensitive and important habitat feature that landowners in the area value and seek to protect. This project seeks to cut and pile 92 acres of large juniper encroachment, and protect 3, one-acre, Quaking aspen stands through installation of buck and pole style protection fence, on the South Fork of Long Creek and Jordan Creek.Project Partners include the Landowner, Norb Volny and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes the elements of this technically sound project.
- The conifer edge ecosystem is an appropriate location for the prioritized treatment sites.
- Protecting aspen clones with buck and pole fencing balances both timber fall and wildlife use, as well as handling heavy snow loads.
- Steelhead use the South Fork Long Creek for spawning; juniper removal and riparian vegetation protection will help maintain cold water regimes.
- The healthy condition of the understory reflects previous livestock management that effectively protected habitat conditions.
- The motivated landowner increases the likelihood for project success.
- The cost of the project is reasonable for the proposed objectives.
- The applicant has a proven record of accomplishment on similar projects.

Concerns

- Maps showing more detail on individual treatment areas would have strengthened the application.
- More attention should be given to slash management to prevent unintended impacts to the habitat.

Concluding Analysis

The project property, located near the town of Long Creek, is in an area with limited requests for voluntary watershed restoration. The landowner is actively engaged in the project and is looking for technical advice on how to restore proper functioning conditions on his land. Encroaching juniper are crowding out the aspen in this drainage where significant ground moisture and seeps indicate that historically aspen would have thrived in this watershed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$50,310

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$50,310

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6018-17425
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Greenwood Upland Improvements
Applicant: Grant SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $132,800
Total Cost: $213,400

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 fence off a small section of Isham Creek. Partners include NRCS and Blue Mountain Land Trust all match will be provided by the landowner. This proposal was submitted in Fall, 2018 and was not recommended for funding due to four concerns; a copy of the evaluation and information which addresses these concerns has been uploaded as an attachment to this proposal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application addresses concerns identified in the previous evaluation.
- Project components will improve distribution of livestock and encourage forage health.
- The hydrologic analysis provides more detail on the amount of anticipated water runoff and collection.
- Other large-scale restoration projects are evident on the property and indicate a systems approach to conservation.
- The landowners are motivated to improve the ecological condition of their land and are in the process of pursuing a conservation easement to protect fish and wildlife habitat and restoration investments into the future.
- The short, fenced section of Isham Creek will protect habitat for steelhead.
- The applicant has experience with this type of project with engineers on staff to address any project complexities.

Concerns

- Clay soils may preclude the need for pond liners; however, the applicant addressed prior evaluation

comments to address this concern and explain why pond liners are still included in the project approach.

- The lower grasslands are predominantly invasive annual grasses and require significant management to restore; however, the landowner has successfully treated some Medusahead sites using a granular herbicide and has plans to continue this treatment.
- While the application includes a draft grazing management plan, a finalized version of the plan would have been beneficial to the review.

Concluding Analysis

One of the main limiting factors to managing this upland site is the lack of water. With minimal spring sites, neighbors on both sides of Isham Creek have attempted to drill wells with no success. Four ponds on this property have provided some short-term water for livestock and wildlife but the main water source is still Isham Creek, a steelhead creek running along the north side of the property. Siting the ponds strategically across the property will support new grazing strategies to both improve upland perennial grass stands and protect Isham Creek from livestock.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$132,800

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

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6019-17433
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Desolation - NoName Creek Restoration
Applicant: North Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $41,628
Total Cost: $53,978

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located on the Desolation Creek, LLC (DCLLC) property in Northern Grant County, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Dale, Oregon. The DCLLC property takes in the lower 10 miles of Desolation Creek beforeflowing in to the North Fork John Day River.Livestock have severely degraded many of the stream banks across the DCLLC property. This is a result of their preference for these sensitive systems, and decades of intensive, and minimally restrictive use. Stream banks have been trampled and are “hummocked” to the extent that water is pooling in hoof-prints and remaining on the surface, rather than saturating hyporhyic zones and holding through the season. Water contained in hoof-prints that is unable to permeate the soil due to the level of compaction will be subsequently lost to evaporation. What doesn't evaporate, is warmed significantly before re-entering ground water or stream flow. Additionally, springs and gullies have been deprived of soil holding vegetation, causing down-cutting, channel incision, and riparian degradation. Grazing in riparian areas has been shown to considerably reduce soil pore space, and as a result soil water storage, impacting ecosystem productivity, biogeochemistry, stream temperature, and flows (Hammersmark 2008). The "Moderate" and "High" OWEB Limiting Factors that this project will address are: Altered Species Composition, Habitat Connectivity, Loss of Shade/Cover, Altered Habitat Structure, Altered Thermal Regime and Altered Sediment Regime.This project will hire a contractor to install 1.9 miles of NRCS guided livestock exclusion fence on 1 perennial, non-fish-bearing, stream in a priority stream system. Additionally, one off-channel water trough will be developed to water livestock and wildlife.The partners for this project include Ecotrust Forest Management(EFM) and NFJDWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This is a technically sound project with goals to improve water quality and quantity.
- The overflow shut-off and flow-regulating design has proven effective in conserving water quantity, which provides additional ecological benefit.
- Fencing in the holding pasture will protect the stream and riparian vegetation.
- The project builds on past restoration that focused on protecting and enhancing fish-bearing streams and wet meadows.

- The applicant has experience in implementing projects similar in scope.
- Spring development is an appropriate method for keeping livestock out of the creek channels.

Concerns

- The ecological benefit of the proposed fencing, other than in the holding pasture, is unclear on this non-fish bearing stream. Furthermore, this fencing will require maintenance to protect the investment long term.
- The watershed benefit is low for the high cost of the investment.
- An explanation of how this project fits within the property's landscape-scale restoration plan and why this project is a priority would provide better context for the proposed project.
- The spring development could be a better fit for the OWEB small grant program.

Concluding Analysis

Over the past five years, extensive restoration has been implemented to protect and restore the significant ecological benefits of Desolation Creek watershed's healthy timber, aspen communities, native fish habitat and high-elevation, wet meadow ecosystems. Much of the work included fencing that requires long-term fence maintenance because of damage from snow load, elk, timber fall, and livestock use. Future applications should include comprehensive justifications for future fencing locations in terms of habitat benefit, and information relating to fence maintenance.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6020-17444
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Kahler Watershed Improvement 2
Applicant: Bridge Creek WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Wheeler
OWEB Request: $48,485
Total Cost: $65,314

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located in the Kahler Creek Watershed in northeast Wheeler County. The increase of juniper and invasive species has created a decline in desirable shrubs and herbaceous vegetation in the watershed. Decreased infiltration and increased runoff reduce water quality and quantity in the watershed during critical times of the year. The project will remove 197 acres of western juniper, treat and reseed 51 acres of noxious weeds, primarily medusahead, and install 4500' of cross fencing to create two riparian exclusion areas on Kahler Creek and an unnamed tributary. This is the second phase of upland work in the Kahler Creek watershed and includes new landowners, not part of the Phase 1 project. Project partners include three landowners, OWEB, and Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project builds on previous restoration work in the area, leveraging NRCS funds on private lands and USFS work done on the adjacent national forest.
- Restoration is gaining momentum in an area where landowners have been reluctant to participate.
- Kahler Creek and certain tributaries provide some steelhead habitat that could potentially be expanded with continued restoration in the basin.
- The budget provides clear detail and costs seem reasonable for the proposed work.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with additional background on other restoration in the area.
- It is not clear how site prioritization is determined, whether it is based solely on opportunity or ecological benefit.
- The ecological benefit of the proposed cross fencing is not explained.
- More detail on the juniper removal strategy is needed to determine the technical soundness and cost-benefit of this project component.

Concluding Analysis

This is the second phase of upland projects in the Kahler Basin. Previous work with NRCS has successfully engaged landowners to consider restoration on their properties. The first phase is nearing completion and is proving to be an effective tool for engaging other landowners in the basin. While the objectives of improving upland health is clear, more information on how the overall restoration strategy will result in ecological uplift in the basin is needed to better understand the watershed benefits for the OWEB investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$48,485

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$48,485

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6021-17445
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Murderers Creek Ranch Enrichment
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $197,808
Total Cost: $455,422

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Murderers Creek watershed covers approximately 84,962 acres and is a tributary to the South Fork John Day River in Grant County, Oregon. The project area is located about 3 miles upstream of the confluence with the South Fork John Day River and extends another 2.5 miles along Murderers Creek. The property within the project area is owned by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Reclamation, 2019). Murderers Creek is part of the John Day River system, one of the last major free-flowing rivers in the Columbia River system, and is one of the last to contain wild steelhead. Murderers Creek is the largest of the 5 tributaries used by steelhead and therefore is very valuable to sustaining or increasing steelhead production. It is also one of the most important tributaries for spawning and is used by about 59% of steelhead that enter the SF John Day River (MCWA, 1997).The Murderers Creek Watershed Assessment states that steelhead are limited by suitable habitat and water temperatures. However, they note that beaver dams would probably increase late season flow which in turn would provide rearing habitat and juvenile survival. The Bureau of Reclamation provides technical assistance to address key limiting factors to protect and improve survival of salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA. We are proposing to add large wood structures to establish beaver habitat, improve fish cover, increase sediment retention and expand the floodplain. Earth moving work will include removing existing berms, rock rip rap and forming pilot channels to increase floodplain activation. In addition, we will enhance riparian habitat through expanded fencing, plantings and preventing establishment of non-natives. Partners for the project include; ODF&W Wildlife Area, ODF&W District Office, CTWS, BOR & SFJDWC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application has clear objectives and contains sufficient detail needed to determine technical soundness and likelihood for success.
- The project designs and monitoring plan clearly explains an appropriate approach and how tracking will document improvements or identify when there is a need for adaptive management.
- This watershed scale project incorporates a phased approach that will increase the likelihood of success for achieving restoration objectives.
- Riparian fence buffer is adequate for the near term, and has potential for future expansion.

- Murderers Creek has high potential for increased steelhead production and provides habitat for juvenile Chinook as well. Restoration actions will improve habitat for spawning and rearing for steelhead, and rearing for juvenile Chinook.
- Beaver have successfully colonized both up- and downstream of the project site. Project components will encourage beaver to utilize the treatment reach as well.
- ODFW will implement some of the work using their equipment, which helps to keep costs reasonable for 2½ miles of instream restoration.
- The applicant has a proven record for managing complex projects.
- Partners on the project bring a high level of expertise and relevant experience, which increases the likelihood for this project to succeed.

Concerns

- A map showing the project reach in relation to the entire watershed and other restoration projects in the area would provide helpful information to understand watershed context.
- The application did not provide details describing project monitoring, and how data will be used to inform adaptive management.

Concluding Analysis

Murderers Creek, a major tributary to the South Fork John Day River, provides cool water habitat to both steelhead and juvenile Chinook. ODFW spawning surveys, starting in 1969, indicate Murderers Creek is highly productive for steelhead; however, the channel is currently straightened, diked, and armored in the project reach. This has reduced native fish production in this reach compared to reaches located above and below the project site. The restoration actions identified in this application restore stream function and process, and ultimately increase native fish productivity, and protect clean, cool water for longer periods of time.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$197,808

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$197,808

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6022-17456

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Hay Creek Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitat

Applicant: Gilliam SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Gilliam

OWEB Request: $146,810

Total Cost: $323,429

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located on the Dryfork of Hay Creek approximately 15 miles from the mouth in the uppermost perennial reach of the watershed. The Dryfork of Hay Creek is a tributary to Hay Creek, Hay Creek is a tributary to the John Day River and the John Day River drains into the Columbia River. It is approximately 8 miles north of Condon in Gilliam County. The major watershed issue for this reach is intermittent flow during the summer months and very little riparian vegetation. The reaches upstream and downstream have perennial flow and this project aims to extend those wetted reaches. This project will use various floodplain connection actions to create pool habitat and extend perennial flow. Once perennial flow is established riparian plantings will begin. The District will utilize the Farm Service Agency Conservation Reserve Enhancement program to install a riparian fence and establish riparian plantings following the Low-Cost Process-Based Restoration structure installation. Project partners include FSA, OWEB, NRCS, ODFW, DSL, and Gilliam SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly states project objectives and includes photos representative of the project site.
- The identified technical solutions addressing limiting factors on this stream reach are sound.
- This project builds on existing restoration and riparian protection downstream on Hay Creek.
- Improved habitat and increased flows resulting from this project could encourage downstream beaver colonies to move upstream.
- Steelhead use Hay Creek in the lower reaches and this project could expand available habitat.
- The applicant has experience with this type of restoration and completing complex projects.
- The restoration approach will keep overall costs reasonable for the length of stream treated.

Concerns

- Fish use is unknown this high up in the Hay Creek system.
- Consideration should be given to prevent restoration actions from causing low flow passage barriers.

- The justification for hiring consulting engineers is unclear given the low-tech nature of the restoration designs.

Concluding Analysis

Hay Creek is a lower John Day Basin steelhead stream that has seen extensive restoration completed downstream. This project and an additional future phase on the same property on a different fork, will complete stream protection along the entire Hay Creek system. The objectives of reconnecting floodplains to serve as a sponge to store high flow events could improve late season flows and encourage riparian shading from vegetation. The low-tech instream structures will also create added complexity that improves pool habitat for fish and encourage them to move into these headwater areas. If beaver can be encouraged to move in from downstream complexes, the project footprint could potentially expand and be naturally maintained.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$146,810

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$146,810

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6023-17461

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Blue Mountains Vegetative Health Initiative - Dads Creek Unit

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $405,640

Total Cost: $867,063

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The project is located in the Upper Mainstem John Day River upstream of Prairie City, OR. Unmanaged upland vegetation has resulted in impaired watershed function. Overstocked conifer forests have created conditions which are prone to severe fire and disease; juniper encroachment has impacted natural grass communities and the hydrology of the rangelands. Together with partners NRCS, ODF and Private Landowners, Grant SWCD proposes to treat a total of 500 acres of private forest ground and 250 acres of Juniper infested rangeground. This effort will compliment the District's Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP); over the last two years, the program has treated 376 acres of forest and 299 acres of juniper in the subject unit. Site prioritization and treatment specifications will follow RCPP protocols for consistency between projects regardless of funding source.Program partners have identified three areas or "units" as high priorities for enrollment. Each unit is located within a watershed where a USFS treatment project is occurring; the subject unit for this proposal is known as the "Dads Creek" unit. The other two units, "Magone" and "Headwaters" will be the subjects of similar cost share requests over the next few, upcoming OWEB cycles.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Thinning efforts will reduce mistletoe and disease in these overstocked timberlands.
- The involvement of Oregon Department of Forestry as a partner and technical advisor increases the likelihood of success.
- The methodology used for site prioritization assures the best locations for restoration investments will be selected, including factoring in potential impacts to adjacent steelhead streams.
- The identified actions will help improve forest health and reduce the risk of stand-replacing wildfires.
- Significant NRCS RCPP funding will be leveraged to increase the scale of forest restoration.
- The project provides opportunities to engage landowners in conversations on forest health best management practices.
- The applicant has a proven record of restoration implementation.
- The budget is reasonable for the proposed scope of work.

Concerns

- While the fuels reduction benefits of the proposed project are clear, the application lacked details on watershed benefits.
- There is no discussion of post-project slash treatments. This element is critical to overall project success, and will likely be addressed with ODF as a partner.

Concluding Analysis

Grant SWCD is collaborating with NRCS on this landscape-scale, forest health initiative in several watersheds in the upper John Day Basin. Leveraging these funds will significantly increase both the ecological scope and impact of the project. GIS and follow-up site visits will be used to assure the best sites for treatment are identified. Landowners in this area are motivated to improve their forest stands after recent catastrophic wildfires. This has provided an opportunity to discuss forest management practices to help keep these stands healthy into the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$405,640

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$405,640

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6024-17474
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Bologna Basin Aspen Restoration
Applicant: Monument SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $97,571
Total Cost: $179,576

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project is located in the East Bologna Creek drainage, a sub watershed of the NF John Day River in Grant County OR. 2) Bologna Basin is a 5,068 acre sub basin of the North Fork John Day River watershed that serves as important winter range habitat for big game (elk, mule deer). The east and west forks of Bologna Creek also provide essential spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed summer Steelhead. However, East Bologna Creek is water limited due to watershed function impairment. Historically, East and West Bologna Creeks ran to the North Fork John Day year-round. Due to the encroachment of juniper on this site, watershed health and function has been impaired by 30% as was determined in a survey of the site using the Western Guide to Juniper Treatment (Barrett 2007). The abundance of juniper is causing competition with native vegetation for water, space, sunlight, and available soil nutrients. Therefore, removal of juniper from the riparian and spring areas along with restoring native plant communities is crucial for stream recharge3) We propose a targeted aspen restoration project at three upland spring sites along the East Bologna Creek drainage. Specifically, this project aims improve upland function and restore native plant communities at these sites through the following activities:1) Felling 24 acres of western juniper2) Treating 13.1 acres of noxious weeds with herbicide and re-seeding with native grasses3) Planting a total of 330 aspen trees 4) Installing 2533 feet of wildlife exclusion fencing to protect aspen plantingsAdditionally, we will conduct bi-annual post-implementation site visits to monitor aspen establishment and overall restoration effectiveness at each site. 4) Project Partners include Monument Soil and Water Conservation District, Landowner Jeffrey Kee, Natural Resource Conservation Service, The North Fork john Day Watershed Council, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly describes project goals, objectives, and activities.
- This project complements NRCS-funded and previous OWEB-funded work on the property.
- The landowner has been actively engaged in restoration, which is demonstrated by previous projects.
- The budget includes details needed to understand costs.
- Steelhead spawn on both forks of Bologna Creek.

Concerns

- The cost is high for the proposed ecological benefit and number of acres to be treated. Given the level of contracted services budgeted, it is unclear why the high cost for personnel is needed for achieving the project goals.
- Buck and pole fencing may not be adequate to protect newly planted aspen from deer population; individual caging may be a more appropriate approach.
- Planting aspen in a site without a history of aspen vegetation is a risk and a technique new to this region. Additional detail on successful use of this method is needed to assess the technical soundness of this approach.
- Fence installation costs appear, inadequate, but it is unclear whether match dollars were allocated to this component.
- The USFS could potentially be a partner on the one spring site located on the border of the national forest and this property.
- Due to the significant distance between proposed project sites and Bologna Creek, it is not clear how realistic the expected watershed benefits to the stream will be from these treatments.

Concluding Analysis

This headwater region of Bologna Creek has seen extensive restoration in recent years. The landowner is interested in continuing to improve the fish and wildlife habitat on the property; however, some of the project design elements may not be the best alternatives for the site and there is uncertain watershed benefit for the high project 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

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6025-17494
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Shoofly Watershed Restoration
Applicant: Wheeler SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Wheeler
OWEB Request: $83,879
Total Cost: $146,483

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1)The project is located in the Shoofly Watershed approximately 15 miles Northeast of the town of Mitchell in Wheeler County. 2) Western Juniper encroachment has increased over the years due to historic wildfire suppression creating both a water quantity and quality issue, as well as a loss of native vegetation resulting in degraded wildlife habitat. 3) This project seeks to reduce the negative impacts Western Juniper imposes on the watershed functions by hand cutting 85 acres of juniper, and machine cut and pile of 175 acres, 33 of which lay within the floodplain. In addition, the project will protect 3 declining Aspen stands, enroll 28.90 acres of Shoofly Creek into CREP, treat 70 acres for herbaceous weeds, and provide off site stockwater in 3 locations to help distribute grazing patterns. 4) Project partners include USDA Farm Service Agency, the landowner, Wheeler SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application contains significant detail on project components and ecological benefits, including quantified groundwater inputs and reduced sediment from erosion.
- The site selection and prioritization process is clearly explained in the application.
- Treating weeds prior to fence construction is a technically sound method.
- The identified herbicide is appropriate to both the sites and the targeted weeds.
- Cutting juniper in the floodplain and placing it instream will help disperse stream flow energy and aggrade the channel.
- The project provides an opportunity for raising awareness and could encourage neighboring ranches to consider restoration.
- The applicant has a history of implementing this type of project that expands the CREP conversation into larger scale restoration.
- Landowner support and involvement increases the project likelihood of success and potential that the ecological benefits will be maintained into the future.
- There are sections of the riparian area with monocultures of introduced tall wheatgrass, which could be challenging to eradicate; however, this is a domestic version of Great Basin Wildrye that can provide wildlife cover and prevent invasive grasses from establishing.

Concerns

- Actual steelhead or other native fish use in Shoofly Creek is not clear.
- Including detail on plans to inventory and address downstream barriers would provide some assurances for future ecological benefit on this stream system.
- The application does not include plans to prevent juniper re-establishment. However, on past projects the landowner has successfully used prescribed and jackpot burns as a management practice.
- The budget includes lump sums that lack the detail needed to understand project costs, particularly on the spring developments.

Concluding Analysis

Shoofly Creek, although currently blocked from steelhead use, is a perennial stream with the potential for providing riparian habitat for other aquatic and terrestrial species. The landowner has successfully completed extensive restoration on his ranch and continues to improve wildlife habitat. Improving water quality in this headwater region of the stream system could positively affect downstream habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 9

Review Team Recommended Amount
$83,879

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$83,879

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6026-17338

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Walla Walla River Watershed Assessment and Strategic Action Plan

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $75,000

Total Cost: $300,000

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Program is currently requesting proposals from qualified contractors to develop an Upper Walla Walla River watershed assessment and strategic action plan in collaboration with co-managers. The project will be focused on the Walla Walla River from the confluence with Dry Creek near Lowden, Washington, to the headwaters of the North and South Forks of the Walla Walla River in northeast Oregon. The project study area is primarily located in Walla Walla County, Washington and Umatilla County, Oregon, with a small portion in Wallowa County, Oregon. Funding from this grant will support work in the Oregon portion of the watershed only. The watershed assessment will identify the current and historical functioning of natural geomorphic and hydrologic processes that are linked to focal species habitat, as organized by the CTUIR River Vision (Jones et al. 2008) and Upland Vision Touchstones (Endress et al. 2019) and the effect of land use on the function of these processes. The assessment will identify limiting factors and watershed issues, focusing on those that affect salmonid species. The strategic action plan will provide: 1) a quantitative prioritization of geographic areas according to the potential for restoration of natural processes and 2.) itemized restorative actions that may be applied to each geographic area to restore watershed processes and achieve multi-species uplift.CTUIR will partner with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, as well as other stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project could help inform future restoration on the Upper Walla Walla River, which is a complex and highly mobile river system.
- Information resulting from the summarization of existing data will be useful, including identifying where information is lacking, and where restoration opportunities could reduce limiting factors to the aquatic species using the river.

Concerns

- The application is not clear on what new data needs to be collected versus what analysis of existing data is needed.
- The budget contains lump sums and lacks detail necessary to determine whether costs align with the proposed work.
- Instead of attaching large uploads to the application, integrating critical information from those attachments into the application narrative would improve proposal clarity.
- More detail on how the information will be shared, stored or used would provide context necessary to determine the likelihood of success for the project to lead to future restoration efforts.

Concluding Analysis

There is a clear need for an assessment and action plan to guide restoration and protection along the main stem Umatilla River; however, it is difficult to determine technical soundness and likelihood for success in leading to eligible restoration without additional application details describing how information will be made available and used by appropriate stakeholders.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$75,000

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-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6027-17339

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Walla Walla River Forks Floodplain Reconnection and In-stream Enhancement Design

Applicant: Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $75,000

Total Cost: $300,000

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Program is currently requesting proposals from qualified Contractors to design a habitat restoration project on the Walla Walla River at the confluence of the North and South Fork Walla Walla RiverThe project is located on the mainstem Walla Walla River at River Mile (RM) 50.0-51.0, the North Fork Walla Walla River at RM 0.0-0.5, and the South Fork Walla Walla River at RM 0.0-0.5. The project area is approximately 5 miles SE of Milton-Freewater, OR in Umatilla County, OR.The Walla Walla River and North Fork Walla Walla River are highly channelized in this area. The Walla Walla River Valley is highly agricultural and the river was historically straightened and leveed to accommodate agricultural development. Channelization and related agricultural activities has had adverse effects on water quality, in-stream habitat, peripheral and transitional habitats, floodplain quality and function, riparian condition, and fish passage (particularly for Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey, Mid-Columbia steelhead, and bull trout).The design will address the historic and current agricultural influences on the Walla Walla River in the project area based on CTUIR River Vision (Jones et al. 2008). The main goal of the design is to increase floodplain interaction, increase habitat complexity, and improve fish passage at all flows. Specific conservation actions will likely include levee setbacks, alteration of irrigation diversions to improve fish passage, construction of enhanced off-channel habitat, construction of high-flow relief channel between the South Fork and mainstem Walla Walla River, and large wood additions. The design will likely be on less than 1 river mile of the mainstem Walla Walla River and less than 0.5 river miles on the North and South Fork Walla Walla Rivers.CTUIR will partner with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council as well as four private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project provides an opportunity for improving side-channel habitat and floodplain reconnection with a landowner new to restoration.
- Steelhead and bull trout use this section of the Walla Walla River.
- The applicant has a successful record of accomplishing restoration on similarly complex projects.

Concerns

- The application's proposed solution section breaks objectives into five design stages, rather than providing detail on design objectives that address limiting factors, such as the need for instream wood or pool habitat.
- The project scope is not well defined.
- It is unclear if the design process will consider impacts to the irrigation diversion directly across from the project site on another landowner's property if the berm is removed and the historic side channel reactivated.
- The upper water diversion appears to be a seasonal partial barrier to fish passage; however, without more detail on conceptual solutions relating to this diversion, it was difficult to assess the level of ecological benefit.
- The costs appear high for design and the budget lacks sufficient detail to determine whether line items align with the proposed work.
- The project location is in a geomorphically complex area where the confluence of two forks of the river form the main stem Walla Walla River. Without more detail on conceptual project elements, it is difficult to assess if the approach is technically sound.

Concluding Analysis

The Walla Walla River is a highly manipulated river system, with flood levees and rural residential infrastructure along the banks and in the floodplain. This river is also critical habitat for steelhead, bull trout and reintroduced Chinook. While opportunities to work with landowners on reconnecting floodplain habitat are rare, in this situation additional detail is need to determine the soundness of the proposed technical assistance for design. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to address the identified concerns.

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-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6028-17413

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Walla Walla Ground-Based Habitat Assessment

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $60,389

Total Cost: $150,205

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Walla Walla River originates from basalt springs in the Blue Mountains of northeast Oregon. The springs provide surface water flow to both the North and South Fork Walla Walla Rivers, which flow west from the mountains before converging and flowing west and north through the City of Milton-Freewater in Umatilla County and on to the Columbia River. Healthy populations of ESA-listed summer steelhead, bull trout and reintroduced spring Chinook salmon are limited by inadequate stream flow, high summer water temperatures, high sediment loads, limited pools, LWD, riparian vegetation, and habitat complexity and also fish passage obstructions. Limiting factors have been well documented by numerous planning efforts, yet published data documenting specific conditions on a reach by reach basis are not available. The proposed Technical Assistance would help fund a stream and habitat survey of the Walla Walla River from the Oregon-Washington state line to the upper reaches of both the North and South Forks of the river. Field work will be conducted following the ODFW Aquatic Inventories Project Field Survey Methods. Survey data will be processed using ODFW's data analysis tool to generate data summaries and reports. The project deliverables will include a georeferenced data set as well as the outputs produced by the ODFW analysis tool. The proposed stream habitat survey will provide data needed for a system-wide habitat assessment currently led by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). That assessment will utilize both aerial (LiDAR) and physical habitat survey data to characterize current watershed conditions and develop a quantifiable, holistic approach and prioritization to floodplain/riparian/river restoration on the mainstem Walla Walla River and headwater tributaries. Project partners include the CTUIR, private landowners, City of Milton-Freewater, Umatilla County, Umatilla National Forest, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clearly written and easy to understand.
- The applicant is collaborating with multiple partners who have a stake in the success of the project.
- The Walla Walla River is a priority area for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout, especially in the upper watershed.

- Using the ODFW habitat protocols ensures data quality will be repeatable and maintained.
- The project is at an ideal scale for surveying and the budget appears reasonable to cover the scope of the project.
- Information gathered will feed into the complementary CTUIR assessment project.
- The applicant has a history of successfully implementing projects and building landowner relations in the project area.

Concerns

- There were no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

This ground-based survey will provide important data in an area with increased interest in watershed restoration. By collaborating with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the information gathered by the applicant will ground truth and add accuracy to a GIS-based analysis that is underway, as well as provide an opportunity to communicate about restoration with the many rural residential landowners in the area.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$60,389

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$60,389

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6029-17450

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Stanley Creek Culvert & Haskell Dam Removal Design

Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $40,475

Total Cost: $97,555

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Partners in the Umatilla Basin are seeking technical assistance funding for engineering designs that address fish passage on West Birch Creek and Stanley Creek, both located near the town of Pilot Rock, Oregon in the Umatilla Basin (HUC 17070103). Stanley Creek Culvert and the Hascell Dam on West Birch Creek are both listed statewide priority barriers. Due to their close proximity to each other, the designs for each project will be packaged together. This application seeks design funding that will also include the required permitting for project implementation. ODFW's priority list and the Birch Creek Assessment and Action Plan identify these areas as a priority for restoring fish passage to the Blue Mountain region. Partners include the Umatilla Basin Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla County Public Works and Planning and Zoning, and the City of Pilot Rock,

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is clearly written and easy to understand.
- The landowner is new to restoration and the resulting restoration project could lead to future restoration opportunities in the watershed.
- The level of design review is adequate for ensuring that a technically sound approach will be used.
- Partners on the project have experience in successfully designing and implementing similar restoration projects.
- The applicant has recently implemented a complex bridge project.
- Costs for contracting two designs are reasonable.

Concerns

- Although the match from the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation is marked as secured, there is no letter of support provided in the application.

Concluding Analysis

A recent watershed assessment and action plan identified these two fish passage barriers as priority restoration opportunities. Removing these barriers will provide steelhead access to upstream spawning and rearing habitat. Successful implementation of the proposed project could also lead to future restoration opportunities with the landowner of this ranch located in the headwaters of these two streams.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$40,475

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$40,475

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6030-17453

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Joe West Bridge Reach Walla Walla River Habitat Design

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $61,620

Total Cost: $85,969

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This proposal would provide funding to design a habitat improvement project along a half mile reach of the upper Walla Walla River, located about three miles upstream of Milton-Freewater, Oregon, in Umatilla County. Landowners along the river are interested in a project that will create better instream habitat, create meanders and pools, improve the riparian area, floodplain connection, and improve bank stability. This reach is utilized by ESA listed bull trout and steelhead, and also reintroduced spring Chinook salmon and is upstream from the Lampson project, a similar floodplain re-connection project. A previously funded OWEB technical assistance grant helped fund a geomorphic assessment and development of habitat enhancement design in 2016. The project was not successful in receiving BPA implementation funding at that time as it was perceived to have too much stream bank protection and not enough habitat improvements. Since that time, the river has changed dramatically. The property owners have been impacted by flooding and have lost a barn and corral during the last two years of Spring runoff. The river is now threatening a house and has been starting to flow over a County road instead of the entire river going under a County bridge. The landowners have attempted to protect their property with boulder (rip-rap) revetment, but would prefer not to install more boulders along the riverbank and instead allow a more holistic, environmentally friendly solution with more riparian area and has been meeting with the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council, ODFW, DSL, Umatilla County, and others to discuss options of completing a more comprehensive habitat restoration project than what was proposed with the previous designs. This project will provide a channel survey and final designs necessary for restoration permitting and costing out a half mile long habitat project. OWEB funds would be used for project management, contracted design services, and fiscal administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application clearly explains a well-thought out project that includes a discussion of alternatives considered to determine a solution to a complex situation.
- The applicant has experience successfully designing and implementing complex restoration projects.
- The upper reach of the Walla Walla River provides spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.

- The project will address an irrigation structure as a part of the solution.
- Some of the proposed restoration will expand an existing cottonwood gallery.
- There is potential for habitat improvements; however, the design solution will need to balance habitat with protecting existing infrastructure.
- The contractor identified has relevant experience in successfully implementing restoration projects of this size and complexity.
- Costs seem reasonable for a project with significant challenges.

Concerns

- This is a complicated project involving a county road, bridge, and homes that are likely to limit and influence design options.
- The project would have more impact if the upstream and adjacent neighbors were also participating.
- The proposed design approach may result in addressing a symptom rather than the cause of watershed limiting factors.

Concluding Analysis

The section of the Walla Walla River in the project area has high flows and is a mobile system characterized by significant lateral migration with extensive bedload. Since recent high flows and the destruction of personal property, the landowner is willing to reconnect sections of the floodplain on her property. Possible solutions under consideration include restoring multiple channels, reconnecting the floodplain, and adding riparian vegetation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$61,620

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$61,620

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6031-17454
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Ritter Fish Habitat Assessment
Applicant: Grant SWCD
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $53,244
Total Cost: $67,287

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The Middle Fork John Day River (MFJD) watershed in the Ritter Land Management Team (RLMT) area contains more than 80 miles of tributary streams that serve as spawning and rearing habitat for listed Mid-Columbia Wild Summer Steelhead and juvenile spring Chinook, as well as an essential water source for agriculture, domestic livestock and terrestrial wildlife species. Overgrazing, stream channelization and other land management practices have degraded stream conditions, reducing water quality and quantity and negatively impacting fish habitat and landowner economic viability. The Ritter Land Management Team is committed to correcting these problems and seeks funding for a stream assessment on private lands. The proposed project will encompass three tributaries of the MFJD within the RLMT project boundary (Six Mile, Eight Mile and Granite Creeks), totaling over 23 survey miles.The purpose of this project is to provide RLMT area landowners and partners with a robust understanding of aquatic conditions that will guide a comprehensive strategic plan for identifying, prioritizing and developing future restoration efforts. This information, which is critical for attaining the RLMT vision for effective watershed scale restoration does not exist. A private consultant (Jeff Neal, retired ODFW District Fish Biologist) will plan and conduct the the surveys and the data management. RLMT Executive Director Bob Parker and the project Technical Team will collaborate with Mr. Neal on the survey and data management. Grant Soil and Water Conservation District will be the grant administrator. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services, travel, and materials to publish findings and communicate with landowners and other stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- A similar and successful assessment completed on the South Fork John Day River is the model for this proposal.
- Many of the private land holdings are allowing surveys to occur for the first time.
- The application clearly describes next steps and how results will inform future restoration.
- The Atlas Scoping process was used to identify streams to include in the survey.
- Previous efforts by the Ritter Land Management Team resulted in a number of landowners expressing interest in restoration.

- The applicant has a proven track record of successfully completing grants and working with landowners.
- The contractor that will complete survey work has relevant experience.
- The project is timely because a NRCS CSP program will be available in this area.
- The costs are reasonable to accomplish project objectives.

Concerns

- The application would have been stronger with more detail explaining protocols for how stream shade will be determined.
- Protocols explained in the application do not appear to be an industry standard but has proved useful in a similar project in the South Fork John Day River watershed.
- The project would be strengthened by adding stream temperature monitoring.

Concluding Analysis

Properties in this area are a mix of private timber, ranches, rural residential, and absentee landowners. Formed several years ago, the Ritter Land Management Team informs landowners of potential restoration benefits and provides data necessary to identify and prioritize restoration opportunities. The proposed technical assistance is modeled after work completed on the South Fork John Day River, where the barrier inventory prioritization resulted in correcting multiple fish passage barriers.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$53,244

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$53,244

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6032-17492

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Increasing Summer Streamflow in the John Day Watershed

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $73,502

Total Cost: $104,377

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Adequate streamflow is essential for supporting wild fish species in the Pacific Northwest. This is particularly important in the late summer when streamflow is low and stream temperatures are high. The John Day watershed is uniquely positioned to ensure the resilience of salmon in the Pacific Northwest; it is the largest un-impounded watersheds in the Columbia River basin that support wild salmon populations.In the last century, western juniper has expanded their range by 12-fold in the John Day Watershed. Likewise, conifer forests across the western U.S. have become unnaturally dense. Forest and sagebrush restoration through the removal of western juniper and conifer species has been demonstrated to elevate groundwater levels and increase streamflow. But these gains in streamflow are highly dependent on the climate of the landscape, and specifically the amount of precipitation, where the trees are removed. Furthermore, the timing of streamflow and if those gains in flow occur later in the summer are dependent on soil and geological characteristics of the landscape. This project will develop a GIS-based model that will simulate the potential for western juniper and conifer removal to increase summer streamflow in the John Day Watershed to benefit sensitive fish species.Project partners include Washington State University, Oregon State University, Grant SWCD and NRCS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

This application was withdrawn 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-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6033-17390

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: NF John Day tributary Smallmouth Bass Monitoring

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $245,746

Total Cost: $335,836

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

1) This project will occur on Cottonwood Creek, Wall Creek, and Rudio Creeks in Grant County, OR. 2) Invasive species are a major threat to native salmonid recovery throughout the Columbia River Basin- with nonnative fishes being of particular concern (ISAB Report, 2008). Climate change compounds this threat by promoting the spread of non-native fish into habitats used by ESA listed steelhead and salmon for spawning and rearing. In the John Day River Basin, smallmouth (SM) bass are one of the most abundant non-native predators of salmonids throughout much of the system with a significant upstream range expansion predicted by 2080 (Rubenson & Olden 2019). However, very little is known about the status and trend of SM bass in the John Day's tributary streams. Furthermore, the lack of information regarding their abundance, distribution, and impact on salmonids in the critical spawning and rearing tributaries of the North Fork John Day sub basin is of of particular concern. If recovery efforts are to be successful at a basin-wide level, monitoring and assessment of nonnative fish in these critical spawning and rearing tributaries must be collected to inform restoration and management decisions that maximize juvenile salmonid survival. 3) This project will assess the abundance, distribution and diet of SM bass in three tributaries of the NF John Day River (Cottonwood, Wall, and Rudio Creek) over a three year period. Activities will include a combination of snorkel surveys, mark-recapture monitoring with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags, stomach content sampling, sagittal otolith aging, stable isotope analysis, and bioenergetics modeling. Findings from this project will be made available via a report on the ODFW website. Additionally, a Baseline Bass Impact Modeling (BBIM) manual will be created to assist managers with assessing SM bass populations and predation in other spawning and rearing tributaries.4) Monument SWCD, ODFW, CTWS,

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This proposed monitoring is timely, given the limited salmonid habitat and the newly identified expansion of smallmouth bass in these tributaries.
- The application describes how this project will build on the lessons learned from the current OWEB monitoring grant in Cottonwood Creek.
- The potential solutions to address smallmouth bass issues (e.g., streamflow restoration, riparian restoration) are reasonable.

- The applicant has effective relationships with landowners and is likely to be successful when implementing both the monitoring and potential solutions if smallmouth bass are identified as stressor to native fish in these tributaries.
- The project addresses a priority action listed in the John Day Basin atlas.
- The applicant is working with a variety of ODFW staff who can contribute their expertise to the different elements of this project.
- The stable isotope monitoring combined with the bioenergetics model will give a better picture of how smallmouth bass are manipulating the food web beyond simply understanding how many native fish they are eating.
- The budget provides the details necessary to identify the expenses associated with each task and when work will occur.
- This project will develop a comprehensive manual to outline the process to collect data and develop the model, and this manual will be updated throughout the project.
- This application complements the smallmouth bass monitoring occurring on Thirtymile Creek.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked detail to describe how the data from the different tributaries will be incorporated in the development of the biogenetic model for Cottonwood Creek.
- Description of water temperature monitoring methods and protocol citation was lacking.
- It was not clear if the applicant intends to submit the water temperature data to DEQ.
- The timeline to complete the final report is ambitious given the final report is scheduled to be complete at the same time the data collection ends.

Monitoring Team Comments

Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The well-written application clearly explains a unique study design.
- This is a reasonable first step in identifying when and how smallmouth bass affect juvenile steelhead.
- The proposed monitoring will identify and quantify the problem of small bass predation, and can provide critical information on future tributary restoration projects.
- The proposed project builds on other monitoring efforts in the region to expand available data on smallmouth bass.
- Collaborating with the ODFW Research Department assures the right technical expertise is involved.
- The project design is based on climate change scenarios and the potential for tributary streams becoming increasingly warmer.

Concerns

- The application budget is high for the benefit provided.
- The application would be stronger with more detail on how partners will access the resulting information and how that information will be used to inform watershed projects.
- Including Wall Creek in the study will result in minimal data on a short section below where the stream becomes a steeper gradient and cooler stream temperatures.

Concluding Analysis

Smallmouth bass in the John Day Basin are not a new problem. However, there is a lack of data on where and how far up the stream system they are traveling on important steelhead tributaries, and the extent to which they prey on juvenile steelhead. The location of this proposal will expand on and complement smallmouth bass and steelhead data collected by ODFW on Thirtymile Creek lower in the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$245,746

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$245,746

Staff Conditions

Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6034-17440
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: OXBOW Rapid Bio-Assessment
Applicant: Umatilla Basin WS Foundation
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Umatilla
OWEB Request: $36,539
Total Cost: $47,077

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The 222-acre OXBOW site is located in Hermiston, Oregon on the Umatilla River (HUC 17070103) from RM 6.6 to RM 8.1. The property was purchased in 2000 by the Bureau of Reclamation under provisions of the Umatilla Basin Project Act of 1988 for mitigating losses to anadromous fishery resources. The proposed project seeks funding to achieve numerous goals in the 2007 OXBOW Site Management Plan; primarily, collect baseline biological data for use in identifying and implementing habitat enhancement and riparian restoration projects. For the sampling area, the project team has identified a twelve mile reach from 3-mile Dam to OXBOW, as well as one mile up the mouth of Butter Creek. Project partners include the Bureau of Reclamation, Hermiston Parks & Rec, Trout Unlimited, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Umatilla Soil & Water Conservation District, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The focus on monitoring in this area complements other restoration investments in the lower river.
- The application articulates the problem with adult fish mortality in this area and the need for more information to identify restoration opportunities.
- The protocols for RBAs are well established and the applicant reached out to an expert in developing and applying the method.
- The budget is commensurate with work proposed to be completed.
- One of the landowners (BOR) provided a letter of support.
- Objectives were clearly articulated.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked a clear description of what information they are seeking and how the RBA will provide this needed information to plan restoration efforts on the Oxbow property.
- RBAs are a snapshot of the fish abundance and distribution at one moment in time, thus the information will have limited value depending on the size of the run and water conditions at the time of the survey.

- It was not clear if the established RBA protocols work on this larger river and if they could be applied successfully in the winter when stream flows are greater and water is more turbid.
- There was only one letter of support.
- It was not clear what other work partners are doing in the surrounding area, which resulted in the application lacking broader context about how monitoring results may contribute to other restoration planning beyond the Oxbow property.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is little fish data available for the lower reach of the Umatilla River.
- Both Chinook and coho spawn in the project area.
- The resulting information will fill a data gap in the assessment planned by the Umatilla tribes for the upper reaches of the Umatilla River.
- The project is timely because there is increased landowner interest in restoration along this reach of the Umatilla River.

Concerns

- Overall, the application lacks critical detail to determine whether the project is likely to succeed, particularly the sampling protocols.
- The landowner information provided is confusing and monitoring locations are not clearly identified.
- Snorkeling surveys for juveniles may not be feasible in a stream system of this size.
- It is not clear how the monitoring information will inform future restoration.
- The application does not describe how data dissemination will occur.
- The application mentions a presentation; however, it is unclear how or when the presentation would occur and how it will be used to advance restoration.

Concluding Analysis

There is a clear need for the proposed data on the lower reach of the Umatilla River; however, additional information and detail is needed to assess whether the project is ready for implementation. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to respond to the multiple concerns noted in this evaluation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6035-17451

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Monitoring Groundwater Conjunctive Use in the Middle Fork of the John Day River

Applicant: OSU Office of Sponsored Research & Award Admin

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $149,621

Total Cost: $206,055

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project seeks to address a lack of data on groundwater status in the headwaters of the Middle Fork of the John Day River (MFJD). Over the last decade restoration projects have been completed to supporting salmonids in the region as it it prime spawning grounds for salmonids. Issues still persist, however, like water temperatures of the Middle Fork surpassing the incipient lethal limit of federally listed steelhead and spring Chinook. We wish to investigate groundwater and monitor potential fluctuations in water table elevations to provide understanding of local groundwater. This would provide a basis for management of groundwater in conjuncture with surface water especially during the early summer months when concerns peak over salmonids and the associated issues of summer flows. We firstly seek to establish the current status of groundwater and to monitor changes as a result of small scale use of water from the aquifer. This data would be collected using piezometers surrounding a pumping well over a period of several field seasons to include spatial and temporal extent of drawdown from a pumping and annual spring snowmelt recharge. Finally the data would be modelled to identify relationships between factors. These data are relevant to partner groups The Freshwater Trust, in modeling stream temperature restoration in the area, and the Oregon Water Resource Department who manage the water rights. The project site is in the meadows of Austin Ranch owned by the Voigts, located upstream from Bates State Park in Grant County, OR. The landowner will provide access to the land and is supportive of exploring alternative water management strategies. Oregon State University researchers will oversee the installation of the pumping wells and piezometers, conduct monitoring, undertake modeling of the system, and create a deliverable that addresses the viability and application of these methods.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- Warm water temperature issues in the Middle Fork John Day River are well documented, and there is a need for alternative ways to address temperature issues prior to the full recovery of riparian vegetation.
- The applicant proposes a novel approach to address irrigation impacts to water temperature.
- The monitoring methods and analytical approach described are appropriate.
- The applicant has a proven record and experience conducting this type of monitoring.
- The development of the practitioner guide to inform future applications would be useful.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It is unclear whether the well water will be used instream or for supplemental irrigation.
- There is some monitoring that is implied (e.g., flow meter on well and stream temperature monitoring), but not explicitly described in the application.
- It is possible that the well will be regulated, given surface water right regulation in the basin; if surface water rights are regulated at all, the well will be shut off.
- The timeline is not reasonable. Based on timing of grant decisions and the time required to obtain a water right from WRD, it is unlikely that the applicant will be able to install a well and begin pumping for the irrigation season of 2020.
- The pumping rate that the applicant hopes to achieve is high and may not be possible with one well.
- It was not clear why 50 piezometers are needed to meet the objectives described in the application.
- There were no letters of support describing a need for this information and intent to apply it to restoration and conservation planning.
- The water right permit cost was not included in budget.
- Given that cows are grazing on the property there would be a need for fencing to prevent them from impacting the ground water monitoring wells.
- The downstream gage and water temperature monitoring is too far away to represent local flow impacts as a result of the proposed water management changes.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Install a flow meter on the irrigation well, as this will be required as part of the permit.

• Monitor water temperature downstream of the flow augmentation site.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed monitoring is a novel approach to improving stream temperatures in the Middle Fork John Day River, where warm water is a critical limiting factor.
- Once the model is constructed and validated, and the practitioner guide developed, restoration practitioners could find the information useful.

Concerns

- The proposal is confusing and lacks enough detail to review for technical soundness; for example, it is unclear whether the well water will be used instream or for supplemental irrigation. Also, information on the meadow substrate would be helpful to understand whether it could influence the connectivity of the groundwater.

- The application does not describe the disposition of the project infrastructure after the monitoring project is finished.
- It is unclear if the well will have the capacity to offset the diverted irrigation right.
- The well construction estimate appears low, and the budget does not include costs for conveying the water to the Middle Fork John Day River, decommissioning both the pumping site and monitoring wells, or obtaining permits.
- Pumping test controls are lacking – the well needs to be metered and monitoring needs to occur before, during, and after pumping.
- Model calibration and validation is not described.
- The application does not characterize whether the aquifer is confined or unconfined, or confirm whether the applicant has hydrogeologic information describing the aquifer, such as aquifer area, composition and thickness.
- The cost and details of installing a production well and piezometers are not clear. Detail on the anticipated depth and diameter of the well and piezometers is not included in the application. The application does not clarify whether a licensed well driller is required and if the costs in the budget reflect that added expense.
- The downstream gage and water temperature monitoring are too distant to represent local flow impacts resulting from the proposed water management changes.

Concluding Analysis

Innovative solutions to the low flow and high temperatures occurring on the Middle Fork John Day River are needed; however, this application lacks the detail needed to determine the technical soundness and likelihood of success for the proposed monitoring project. If resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged 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

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

None

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Conditions

None

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6036-17482

Project Type: Monitoring

Project Name: Long-term Population Impacts of Beaver Restoration: Bridge Creek Intensively Monitored Watershed_CLONE

Applicant: Utah State University Office of Sponsored Programs

Region: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $239,338

Total Cost: $510,742

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

The consequences of channel incision include a lowering of the water table and reduced channel complexity leading to a loss of riparian vegetation, simplified habitat, and declines in biota. Incised channels can take millennia to reconnect to their floodplain (aka Stage-0). In Bridge Creek, a degraded incised stream, 4-yrs after the addition of 121 beaver dam analogs (BDAs) the number of dams built by beavers increased nearly 8-fold. These structures captured sediment raising the stream bottom and surface water, reconnecting the floodplain, increasing ground water storage, decreasing temperature and generally increasing fish habitat quantity and complexity leading to a 168%, 52%, 175% increase in fish abundance, survival, and production respectively. While we demonstrated large short-term responses to this restoration strategy, the longer-term responses as beaver dam complexes mature into more wetland meadow-type habitat still need to be evaluated. Recently, a large flood event blew out many of the beaver dams, allowing us to test our original hypothesis, that properly functioning floodplains will be resilient to floods that previously led to incision. Also, as of this year, tributary water from a reservoir will augment lows flows that may allow for greater restoration responses in the more thermally limiting section of lower Bridge Creek. This project would provide the only long-term monitoring data as to whether floodplain reconnection can prevent channel incision and how these changes affect steelhead, native non-target and non-native fish populations, and native and non-native vegetation. This grant would continue the 12 years of detailed monitoring by USU, ELR, NOAA, and ODFW to evaluate the response of fishes and other biota to shifts in conditions initiated from this inexpensive restoration approach to assist beaver. Given the rapid and abundant adoption of this restoration approach, the longer-term evaluation is critical for further guidance.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- The application describes a clear need to continue collecting data to assess outcomes associated with beaver dam analogs.
- The data to be collected will inform implementation of the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan and the John Day Basin TMDL.
- This project provides an opportunity to understand how resilient the system has become to a high flow event 10 years after BDAs were installed and assess watershed-scale response.

- The applicant and project team are likely to apply this information in a variety of ways to inform several different audiences involved in restoration scoping, planning and implementation.
- The applicant is coordinating with ODFW and leveraging existing monitoring infrastructure to understand steelhead survival and productivity.
- This application improved since the last submission by providing greater detail on sampling methods, including letters of support, and describing the expenses in the budget.
- The applicant has a proven track record to collect, analyze, and report the data they are proposing to gather, and the scope of the project is reasonable.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application lacked a description of the methods for water temperature monitoring and how the data will be analyzed.
- The application did not clearly describe how the drone monitoring methods will be applied to track changes with vegetation.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project scope is watershed-wide rather than focusing on a reach scale, and builds on a long-term data set.
- The project team has a proven track record of collecting and analyzing data.
- The applicant effectively disseminates useful information from monitoring projects, and this project is likely to inform future restoration.
- The application addresses comments from a previous application evaluation.

Concerns

- The application lacks a description of water temperature monitoring protocols and data analysis.
- Extraneous information uploaded to the application is difficult to review and comprehend.
- It was not clear where the resulting data will be stored, nor how it will be accessible.
- The restoration actions being evaluated may take multiple decades to show results.
- The budget lacks sufficient detail to determine cost effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis

This resubmitted monitoring application builds on more than ten years of intensive monitoring in the Bridge Creek watershed, as a part of NOAA and the NW Fisheries Science Center's Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). Following implementation of landscape scale restoration using beaver dam analogs and low-tech, process-based restoration structures, the opportunity to continue monitoring the watershed as stream morphology changes is unique. Partnerships on this project have a successful history of working together on complex monitoring ventures.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$239,338

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$239,338

Staff Conditions

• Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6037-17486
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Bear Creek Steelhead Monitoring
Applicant: Bridge Creek WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Wheeler
OWEB Request: $84,834
Total Cost: $107,289

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

This project is located on Bear Creek, a tributary to Bridge Creek in Southwest Wheeler County. Large sections of Bear Creek are currently the subject of restoration efforts designed to increase juvenile steelhead rearing habitat quality and quality. The monitoring plan has been designed to fill several information gaps that exist concerning the relationship between juvenile steelhead habitat use in intermittent systems, and restoration practices being implemented to improve intermittent stream habitat quality. These information gaps include:1. What are the movement patterns of juvenile steelhead rearing within stream reaches that are seasonally intermittent, and does movement or lack of movement influence steelhead productivity (i.e., growth and survival)2. Can beaver dam restoration structures alter the timing and delivery of flow such that the duration and extent of surface flow is enhanced within seasonally intermittent stream reaches to the benefit of juvenile steelhead.3. Do beaver dam restoration structures impede juvenile steelhead movement during intermittent or low flow periods, and does decreased movement result in greater mortality and a negative impact to steelhead populations.The monitoring project will leverage existing beaver dam restoration implementation on the Canyon Creek Ranch on Bear Creek, where greater than 70 beaver dam restoration structures have been installed from 2017 - 2019. The projects also includes existing monitoring and an established experimental design for studying restoration impacts. Monitoring will largely consist of capture, tagging, and resight of juvenile steelhead using passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags to document the movement, growth, and survival of steelhead in stream reaches with and without BDA structures.Partners include Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, EcoLogical Research, NOAA, Canyon Creek Ranch, and Mid John Day-Bridge Creek WC.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- There is a need for information on how BDAs may affect juvenile steelhead movements in intermittent streams.
- The information that will be collected will inform implementation of the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The water extent surveys will help describe how effective BDAs are at increasing wetted area during the low flow period.
- This application will leverage existing monitoring data collected by partners to describe habitat changes before and after restoration actions.

- A majority of the monitoring is a continuation and annual reports summarizing this monitoring have been written, which increases the likelihood of success.
- The applicant is working with the authors of the Process Based Restoration Guide, and this information will help inform future restoration implementation.
- The application described several online sites on which the data will be publicly available and presentation of the findings at several venues to ensure it is reaching a wide audience.
- This application includes letters of support from a diversity of private, state, tribal and federal organizations.
- The monitoring project seeks to utilize passive and mobile pit tag detections to understand fish movement at key time periods.
- The contractors have the experience and necessary skills to implement the project as proposed.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- It was not clear how the water temperature data will be analyzed, including how the temperature data could increase understanding of thermal dynamics in the study area.
- The application does not cite methods to collect the aerial images, or how the imagery data will be managed and analyzed over time to meet the objectives described in the application.
- Some of the application is difficult to understand.

Monitoring Team Comments

• Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The well-written application is clear and provides sufficient detail to evaluate likely success.
- The study design includes information on monitoring protocols.
- The project will address an identified data gap regarding the impacts of beaver dam analogs on intermittent streams.
- The resulting information will be useful in ongoing discussions related to permitting these types of restoration structures.
- Bear Creek is an important steelhead producing stream, in spite of the limiting factor of intermittent flow and a lack of connectivity between wetted reaches.
- The project builds on other monitoring efforts and will inform future restoration in the area.
- The John Day Basin Partnership and other restoration practitioners will benefit from the summarized data.
- The contractor has successfully disseminated information that aids future restoration efforts.
- ODFW has a long history of annual spawning surveys on this stream.

- A pending conservation easement on the property will protect both past and future monitoring and restoration efforts.
- There is a significant benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- The application identifies a lower section of Bear Creek on BLM property as a “control reach”; however, there has been some restoration implemented there so it is not a true “unaffected control reach.”

Concluding Analysis

Beaver dam analogs and low-tech, process-based restoration approaches are becoming more common in the John Day Basin. Effectiveness monitoring of these structures on a typical intermittent stream is critical and will provide useful information to all restoration practitioners in the basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$84,834

Review Team Conditions

None

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
None

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$84,834

Staff Conditions

Coordinate with DEQ to develop a sampling and analysis plan for the water temperature monitoring and

ensure the data are submitted to DEQ.

Open Solicitation-2019 Fall Offering
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 220-6038-17491
Project Type: Monitoring
Project Name: Annual Grass Amendment
Applicant: South Fork John Day WC
Region: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $189,252
Total Cost: $239,814

Application Description *(from application abstract)*

Exotic annual grasses have invaded large areas and altered the landscape of the South Fork John Day Watershed as well as many other areas of the Intermountain West in North America. Such invasion has reduced ecosystem goods and services including forage and habitat for wild and domestic ungulates. Reduced bio-diversity and increased fine fuel loads at annual grass invaded sites promotes more frequent and expansive fires, and decreases resistance to invasion and resilience to disturbance, promoting post-fire reinvasion by annual grasses (i.e., annual grass-fire cycle). After decades of above ground management strategies failing to halt the expansion of annual grasses and restore native perennial plant communities, a new, and more intensive below ground approach may be required. Pre-invasion disturbance, or invasive plant-mediated soil conditioning, may leave lasting soil legacies that promote the persistence of early-seral plant communities. We offer a restoration strategy based on the concept of intensively managed restoration islands that will serve as strongholds for native plant communities, and anchors of resistance and resilience. Post-herbicide soil treatments will include a control, low-nitrogen compost, bio-char application, and inoculation with mycorrhizal fungi in order to create soil conditions that more closely resemble soils associated with mid and late-seral plant communities. We will monitor the effects of each treatment on the growth of the native bunchgrass Pseudoroegneria spicata (bluebunch wheatgrass), and the exotic annual invasive grasses Taeniatherum caput-medusae (medusahead), and Ventenata dubia (ventenata). The project will be located on the Murderers Creek Sub-watershed of the South Fork John Day Watershed, which is located in Grant County, near Dayville, OR. Project partners include Oregon State University and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area.

Monitoring Team Evaluation

Monitoring Team Strengths

- This application proposes a unique project that could provide beneficial information to inform restoration actions aiming to address region-wide challenges with invasive annual grasses.
- The applicant is working with contractors who have expertise to implement this project as proposed.
- The applicant is working with the landowner (ODFW), and the letters of support expressed a need for tools to help managers address the invasive plant issue.
- The timeline is reasonable to complete the tasks described in the application.
- The application describes a variety of ways the information will be shared with practitioners, including at local meetings and in journal articles and local news outlets.

Monitoring Team Concerns

- The application did not describe the impacts of annual grasses to watershed function beyond habitat for wild and domestic ungulates.
- The monitoring of these treatments is proposed to occur only on a small portion of the watershed, thus results may reflect site-specific conditions rather than being more broadly applicable.
- The application lacked some details about monitoring techniques, potentially assuming that reviewers already are familiar with this information. Also, there was no description about how soil chemistry data would be collected and reviewed to ensure quality.
- The budget expenses lack detail and seem high given the short period of time data will be collected.
- The application lacked detail about how the information can be applied to inform future restoration or conservation actions. It was not clear if a cost-benefit analysis will be done to determine if it is reasonable to amend soils across a large landscape if results show improvements in native vegetation.
- There is no information about the process for developing a practitioner guide to apply these results in a meaningful way.

Monitoring Team Comments

None

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Annual grass invasion is a significant habitat degradation problem in the John Day Basin.

Concerns

- The proposed work is structured more like a research project than the type of monitoring they selected – landscape scale effectiveness.
- The application lacks details about some monitoring techniques needed to understand the proposed protocols. For example, there is no description of the protocols for collecting soil chemistry data and associated data quality control processes.
- It is not clear where the data will be stored, how the public could access the data, and how the data or resulting analysis will be useful to land managers.
- It is unclear how information will be used to inform or direct watershed restoration projects.
- Since there are many bunchgrass communities being invaded by medusahead, there is no need to replicate the condition in order to monitor the effectiveness of restoration. ODFW has been treating medusahead with granular herbicides in this area; these treatments could be monitored for effectiveness.
- The application does not include plans to provide economic analysis of the grass treatments.
- The application would have been stronger with a discussion of other invasive grass treatments.

Concluding Analysis

Annual invasive grasses, including medusahead and ventenata, are both high priority limiting factors to upland health in drier grassland ecosystems. Multiple efforts using other tools to help keep annual grasses in check have had limited success. This application lacks a study design to accomplish the selected project type – landscape scale effectiveness monitoring. The study design analyzes small plots within a pasture, rather than actual restoration treatments at a broad scale.

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

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Open Solicitation

Umpqua River

Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
3012 W. Harvard Ave
Roseburg, Oregon 97471
April 17 2020

Eric Hartstein
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
775 Summer Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97301

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Monitoring Project Application for the Umpqua Basin Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2020-21 (Grant Application #219-2045-16625).

This project was approved for funding by the OWEB Review team, but fell below the funding line. We would like to ask that if after the Board approves project funding, if there are any smaller amounts of monies remaining, they might consider partially funding this project (see proposals below). We appreciate the positive comments as well as those on how to improve in the future and responded to the Evaluation Comments in the attached document.

There are two aspects of this project: stream temperature and flow. The five reference stream temperature sites contain a long term data set with continuous summer stream temperatures since 1998. If we were to not collect a year of data, it would break the continuous data set and would diminish the ability of PUR and other stakeholders to utilize the data for corroboration and comparison to ongoing projects in the Basin lacking long-term data. It will also severely inhibit the status and trend analysis. This data and analysis is used by PUR to compare to data at all of their existing monitoring sites as well as by many others throughout the Basin. We have a new partner with the North Umpqua Foundation that has contributed funds towards the 2020 Reference Temperature study which will allow for starting on this project; however, we lack funding to cover the remainder of the field work and analysis.

In addition, this year, flows are already below normal, with the forecast being for more dry weather. The flow measurements taken with this project ensures that the minimum instream flows required for fish and other ecological values is achieved during the critical low flow period with water being put back into the streams within days after the stream flow measurements are taken.

As stated above, we are willing to take partial funding to continue this project. Below are proposals for limited funding in order of preference. All of these are for one year funding versus two years in the grant application.

1st Preference - $30,814

Reference Temperature (2020), and Flow (2/3 season), and New North Umpqua Temperature Site Analysis (2 additional BLM and USFS sites)

- Reference Temperature project – (we have $1000 of matching) $7,400
  (Hydrologist – Reference Temperature and N. Umpqua Comparison Site Analysis – Mileage included)
- Hydrologist – North Umpqua Temperature Comparison Analysis $4,800
  (Additional BLM and USFS sites) (New Analysis)
- Flow - Hydrologic Technician (2/3 of a year – yearly cost $16,512) $11,063
- Hydrologist – Project Manager $800
- Hydrologist – Project Completion Report $480
- Hydrologist Technician – Mileage $3,100
- Hydrologist Technician's Equipment including waders, batteries, cold water gear, etc. $300
- Office Supplies and Mailing Cost $70
- Indirect cost (10% of $28,013) $2,801

TOTAL COST: $30,814

2nd Preference - $25,534

Reference Temperature (2020) and Flow (2/3 season) – no analysis of additional North Umpqua Temperature Sites

- Reference Temperature project – (we have $1000 of matching) $7,400
  (Hydrologist – Reference Temperature and N. Umpqua Comparison Site Analysis – Mileage included)
- Flow - Hydrologist Technician (2/3 of a year – yearly cost $16,512) $11,063
- Hydrologist – Project Manager $800
- Hydrologist – Project Completion Report $480
- Hydrologist Technician – Mileage $3,100
- Hydrologist Technician's Equipment including waders, batteries, cold water gear, etc. $300
- Office Supplies and Mailing Cost $70
- Indirect cost (10% of $23,213) $2,321

TOTAL COST: $25,534

3rd Preference - $8,536

Reference Temperature (2020) – No Flow measurements and no analysis of additional North Umpqua Temperature Sites

- Reference Temperature project – (we have $1000 of matching to start) $7,200
  (Hydrologist – Reference Temperature and N. Umpqua Comparison Site Analysis – Mileage included)
- Hydrologist – Project Manager $240
- Hydrologist – Project Completion Report $320
- Indirect cost (10% of $7760) $776

TOTAL COST: $8,536

4th Preference - $2500-$8000 – Objective: continued temperature data collection

Reference Temperature (2020) – abbreviated report – No Flow measurements and no analysis of additional North Umpqua Temperature Sites

- Reference Temperature project – (we have $1000 of matching to start) (Hydrologist – Reference Temperature and N. Umpqua Comparison Site Analysis – Mileage included) – data would be collected to maintain a continuous record and the scale of the report would be dependent on available funding. $2000-$7000
- Hydrologist – Project Manager variable
- Hydrologist – Project Completion Report variable
- Indirect cost (10%) variable

TOTAL COST: $2500-$8000

Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at kevin@umpquarivers.org or 541-673-5756.

Sincerely,

Kevin Keller
Acting Executive Director

Enclosures:

- Comments on Evaluation of Application for the Umpqua Basin Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2020-21 (Grant Application #219-2045-16625)
- Reference Temperature Report – 2017
- Reference Temperature Report – 2018
- Appendix for Reference Temperature Report – 2018

Comments on OWEB Evaluation of
Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project 2020-21
(Grant Application #220-2059-17438)

Review Team Evaluation - Concerns

The application lacks clarity due to some redundancy of information provided.

In future applications we will attempt to reduce redundancy and increase clarity. We realize from other Monitoring Team and Review Team comments that this lack of clarity may have reduce the reviewers' ability to easily locate information in the document.

It is uncertain how the information developed from the project will be used to inform future restoration work.

Additional information on how the proposed work is related to the larger stream temperature and water quality monitoring effort conducted by the applicant would provide helpful context for understanding the need for the proposed project.

We will attempt to respond to these two questions together since they are interrelated:

In future applications, we will try to be more specific as to how this data will inform future restoration work. While the response to this question was addressed partially in several different locations in the application, it may have been difficult for the reviewer to locate concisely. In an attempt to not be redundant, we apparently lacked the specificity in response to the "inform future restoration" question. PUR and natural resource professionals in the Basin will continue to use the Reference Stream Temperature data to account for annual variability in stream temperature data for their projects, burned area evaluations, and shorter-term baseline monitoring. The long term data set from Reference Temperature sites throughout the basin offer sites of different climactic conditions and drainage areas for comparison. There are specific tools described in the annual Reference Temperature reports (see attached) for normalizing short term data sets using the Reference Temperature data.

In the "inform future restoration question" it states that: "As the PUR updates its Strategic Plan in 2019 and 2020, previous data and analyses from this project will be consulted as it reviews and refines its goals and objectives. The stream flow and temperature data can aid in the PUR strategic planning process by identifying and prioritizing potential project areas." It lists some ways that the flow and temperature data can help with this.

In the "inform future restoration" question and "benefit to watershed planning, and project implementation" questions, there are statements from PUR and many agencies and groups (USFS, three BLM Districts, NOAA Fisheries, ODFW, DEQ, PacifiCorp, City of Oakland). We paraphrased these stakeholders' comments from correspondence and from letters of support and listed specific projects where this project was used.

Much of the information in the "benefit to watershed planning and project implementation" question crossed over to discussing how it would inform future restoration. This should have been cross-referenced for clarity.

From the "Benefit to watershed planning and project implementation…" question:

- Pg. 19 – Paragraph 3 describes the specific projects and parameters for which PUR is using the Umpqua Flow and Temperature data and how it is being used.
- Pg. 19 – Paragraph 4 describes how PUR, USFS, three BLM districts, ODFW, and PacifiCorp have stated that they are using and continue to use the annual Reference Temperature report for corroboration of their own data and for project comparison.
- Pg. 19 – Paragraph 5 & 6 lists 14 specific projects where the BLM and USFS have used the Reference Temperature and flow data from this project for comparison to their own shorter-term data as well as future projects.
- Pg. 20 – Provides paraphrased statements from stakeholders on how they are using this project's data and analysis for planning, project implementation, as well as to help inform future actions.

Monitoring Team Evaluation – Monitoring Team Concerns

The application did not describe how the applicant will determine if and how variations in stream temperature are related to land use/anthropogenic factors.

This will be described better in future applications. In short, for these five reference stream temperature sites, streamside vegetation at the site and upstream is consistent throughout the course of this study. Also, some of these streams are quite large, and the riparian vegetation is not as strong of an influence as it is in smaller stream. Metadata on the riparian vegetation and shading is collected in the event there ever is a catastrophic event that would alter the vegetation significantly. We work with property owners and land managers at these sites to maintain the riparian vegetation and stream characteristics and while it wasn't described thoroughly in the application, it is in the forefront of the project design. Site characteristics are very stable and unlikely to change under the current ownerships and management objectives.

The application did not describe how the data can be used by PUR to target restoration or management actions.

In addition to the response above, in the "inform future actions" question it states that "The stream flow and temperature data can aid in the PUR strategic planning process by identifying and prioritizing potential project areas. Specifically, stream flow data can inform PUR staff where the capturing of stream gravels and the development of deep substrate pools, especially in bedrock dominated systems, could be most beneficial. Additionally, temperature data can inform restoration staff on where specific restoration techniques can improve gravel retention and therefore improve sub- surface hyporheic flows; promoting a reduction in water temperatures. Finally, temperature data can also be used to compare and calibrate PUR temperature data

throughout the basin. Overall, this data enables PUR staff to implement specific restoration practices appropriately across the landscape to achieve the maximum ecological benefit."

More detail can be found in the response above.

The OPMT discussed the limitations of discrete flow measurements, as these data will not document the lowest flows from year to year.

We agree that discrete flow measurements may not document the lowest flows, however, they can document flows that are below the instream water right, so water can be put back into the streams from diversions. In an ideal world, stream gages would be affordable to install and maintain as a stream gage is preferred. Nonetheless, they are costly. As discussed in the application, we are working with other agencies in the area to maintain the existing, highest priority stream gages. Discrete flow measurements meet the objectives of the project while keeping the project at a lower cost.

The application was unclear if the grantee's contractor would be performing the water temperature trend analysis in consultation with DEQ or if DEQ is doing the analysis.

In Objective #2 it states that "The Hydrologist will prepare the data and accuracy check information for the DEQ to run the seasonal Kendall trend analysis and work with them on the trend analysis (see attached letter of support from DEQ)". Specifically, the Hydrologist will work with the DEQ if there are any questions about the data or metadata after it is submitted to them to run the trend analysis.

The uploaded letter of support from Nick Haxton-Evans, DEQ, states that "I am writing to commit the support of DEQ water monitoring staff for the trend analysis of long term water temperature data in the Umpqua Basin. In addition to the normal data processing completed by the DEQ's volunteer monitoring program to verify partner data and load it into our new data system, DEQ WQ staff will analyze the new data on sites previously reported and expand the analysis to include new sites from the North Umpqua drainage… The output from the trend analysis will be Mann-Kendall seasonal (July and August) trend…"

Checking some other references in the document it states that the Hydrologist will prepare the data for the DEQ and collaborate with the DEQ to run the trend analysis. In the future, we will make it clearer throughout the document rather than just in Objective #2.

The application would have benefitted from uploading examples of past data summaries to illustrate products from previous monitoring grants.

Will do.

Monitoring Team Evaluation – Monitoring Team Comments

Future applications should provide links to or upload examples of previous reports.

Will do.

While we stated in Objective #4 that the Reference Temperature reports and Comparison Site report will be available on the PUR website, it neglected to state that recent previous reports are currently available on PUR's website. We will correct that in future applications.

Stream temperature: https://www.umpquarivers.org/final-monitoring-reports

Objective #4 listed the website for the stream flow measurements:
https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/sw/misc_measurements_view_only

Coordinate with DEQ to clarify what analysis that agency will do and what the grantee will need to do to complete this task as proposed in the application.

That has been completed prior to the application process. The uploaded DEQ letter of support in the application from Nick Haxton-Evans states that DEQ is conducting the trend analysis.

In Objective #2 it states that "The Hydrologist will prepare the data and accuracy check information for the DEQ to run the seasonal Kendall trend analysis and work with them on the trend analysis (see attached letter of support from DEQ)".

(see response above for more information)

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Open Solicitation

MaxDepth Aquatics

DT: April 14, 2020
TO: Eric Hartstein, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FM: Joseph Eilers, MaxDepth Aquatics, Inc.
RE: Comment on OWEB Review Process

I submitted an application this last fall through the non-profit Integrated Ecosystem Sciences to OWEB for a monitoring grant to provide technical information regarding water quality in Odell Lake. The lake is experiencing repeated and long-term cyanobacterial blooms that interfere with recreational use of the lake and potentially poses a human health concern. The proposed work involved collecting sufficient limnological data to identify the cause(s) and offer potential solutions to address the problem. One of two hypotheses that was to be tested with the data was the potential relationship between the fisheries and cyanobacteria production.

The application was denied. Some of the comments related to the lack of detail regarding support and coordination among resource management partners and some comments addressed technical concerns of the reviewers. I address each of these areas below.

Comments regarding cooperation of the management agencies related to letters of support that could have clarified the cooperation that I had received verbally from some organizations. For the most part, these issues can be addressed in the future. However, an omission considered critical to reviewers was a lack of coordination with the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW). I tried several times to meet with staff from ODFW in the Bend office to discuss my proposed work under this grant, but they refused to discuss the draft proposal on the phone or in person. How am I supposed to work with management agencies that refuse to even discuss the issue? Essentially this gives ODFW a "pocket veto" over grant applications that they perceive stray into the area of fish management. In the case of Odell Lake, ODFW has introduced six species of non-indigenous fish in the lake. The one "successful" introduction was kokanee which is now incredibly numerous; management efforts by ODFW to reduce the population have been unsuccessful. ODFW staff apparently believe that conducting a rigorous scientific analysis of water quality in Odell Lake threatens their monopoly on how the lake is managed. It appears to me that there is a serious conflict-of-interest in having ODFW essentially thwart efforts to study the problem. I urge OWEB to reconsider the outsized role that ODFW exerts on the grant application process. The number of fish in a lake or stream is not the only metric of a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

My second area of concern that was revealed in the Odell Lake grant application relates to technical competence regarding review of grant applications for lakes. OWEB has funded stream-related work almost exclusively. I shouldn't have to remind OWEB that we have 6,000 lakes in the state. Citizens of Oregon recreate heavily on lakes. This is not to say one is more important than the other, but the total omission of lakes in the OWEB portfolio is a major oversight that needs to be corrected. Which brings me back

to the Odell Lake grant application. It was obvious based on the technical comments that none of the reviewers had a strong background in limnology. They misread processes and clearly did not understand (1) why there could be a link between fisheries and water quality, (2) the nature of sediment-nutrient interactions, and (3) why monitoring in lakes is inherently much different than monitoring water quality in streams. If OWEB is to develop a more balanced approach to improving aquatic resources in the state, they need to employ qualified limnologists in the program office and on the review teams.

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 Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – October 2019 Land Acquisition Grant Offering Awards
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 2019 land acquisition grant offering and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Land Acquisitions – October 2019 Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2019 grant offering is the first of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2019-2021 biennium. The land and water acquisition-spending plan includes $7.5 million for the biennium. Eight land acquisition applications were received in October 2019. Two applications were subsequently withdrawn, leaving six applications requesting $6,509,800. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Application evaluations are included as Attachment B.

Following technical reviews, land acquisition applications 220-9902 and 220-9909 are recommended for funding with conditions. Land acquisition applications 220-9903, 220-9904, 220-9905, and 220-9907 are not recommended for funding.

B. Review Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with administrative rules for the program, most recently revised in 2019. 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.

Staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from the standing regional review teams conducted site visits. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and staff summarized the input of all ecological reviewers.

A team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice conducted project soundness reviews. 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 Committee met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2019 applications. The purpose of the meeting was for committee 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 $4,748,079.

Attachments

A. Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2019 Grant Offering
B. Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
C. Project-specific Funding Conditions

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item K-1 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 K-1 – Effective Dates of 2018 and 2019 Land Acquisition Grants
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report recommends the board extend the transaction closing dates of land acquisition grants due to reductions in the OWEB operating budget that may impact OWEB's ability to process due diligence requirements of open grants.

II. Background

Land acquisition rules require that grantees close real estate transactions within 18 months of board award, unless otherwise approved by the board. The land acquisition program relies on the assistance of due diligence contractors and Department of Justice review to ensure sound real estate transactions and minimize OWEB exposure to risk.

III. October 2019 Offering Effective Dates

In agenda item K, staff recommend the board award funding for two land acquisition projects from the October 2019 offering: Rainforest Reserve (220-9902) and Trout Creek Preserve (220-9909) with effective award dates of April 22, 2020. Given revenue shortfalls caused by the lottery shutdown, it is unclear whether adequate funds will be available to provide timely due diligence work for these projects. A 36-month timeframe, with closing required by April 22, 2023, would better allow for the performance of due diligence during this period of reduced operating funds.

IV. October 2018 Offering Closing Dates

The two land acquisition projects awarded by the board on April 17, 2019, Tillamook Head (219-9900) and Mt. Hood Oaks (219-9901) are required to close by October 17, 2020. For the reasons described above, extending the due diligence period by an additional 18 months will prevent grantees from failing to meet grant agreement requirements due to a lack of OWEB capacity to process due diligence requirements.

V. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award funding for Rainforest Reserve (220-9902) and Trout Creek Preserve (220-9909) as described in Item K effective April 22, 2020 with a

requirement to close the transactions by April 22, 2023. Staff also recommend the board extend the required transaction closing dates for Tillamook Head (219-9900) and Mt. Hood Oaks (219-9901) from October 17, 2020 to April 17, 2022.

October 2019 Offering - Land Acquisition Applications and Staff Recommendations

Application #	Application Name	Applicant	$ Requested	$ Recommended
220-9902	Rainforest Reserve	North Coast Land Conservancy	$2,098,329	$2,128,079
220-9909	Trout Creek Preserve	Deschutes Land Trust	$2,780,000	$2,620,000
220-9903	GSG Ranch	Blue Mountain Land Trust	$619,036	$0
220-9904	Wren Marsh	McKenzie River Trust	$177,472	$0
220-9905	Morgan	Blue Mountain Land Trust	$497,023	$0
220-9907	Sycan	Klamath Lake Land Trust	$337,940	$0

Total Recommended:	$4,748,079

FALL 2019 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	220-9902		
Project Name:	Rainforest Reserve		
Applicant:	North Coast Land Conservancy	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	$2,098,329	**Total Cost:**	$2,712,829

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Unprecedented in Oregon, the Rainforest Reserve project will conserve 3,500 acres of coastal rainforest and rocky bald habitat adjacent to Oswald West State Park, Cape Falcon Marine Reserve and the proposed Arch Cape Community Forest creating a resilient sea to summit conservation corridor stretching from the Pacific Ocean to the crests of the Coast Range. NCLC is proposing to purchase 1,500 acres of the Rainforest Reserve with OWEB funds. Located in Clatsop County, the project is characterized by steep forested slopes, rocky outcrops featuring state and federal plant species of concern, and the headwaters of salmon streams and the drinking water sources for the communities of Cannon Beach and Arch Cape.

The direct land-sea interface of the coastal-fronting watersheds within the Rainforest Reserve results in a landscape that is home to a rare mix of plants and animals found nowhere else on earth. The Nature Conservancy and Oregon State Land Board first identified this landscape as exceptional and in need of conservation in the 1970s when surveys revealed “one of Oregon’s outstanding rare plant assemblages” and a rare coastal population of silver fir clinging to the rocky soils and near-vertical rock faces surrounding Onion Peak.

The Rainforest Reserve is the continuation of decades of work by Oregon State Parks, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the City of Cannon Beach, the Arch Cape Water and Sanitary District, which is working to protect the Arch Cape Community Forest, and North Coast Land Conservancy, and is supported at federal, state, county, city, and individual levels. NCLC and its partners laid the groundwork for this exceptionally rare opportunity to acquire and protect this significant landscape. Funding from OWEB will allow NCLC to leverage years of project development to seize this opportunity and ensure the Rainforest Reserve is managed in perpetuity for its conservation and community values.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The project will conserve 3,500 of coastal forest and rocky bald habitats in Clatsop County. The project will protect a large area of land that harbors exceptional biodiversity and expands existing ecological networks by connecting neighboring conserved lands with the unique basaltic ridge habitats present on Onion and

Angora Peaks. Much of Clatsop County contains forested land that is managed for industrial timber and late seral forests are rare and often isolated. The opportunity to acquire a large intact forest on the immediate coast for conservation is uncommon and would protect an ecologically significant tract of coastal forest habitat. Habitat conservation at this scale preserves spatial and elevational diversity and connectivity and is increasingly critical as climate changes and individual organisms need room to adapt. The proposed reserve is considered as having above average resiliency to climate change, making it a high priority for investment.

The Rainforest Reserve project will conserve 400 acres of subalpine coastal forest dominated by Pacific silver fir, a rare habitat type in the coast range, in addition to thousands of acres of Sitka spruce coastal forest. Despite timber harvest activities in the past, complex forest structure is present in the proposed project area that provides functioning habitat for fish and wildlife species, and forests are in healthy condition. Many of the stands were only harvested once and the forest composition is comprised of native species that naturally regenerated, including the uncommon Pacific silver fir.

Silver fir stands found at high elevations and the majority of the stands of Sitka spruce are in excellent condition and require little management beyond protection from invasive species. There are also intact areas of late seral forests present within proposed project area and as the remainder of the protected forest matures into late-seral habitat, ecosystem functions associated with old-growth forests will return. Forest habitats in the lowlands that have been harvested within the last few decades may require restoration forestry practices to accelerate the development of late seral characteristics and support forest health. A forest management plan will be important to determining the need and schedule for restoration. The property contains steep forested slopes and rock outcrops with a unique geologic history that contributes to uncommon soil conditions inhabited by rare and isolated plant species. Conservation of the Rainforest Reserve would immediately protect a suite of state, federal, and globally listed species and assemblages of concern and rarity. The Martindale lomatium rock garden is cited as a priority plant community that is both globally imperiled and rare within the coast range and persists on the rocky bald habitat encompassed by the Rainforest Reserve. Four plant species are present that are federal species of concern-- Saddle Mountain bittercress, Queen-of-the-Forest, Saddle Mountain saxifrage, and Chambers paintbrush. Additionally, another 26 species are either endemic to the rocky balds of the northern coast range or are living at the edge of their population range. The property's rare subalpine habitat also supports amphibians and invertebrates which are uncommon in Oregon's coast range, including the Columbia torrent salamander, the red-legged frog, and a rare dragonfly whose only known breeding site is found on the Rainforest Reserve property.

The project will protect the headwaters of Arch Cape Creek and an additional 2 miles of perennial streams and 17 miles of ephemeral streams. The project would benefit water quality particularly by reducing sediment delivery to streams that comprise the drinking water source for the nearby community of Arch Cape. The project will provide some benefits to coho salmon, fall Chinook and steelhead, but is unlikely to have benefits at a population scale due to the limited aquatic habitat present. With a natural waterfall barrier present on Arch Cape Creek, there are no major fish streams present in the project area although a population of resident cutthroat inhabits the reaches above the barrier. Downstream of the barrier on Arch Cape Creek, there is high quality spawning habitat for coho and steelhead. While this project would have beneficial water quality impacts on downstream stream reaches, this habitat is not found on the property within the immediate project area.

The applicant has demonstrated that they have clearly considered appropriate and careful stewardship of the proposed project area. Balancing recreation opportunities with long term stewardship goals will be important for this property given the significance of the uncommon habitats contained on the property, and the extensive network of roads throughout the property will need to be addressed. The applicant appears to be well poised to address these management challenges.

NCLC's plans for future open public use of the property, and commercial timber operations adjacent to the property, will necessitate a relatively high level of monitoring and possibly adaptive management. The property's large size and rugged terrain are likely to make management more time-consuming and costly than for other properties in NCLC's portfolio. The management plan for the property should include a robust public use plan, including actions for minimizing unauthorized activities, closures of the property when necessary to enhance and protect the conservation values, and coordination with other parties that have an interest in the property or its use. The management plan should also address the legal rights of other parties to cross the property by including actions to monitor and enforce the terms and conditions of access easements and maintenance agreements.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

Acquisition transactions are complex; similar to most transactions, the following items need to be addressed, but are not insurmountable: (i) the need to address numerous title matters before closing, including unclear vesting circumstances, mineral reservations, and multiple road easements; (ii) funding, due diligence, and other timing considerations involved in the simultaneous purchase of adjacent land; (iii) access rights that may need to be obtained over adjacent land for OWEB's purposes; and (iv) a significant amount of stewardship funding that needs to be secured.

It is likely that the transaction and long-term management of the property can be completed in a sound manner. In order for NCLC to complete requirements in the due diligence period specified by administrative rule, NCLC will need to excel at strong, prompt due diligence work and effective project management. It will take a concerted effort to resolve the title matters in a manner that ensures conservation values will not be degraded by holders of rights to the property. NCLC will need to simultaneously advance transaction due diligence and funding for adjacent land. In order for the adjacent land to be eligible as match for the grant, that land must be purchased along with the property proposed for OWEB funding. NCLC will also need to secure $2 million in order to generate stewardship income that is adequate for maintaining the conservation values of the project area. NCLC expects to spend the majority of the estimated annual stewardship funding on road maintenance, with those costs based on a road analysis that was not included with the application.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that the project will maintain healthy vegetation, prevent forest loss in riparian and slide-prone areas, and steward the forest to maturity. These actions will mitigate future risks to water supplies. The Rainforest Reserve supports the local drinking water supplier, Arch Cape Water and Sanitary District, in its efforts to protect drinking water.

NCLC hosted public open houses to better understand the types of public access desired by the community and how they can be achieved without harming conservation values. NCLC will allow non-motorized public access to the property, including hiking, biking, and non-predator hunting. Hiking and hunting access will be increased from what is allowed by the current owner, expanding access from weekends only to include weekdays as well. ODFW estimates that nearly 100 hunters access the property annually for deer and elk hunting. NCLS intends to honor this historic, generational use.

NCLC will implement no-access areas to protect the most sensitive habitats, using signs, kiosks, and monitoring to ensure that public uses are consistent with the property management plan.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The North Coast Land Conservancy received its accreditation in 2016 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes 52 fee-title properties, 8 of which have been acquired with OWEB funds. The organization is currently up-to-date with OWEB acquisition related reporting requirements. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy; however, the scale of this acquisition would almost double its conservation holdings in one transaction.

The acquisition project team has been in place for several years and has the necessary expertise to complete this transaction. Staff expertise notwithstanding, this transition is likely the most complex transaction completed by the NCLC and the organization should be prepared to seek additional staffing or contractor assistance, if necessary, to complete the transaction within OWEB's required 18 month timeframe. The application budget includes $20,250 in contracted services for this purpose, but additional resources may be necessary.

NCLC indicates in the application that additional staff will be hired to assist with the increased management and stewardship responsibilities after the successful acquisition of this site. In addition, the organization intends to continue with its well-established practice of having volunteers assist with site stewardship and monitoring, which has worked well at other sites. The application clearly articulates the proposed stewardship costs and seems to have a plan in place for developing and maintaining an adequate stewardship fund.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held on January 8, 2020 at the Arch Cape Fire Hall with 10 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

- Healthy forest yields many benefits to the community, including fish in Arch Cape Creek, unique ecosystems, wildlife, recreation, and public access.
- Adjacent to drinking water supply, permanent protection is extremely important to insure clean, safe, affordable water for the community.
- NCLC is a good steward for the property, who develops a vision and follows through on commitments, and has worked with the neighboring private timber company for 20 years.
- The property connects to the Oregon State Park land and a marine preserve.
- The project is important to community health and will help eliminate concern for pesticides in the water supply.

Concerns

- There will be a significant need to maintain the road infrastructure on the property.
- Forest thinning will be required in the future.

SUMMARY

The proposed project will result in a large block of protected land that has exceptional biodiversity and unique habitats, and connects the tallest peaks in the coast range to the ocean and a marine reserve. The OWEB investment of just over $2 million in a 1,500-acre parcel will leverage another $6 million to achieve conservation of a total of 3,500 acres in the Rainforest Reserve. The applicant developed a thoughtful approach to this complex project by including the most significant habitat resources on the OWEB-funded parcel and significant source water protection on the match parcel, and by careful consideration of public access opportunities that are important to the community. While NCLC has capacity and expertise to

manage the complex transaction, and included $20,250 in the budget for due diligence contracting, it would benefit the applicant to have more funds available in this budget item to increase capacity as needed to complete the transaction.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the board award $2,128,079, which includes $2,098,329 plus an additional $29,750 for contracted services, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NCLC to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the board at its April 2020 meeting.

FALL 2019 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	220-9904		
Project Name:	Wren Marsh Acquisition		
Applicant:	McKenzie River Trust	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	$177,472	**Total Cost:**	$237,025

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The fee acquisition of the Wren Marsh parcel adds additional acreage to a complex of protected properties in the Siuslaw River estuary. Located across from the Waite Ranch property currently owned by the applicant, and adjacent to a 150 acre private tidal wetland mitigation bank, this property is a lynchpin in restoration efforts that would, together, provide over 500 acres of restored wetland function and tidal influence.

The Siuslaw watershed supports spawning runs of fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coho, and searun cutthroat. As these fish move through the estuary on their journey to the ocean, they all rely on the estuary to acclimate to the ocean salinity. Tidal wetlands provide opportunities for these iconic species to transition from one system to the next and also offer forage and cover during their crucial time in the estuary. In the Siuslaw watershed, a 2005 study (Brophy) indicated that approximately 67% of tidal wetland areas have undergone major alterations. Estuarine habitat quantity and quality are identified as key limiting factors in the health of the Siuslaw watershed and its ability to support healthy populations of salmonid species, making restoration of estuarine habitat a high priority for local and regional organizations.

Protecting this property is a priority of the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) for its relationship to important restoration efforts on the Waite Ranch property. The Siuslaw Watershed Council, a SCP member, a partner in the Waite Ranch project, will have a key role in implementing the restoration of Wren Marsh. The property is currently diked, disconnecting it from the Siuslaw River.

The acquisition of Wren Marsh eliminates two significant challenges to restoration of the Waite Ranch property. It eliminates the need for rerouting powerlines to serve Wren Marsh and the need for vehicular access to Waite Ranch's outer levee.

The McKenzie River trust will be the long-term owner of the property.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

The proposed acquisition is strategically located among a network of conservation properties in the Siuslaw River estuary. Wren Marsh is small in size at only 8 acres but is directly adjacent to a number of estuarine conservation land projects including the Waite Ranch property, the Wilbur Mitigation Bank, and the Cox Island Preserve. Acquisition of this site could help facilitate restoration on a nearby site by eliminating several of the site constraints affecting the restoration design at the Waite Ranch property, and therefore may have a benefit to the estuary that goes beyond its small land base. Its conservation will contribute to the protection of large intact areas of the estuary that are vital for coho salmon, culturally significant plants, and other wildlife and avian species. The parcel has been identified as a high priority acquisition and restoration site by the Siuslaw Coho Partnership due to its potential to tie together a large complex of tidal wetlands.

Existing conditions at the site are negatively influenced by dikes and ditches that prevent the tide from inundating the site. Removal of the levees and tidegates will restore access for fish and improve tidal connectivity as well as restore natural hydrologic processes that will create complex habitat. Removal of the Wren Marsh dike, if feasible through planned restoration, will also provide access to a continuous network of tidal channels and rearing habitat found on the neighboring conservation property.

Restoration is essential to realize habitat gains from OWEB investment. Restoration plans are not fully developed at this time, with significant uncertainty about likely success. There are site constraints at the property that could make restoration challenging, including the limited ability to transport heavy equipment to the site, tide gate and house infrastructure, and coordination with adjacent property owners with regards to levee breaching. The project's benefit for priority species cited in the application depends on the level of tidal channel hydrologic connectivity and habitat access that can be provided through restoration actions; however, the currently preferred alternative by the applicant, while cost effective, is not likely to maximize the habitat potential of the site.

If restoration is successful, the acquisition will have myriad benefits to salmon and other aquatic wildlife. The acquisition area contains vital habitat for chinook, steelhead, and ESA-listed Oregon Coast Coho salmon. A completed project will contribute to an improved estuary function and will also support life history diversity of salmon, increase the capacity and quality of winter rearing habitat, improve habitat connectivity, and positively affect the threat of habitat degradation and estuarine habitat loss for fish populations. Habitat will also be provided for a multitude of ecologically and economically important fish/shellfish species, such as Dungeness crab, gaper clams, herring, smelt, green sturgeon, and perch. A key strategy in NOAA's Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon is to restore estuarine processes to increase rearing habitat quality and capacity, something this project could achieve if appropriately designed and implemented.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The application and review process identified soundness challenges that make it unlikely that due diligence requirements can be completed in an efficient, sound manner in the near term, and which may affect the long-term outcomes of the proposed investment.

The project's soundness challenges include: (i) property boundary encroachments; (ii) title encumbrances that may hinder or limit the wetland restoration described in the application; (iii) the property's lack of road access, which will significantly increase the complexity and expense of infrastructure removal and wetland restoration; and (iv) the need to negotiate a use agreement or establish other understandings with a third party that has a history of informally using the property.

It will take significant time, effort, and expense to resolve the property's boundary and third-party user challenges. Lot line adjustments, land use approvals, and user licenses are several of the items that may be

necessary to complete the work, which would have to be finished before OWEB's funds could be released. If negotiations break down between MRT and the third party user of the property, MRT will be in a difficult position, which as MRT and OWEB have learned at a similar property, could take a prolonged period to resolve. Solving the boundary, title, and user challenges will not address the challenges of removing a house containing hazardous materials and completing wetland restoration on a property without road access.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that City of Florence will benefit from the green infrastructure provided by restored tidal wetlands, including increased resiliency to climate change. The property provides benefits to commercial and recreational fishers of the Siuslaw River. MRT has a memorandum of agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians regarding culturally significant plan and animal species on the property. With only river access available, public access to the property is inherently limited.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

McKenzie River Trust, accredited since 2015, is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy. In addition, MRT has completed seven previous transactions through OWEB's acquisition grant program, including Waite Ranch, which is adjacent to this property. MRT does have one outstanding report associated with the Waite Ranch property.

The MRT team has already completed this transaction and is seeking reimbursement for the purchase of the property. MRT has the appropriate staff and expertise in place for the long-term management and stewardship of the property. The long-term stewardship and management of this property can be incorporated into the existing stewardship and management work of the adjacent Waite Ranch property, making it more cost-effective. However, this property includes some unique challenges, as the property is only available via boat and MRT is planning on future restoration actions. The application clearly articulates the proposed stewardship costs and estimated the necessary funds on hand using their stewardship fund calculator. The stewardship funds, which have not yet been secured, will have to account for long-term maintenance of the dock and additional costs associated with restoration and monitoring due to the lack of road access.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held on January 15, 2020 at the Siuslaw Public Library 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. Flipchart notes from the public hearing are as follows:

Benefits

- Regaining estuary habitat, which is one of the most impacted/rare types.
- Restoring natural processes.
- MRT has capacity to implement the project and restoration at Waite.
- If restoration is successful, benefits will include floodplain storage and rearing habitat.
- Aligns with the watershed council and Siuslaw Coho Partnership mission.
- Could provide floodplain storage during king tides and storm surges.
- Acquisition and restoration could benefit shared access agreements; the river is changing management goals.
- Property provides good wildlife habitat.

- MRT and partners can provide competent management for invasive species.
- New ownership could provide opportunity to resolve boundary issues.
- Removal of Wren dikes may make sense with natural river plan.

Concerns

- Want to be sure fishing/boating is not impacted and ensure future navigability of the river.
- Need to maintain vehicular access to adjacent properties for maintenance.
- Need for diligent invasive species management, particularly the Spartina threat.
- Need for resulting restoration with Waite/Wren properties to protect adjacent properties and infrastructure.
- Need to maintain existing conditions on upstream properties.

SUMMARY

The Wren Marsh property, while having similar potential habitat benefits as the adjacent Waite Ranch acquisition property, also has similar challenges to successfully accomplishing tidal restoration. In addition, the property's lack of road access increases the cost and complexity of restoration. Until the ecological values are achieved through restoration of tidal flows, OWEB investment in land acquisition at this site is premature. If MRT wishes to resubmit the application, it should consider whether a clearer path to restoration is feasible.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the board award funding for the Wren Marsh acquisition.

FALL 2019 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	220-9907		
Project Name:	Sycan River Canyonlands and Tablelands		
Applicant:	Klamath Lake Land Trust	**Region:**	Central Oregon
Basin:	Klamath	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	$337,940	**Total Cost:**	$469,482

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Klamath Lake Land Trust (KLLT) is seeking funds to repay a conservation bridge loan from Craft3 that purchased 785 acres on the Sycan River, located in Oregon's East Cascades eco-region. KLLT's new property forms a wildlife corridor with adjacent land holdings, sits on the Fremont-Winema Forest boundary, and includes two miles of Sycan River with habitats of sage steppe, vernal pools, meadows, aspen groves, large ponderosa pine stands, wet meadows, and unique basalt canyon riparian habitat. Forest enhancement and livestock exclusion to protect tributary streams, small springs, and riparian areas will address needs of water quality. The Klamath Basin has some of Oregon's worst water quality, regularly exceeding TMDLs and suffering from toxic algae blooms. The Sycan River is a tributary of the Sprague, then Williamson River, Upper Klamath Lake, Lake Ewauna and the Klamath River. The Williamson River's water is monitored for sedimentation and dissolved oxygen levels; the lakes and Klamath River are monitored for ammonia, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and algae. The Sycan has cool, decent quality tannin colored water (from Sycan Marsh), and blue color enters at aptly named Blue Creek. Improving the Sycan's water quality will support habitat for numerous bird, mammal and invertebrate species, plus endemic fishes (redband trout, bull-trout/ESA listed, tui chub, Miller Lake lamprey, pit-klamath brook lamprey, speckled dace, blue chub, marbled sculpin, Lost River sucker, and Klamath largescale sucker), and anadromous fish (Chinook salmon, steelhead) in coming years. KLLT is partnering with The Klamath Tribes, USFWS, and the neighbor ranchers to build fence to exclude livestock in the open range and livestock district areas of the property. KLLT's goal is to protect the outstanding natural characteristics of the Sycan River and surrounding uplands, while participating in a large scale conservation corridor intended to benefit fish, wildlife, and people.

REVIEW

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

This project proposes acquisition of 785 acres in Klamath County. This conservation property hosts a wide variety of habitats including two miles of the Sycan River and adjacent riparian and floodplain area (~113 acres), Ponderosa pine woodlands (~220 acres), and sage-steppe tablelands (~452 acres) including an unknown extent of vernal pools that have been seasonally observed. The Sycan River is confined in a fairly steep canyon as it enters the property from the north flowing for roughly 1.5 miles before giving way to a broad, low-gradient floodplain near the downstream end of the property boundary. The property includes the confluence and lower 1/2 mile of Blue Creek, a small tributary entering from the East.

This land acquisition presents an opportunity to permanently protect these locally important habitat areas that provide value for multiple fish and wildlife species of interest. In particular, this portion of the Sycan River hosts resident populations of the state sensitive inland redband trout. This stretch of the river is unlikely to provide habitat to ESA listed bull trout, shortnose or Lost River suckers. Bull trout are only known to occur much farther upstream of this property in cooler waters. Shortnose and Lost River suckers are only known to occur further downstream of this property in and near the confluence with the Sprague River. Once the mainstem Klamath River dams are removed (tentatively scheduled for removal in 2022) and anadromous species re-colonize the Upper Klamath Basin, this portion of the Sycan River is likely to provide habitat for Chinook salmon and summer steelhead.

Overall, the property is in fair to good ecological condition, yet does require some immediate attention to address impacts from trespass livestock use of the property. Due to the topographical nature of the property, trespass livestock only have had access to the valley bottom along the Sycan River on the downstream (southern) end of the property. The KLLT and Klamath Tribes are currently working together to develop a fencing solution to keep livestock off the property. KLLT states that it is also working with the adjacent downstream neighbor to seek an off-stream water solution for their livestock to remove their dependence on the Sycan River. There are a series of springs located on river left just downstream of the Blue Creek confluence that have been accessed by livestock in the past; the proposed fencing and restoration of these springs would be of great value to fish, wildlife, and water quality.

The sage-steppe habitat toured during site visits west of the Sycan River are in very good condition (the sage-steppe habitats located east of the Sycan River were not visited), in part due to its remoteness and the rocky nature of the relatively flat tableland features of the area. The terrain has limited development and disturbance to the area; however, it has not completely prevented trespassers from taking up seasonal residence, which was the source of a recent human caused wildfire. The plant communities appear healthy and virtually free of non-native species except along road prisms; however, the application failed to identify what OWEB priority plant communities exist on the property. Herds of pronghorn antelope utilize these tableland habitats and would likely benefit from protection offered through this acquisition. Vernal pools have been seasonally observed hosting fairy shrimp; this habitat type is rare and considered an important ecological feature to protect.

The ponderosa pine woodlands currently do not present high ecological value due to the size and nature of the stand; however, interwoven are small pockets of aspen that are currently being encroached upon by conifers. A purchase and preserve approach will not provide ecological forest value into the future. Without active forest management, decline and tree mortality will occur and exacerbate the threat of a stand replacement wildfire. A comprehensive forest management plan and subsequent restoration will be necessary to obtain long-term ecological uplift in the forested habitats on the property. No such plan was included in the application, although it was indicated one would be developed in the near future.

The Sycan River Canyonlands and Tablelands property would provide habitat connectivity to federally managed lands to the north, as well as complement conservation protections upstream at the Nature Conservancy's Sycan Marsh and the 59 miles of river with national wild and scenic designations.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

The review process identified soundness challenges that make it unlikely that due diligence requirements can be completed in an efficient, sound manner in the near term, and that protect the conservation values in the long-term.

The project's soundness challenges include but are not necessarily limited to:

(i) numerous, complex title encumbrances including purported rights of the Klamath Tribes that are not well understood;

(ii) convoluted property boundaries and topography that significantly increase the possibility of discovering multiple access deficiencies and encroachment issues during title and survey work;

(iii) derelict homestead structures that were not assessed for hazardous materials before the property was purchased and therefore may pose unexpected demolition costs;

(iv) unauthorized uses of the property and neighboring land by trespass livestock and squatters, which will pose ongoing risks and potentially high ownership costs for KLLT;

(v) the need for substantial changes to the draft KLLT-Tribal cooperative agreement for fence installation, in order to be clear and confirm that the partnership will produce the intended outcomes; and

(vi) a project budget that appears to lack funds necessary for due diligence such as acquiring access easements and significantly underestimates the amount of legal help KLLT will need to complete due diligence.

KLLT is requesting reimbursement for a completed purchase of the property; however, there are considerable ownership costs and risks that diminish the value of a prospective OWEB investment. KLLT has limited staffing and financial resources for this property, which was relatively inexpensive to purchase but will be costly to own and manage. KLLT did not secure a stewardship fund for the property before purchasing it, and the application does not describe a plan that is likely to result in adequate stewardship funds. Reviewers noted the need for active management of the property, yet KLLT's commitment to, and access for, such management is not clear, nor is it clear how KLLT would pay proportional maintenance costs on any shared roads that are necessary for managing and restoring the property. The property's remote location adds to the uncertainties regarding project outcomes.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states the community will benefit from permanent protection of the property because it provides a unique opportunity for interacting with remote and wild country for community members who are interested in the area. With the protection provided by KLLT, the land will remain a prime area for birding, wildlife viewing, and spring wildflower walks. In addition, the parcel has significant recreational value, including opportunities for hiking, fishing, limited hunting, and other nature-based recreational activities, in a wild setting. KLLT will provide controlled public access to protect conservation values, while allowing for outdoor recreation. Protection by KLLT will also provide easy, open access for members of The Klamath Tribes described to KLLT as having cultural significance.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Klamath Lake Land Trust is a relatively new applicant to OWEB's Land Acquisition grant program and has not completed any transactions with OWEB funding. Working in the Klamath Falls area since 2010, the land trust is a small organization with limited staff and financial capacity. Historically, the land trust has relied on volunteer board time and partner resources to complete transactions. The land trust is currently not accredited, but is working to implement best practices that align with The Land Trust Alliance standards.

The proposed acquisition aligns with the mission and geographic scope of the organization. The land trust is an appropriate organization for the long-term management of this property.

Klamath Lake Land Trust has already acquired this property, but it appears from the application that the organization may not have the necessary organizational capacity to complete due diligence needed to

ensure protection of the property's conservation values. In addition, the application does not describe a long-term management and stewardship team or partner agreements with the necessary expertise to ensure long-term management and stewardship of the property for ecological purposes.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held on January 24, 2020 at the Chiloquin Community Center with 8 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project. Flipchart notes from comments at the public hearing are as follows:

Benefits

- This project would improve/protect riverine and riparian habitats that are beneficial to native fish and wildlife, in addition to providing benefit for future use by anadramous salmonids post-dam removal on mainstem Klamath River. The immediate fish benefit is Redband trout, but ESA listed Bull trout are known upstream and ESA-listed shortnose and lost river suckers are known downstream. Benefit to these ESA-listed species is not immediate but may have potential in the future.
- This property will add to contiguous landscapes in conservation protection for benefit of wildlife utilizing the various habitats offered on the property.
- Pronghorn utilize the tableland areas and this property offers protected habitat for this species.
- The plant community associated with the tablelands is in good condition and relatively unique. NOTE: the KLLT acknowledged that a botanical survey has not been conducted yet, but are interested in doing this to fully understand the botanical value.
- The property represents an opportunity to engage the community in events, such as weed pulling work parties.
- The KLLT offers tours as part of their role in the community, this property would be one where public tours would be offered.
- This property would add value to the existing national wild and scenic river status the Sycan River has upstream and adjacent to the KLLT property.
- Offers a scenic viewshed.
- Purchase of the land will ensure protection so future generations can enjoy what it has to offer.
- The 785 acres of land offer a variety of habitat types, including sage steppe, aspen, ponderosa pine, riverine and riparian areas, and vernal pools.

Concerns

- Access to private land through KLLT land, specifically, how will private landowners be assured they can access their property and how will this be formalized so it's documented in perpetuity.
- Development opportunities for private landowners adjacent to KLLT land, specifically, what type of assurances would/could be put in place to ensure access (e.g. construction, power, water, utility easements).
- Decrease tax base to Klamath County (although due to conservation status, its unsure how much of a negative impact this would be).

SUMMARY

While the property could potentially provide permanent protection of important wildlife habitat, and could potentially secure permanent access to the Klamath Tribes for cultural use, there are a multitude of concerns regarding title, habitat condition, restoration plans, presence of derelict structures, frequent and intensive trespass, and stewardship that make it unlikely that conservation values can be secured. Since

KLLT has already purchased the property, it may not be possible to address the concerns identified in this evaluation sufficiently to improve the likelihood of success of a revised application.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the board award funding for the Sycan River Canyonlands and Tablelands acquisition.

FALL 2019 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	220-9909		
Project Name:	Trout Creek Preserve		
Applicant:	Deschutes Land Trust	**Region:**	Central Oregon
Basin:	Deschutes	**County:**	Jefferson
OWEB Request:	$2,780,000	**Total Cost**	$4,182,032

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

The Deschutes Land Trust plans to purchase 5680 acres of Priday Ranch near Willowdale, Oregon. Priday Ranch is approximately 18 miles northeast of Madras and 10 miles southwest of Antelope. The property includes 11 miles of steelhead streams, including 6.2 miles of Trout Creek, 3.5 miles of Antelope Creek, and 1.3 miles of Ward Creek.

The Trout Creek subwatershed is the major steelhead production area in the Deschutes Basin, producing as much as 30% of Deschutes steelhead. The property includes some of the best spawning habitat on the creek, with as many as 152 steelhead redds documented on the Trout Creek portion alone. The Trout Creek portion of the property supports 10% or more of the subbasin's steelhead spawning in many years, with more spawning occurring in Antelope and Ward creeks.

Beyond the steelhead value, the property supports a variety of other priority species, including nesting golden eagles.

Over the past 20 years, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District have restored significant portions of Trout Creek and Antelope Creek on the property. Both streams were channelized following the Christmas 1964 Flood. The Bonneville Power Administration has funded most of the restoration work.

The project need is to permanently protect the property, including the significant stream restoration and recovery. There are also further opportunities for stream, riparian, and upland restoration, as well as for transferring a portion of the property's water rights instream. The property includes 154 acres with water rights, among them 45 acres (equating to approximately 1 cfs) of the most senior water right on Trout Creek. Transferring this right instream would create benefits both on the property and downstream.

Project partners will include ODFW, the Jefferson County SWCD, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Portland General Electric, and the Deschutes River Conservancy.

The Trout Creek Preserve boasts a suite of valuable habitats benefiting fish and wildlife, including 11 miles of aquatic and riparian areas designated critical habitat for ESA listed Mid-Columbia (Mid-C) summer steelhead. The stream corridors also provide important habitat to priority wildlife species, including pallid bat. In addition, the property includes thousands of acres of upland grasslands and cliff/talus features providing value for a host of wildlife and bird species, including priority species such as Golden eagles and white-tailed jackrabbit.

The Trout Creek watershed is highly prioritized for restoration as the largest producer of summer steelhead in the Deschutes Basin. This property has been the subject of multiple restoration efforts in the past, specifically targeting improvements along Trout and Antelope Creeks to benefit all life stages of Mid-C summer Steelhead. Roughly half of the 11 miles of streams on this property has been a focus for restoration through a variety of actions, including berm removal, floodplain grading, instream habitat features, revegetation, and fencing. Portions of the property have been enrolled into the Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP). These actions have been successful at improving instream habitat conditions and increasing diverse woody riparian vegetation density, all while promoting beaver occupation that has added to the ecological function of these habitats. Fish monitoring stations have been installed on this property to assist fisheries managers with helping characterize utilization and abundance that provides useful data for Mid-C recovery efforts. Permanent protection of this property will ensure these restoration efforts are sustained over time, as well as provide a foundation for implementing additional restoration activities, particularly those that were not an option due to previous agricultural use of the unconfined valley bottom areas on the property.

The upland habitats on the preserve are a mix of open grasslands, encroaching Western juniper and cliff/talus features. The large and relatively open landscape provides habitat for ungulate species as well as a variety of mammals and birds, some prioritized in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and listed as priority species, including loggerhead shrike and pygmy rabbit. The application identified and characterized the plant priorities accurately and appropriately, including Basin wildrye bottomlands and bluebunch wheatgrass-Idaho fescue. Ecological condition of the uplands varies greatly. Areas with steeper slopes and areas with limited access by livestock in the past consist largely of healthy native bunchgrasses, forbs, and shrubs. On the contrary, some of the upland areas, particularly the area around the cell tower, are dominated by non-native annual grasses. The property does possess old-growth Western juniper growing exclusively in rocky outcrops, yet most of the juniper on-site is post settlement and slowly encroaching upon the open grasslands. Restoration of areas invaded with non-native annual grasses and juniper will take a considerable lift, precise planning and execution, partnerships, multiple years of funding, and commitment to see it through.

The size and context of this property presents a rare opportunity to permanently protect a multitude of priority habitats as well as offer potential for landscape scale, ridgetop to ridgetop restoration. Conservation acquisition will protect previous investments to ensure they continue to thrive and grow providing ecological benefit to native fish, wildlife, and water quality in the Trout Creek watershed.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

After submitting the grant application to OWEB, DLT proposed a modified purchase structure that will exclude certain portions of the property and result in a 4,491-acre conservation parcel. The modified purchase structure will improve project outcomes by: (i) enabling a local rancher to expand his operation by purchasing the portion of the property that is not a high priority for conservation but is well suited for

livestock; and (ii) creating an integrated, defensible conservation parcel that includes the most ecologically valuable portions of the property.

The proposed purchase structure is complex and involves, among other things: (i) the partition of a larger parcel; (ii) a lot line adjustment; (iii) the need to address numerous title matters, including oil, gas, and mineral reservations; (iv) a provision in the option agreement that gives the landowner certain rights to purchase replacement property; and (v) a tenant on the property.

Based on OWEB's experience with DLT's previous projects, it is likely that the purchase and long-term management of the property can be completed in a sound manner. It will take a concerted effort to resolve the title matters in a manner that ensures the property's conservation values will not be degraded by other parties. DLT will need to simultaneously address complex boundary matters and obtain two land use approvals, while accounting for potential delays associated with the landowner's purchase of replacement property.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

While the application states that DLT has not yet developed sufficient understanding of the property and public use demand to propose specific public uses, following that evaluation, DLT is committed to offering public use that is compatible with ecological objectives. The application notes that restricted hunting use will be allowed, including the possibility of including the property in ODFW's Access and Habitat program, which offers limited hunting access to private lands. In addition, DLT will consider allowing pedestrian access to the northern portion of the property, which would allow users to access BLM lands. DLT has engaged the Warm Springs tribe about potential uses of the property that would benefit tribal members.

The application notes that DLT will engage with the community to discuss concerns about how the property is managed. Many commenters at the public hearing expressed particular concern about fire management, access to retrieve escaped cattle, controlling invasives, and supporting neighboring agricultural uses generally. To account for DLT's office not being located near the property, it will be important for the management plan to include actions for establishing and maintaining channels of communication with neighbors, the local fire protection district, and other parties that may assist with, or be affected by, DLT's management of the property.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

The Deschutes Land Trust received its renewed accreditation in 2014 and is following best management practices in accordance with the accreditation. The organization's portfolio includes over 9,000 acres, many of which have been acquired with OWEB funds. The proposed property aligns with the mission of the organization and is consistent with its conservation strategy.

The acquisition project team has the necessary expertise to complete this complex transaction. The land trust team has demonstrated a clear understanding and a breadth of experience at long-term management and stewardship of properties like this for conservation properties. The application clearly articulates the proposed stewardship costs and has a plan in place for developing and maintaining an adequate stewardship fund.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held on January 16, 2020 at the Madras City Hall with 20 people in attendance. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project. All notes taken by flipchart are included here:

Benefits

- Good idea to return water in-stream, although the numbers in the application are unclear (45 irrigated acres = 1 cfs, are there more acres?).
- Opportunity for preservation of an historic ranch house (1924). Will it be managed as an historic site?
- Great legacy for the Priday land.
- DLT will care for the land well and work with neighbors.
- Ecological benefits will impact Deschutes Basin.
- Opportunity to learn about wildlife in Central OR.
- Resources devoted to reclamation, including juniper removal and natural grass growth.
- The property could be a showcase if done right, like TNC's Zumwalt Prairie and their grazing program.
- Informing/educating public on benefits of grazing and rangeland management.

Concerns

- What is Warm Springs's interest in the land?
- Who pays for OWEB 3rd party enforcement?
- Government funds buying private property.
- What is the economic impact to County by eliminating agriculture on the property?
- What will happen with farm deferral? Will DLT pay taxes at higher rate?
- Fire: will DLT support RFPA and allow access for fire suppression? Will they keep fuel loads down without agriculture? Would like to see agriculture/grazing work toward fire goals.
- Maintenance of fences: What if fence destroyed by public access- who pays?
- If admin of property changes, will new admin continue to work with neighbors?
- How will encroachment be handled, particularly with respect to fences?
- Land use extending into neighboring properties; will there be pressure to do the same?
- Public access can lead to fire.
- Elk presence- it takes work and money to maintain fences.
- What will DLT do about introduced species of wildlife, including Audade goats (African Barbary Sheep) and Wild Pigs?
- Trout Creek goes dry, whether irrigation is employed or not. If water rights are transferred in-stream, it will be difficult for the watermaster to adjudicate. No data on flows, and no monitoring stations nearby.
- Will the 1,440-acre BLM grazing permit be retired? If transferred, who will pay for fence improvements? Was this value included in land price?
- DLT has not managed property this large. This will be significant increase over currently held properties.
- Home may not be occupied. Housing is limited. Out-of-town purchasers only use as a vacation home with no volunteer commitment to community.
- Balance of managing fish/wildlife and ranching. Need the benefits of both. Unmanaged land is not productive for wildlife, they will go to ranchland instead.
- Pine Creek Ranch was transferred to Warm Springs, was unmanaged, and wildlife has declined.
- Poaching is common on Priday land – who will we call to address it?
- Water in-stream is a detriment to ranching.
- There needs to be someone living on property.
- No grazing = more fire threat.
- DLT does not have capacity to fight fire.
- Loss of the ranch as an economic unit – it supported a family and hired hand. Once divided, it will not be an economic unit. An ag producer could have kept the property in economic use.

- Land parcel is large compared to small portion valuable for steelhead habitat.
- Medusahead has invaded; there is no wildlife benefit.
- Taking land off of tax rolls.
- Application is incomplete. Zoning and future land uses are big issues. The property contains potential unlawfully created parcels.
- Would like more clarity around existing land use regulations. More partnerships with agencies needed.
- There was inappropriate pressure from real estate broker to complete the transaction.
- Predator control: coyotes, cougars, deer survival; concern that three will be no management in future.
- Concern that all grazing will cease.
- This is not the future of agriculture.

SUMMARY

The project provides an opportunity to invest in permanent protection of one of the most productive steelhead tributaries to the Deschutes River. The property has a lengthy history hosting successful riparian restoration projects and is subject to ongoing monitoring of fish use. The uplands condition varies with some pockets dominated by invasives that will require management attention. There are some complex issues around boundary matters and land use approvals that appear to be resolvable within the due diligence period if resources are applied in a timely manner.

The property is situated in an area with a history of ranching and neighbors are concerned about a change in ownership from a ranching family to a land trust. These concerns include wildfire management, continuity of grazing as a dominant land use, maintaining fences, neighbor access for cattle management, and payment of property taxes. This is a significant change to the local community, some of whom view the change as a loss to the community's accustomed way of life. Given the DLT's history of managing properties, including ranches, it is likely that the land trust will establish relationships and management strategies that address neighbors' concerns, particularly regarding wildfire prevention, fence management, maintaining healthy grasslands, and access for neighbors to address roaming cattle or other land management issues.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommend the Board award $2,620,000 for the project, as revised to include the modified purchase structure, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with DLT to finalize project-specific conditions, which will be provided to the Board at its April 2020 meeting.

FALL 2019 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	220-9903		
Project Name:	GSG Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Blue Mountain Land Trust	**Region:**	Mid-Columbia
Basin:	John Day	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	$619,036	**Total Cost:**	$1,119,035

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 7 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 lands 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 Mid-Columbia summer steelhead and Chinook 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 2021.

With support from conservation partners, such as NRCS and ODFW, the landowners have worked to improve and restore agricultural lands and fish and wildlife habitat on the ranch. The landowners have immediate plans to continue to work on improving upland and riparian habitats through irrigation efficiency work, treatments of invasive weeds, juniper cutting, and forestry treatments. 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

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

This conservation easement will provide protection for 1,092 acres of sagebrush steppe, 301 acres of ponderosa pine woodland, 170 acres of freshwater emergent marsh, and 79 acres of lower riparian woodland/lowland riparian forest and shrubland.

There are potentially high ecological values associated with the riverine, floodplain and wetland habitat. These values are contingent on restoration being implemented along the main stem John Day River and Reynolds Creek, and on the associated uplands. ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, as well as Chinook will all benefit from the cold-water habitats those systems provide.

The project is consistent with OWEB's conservation principles and strategies identified in Oregon's fish and wildlife management and conservation plans for Mid-Columbia Steelhead, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, and Logan Valley-John Day Headwaters Oregon Conservation Strategy Opportunity Area species (bull trout, spring Chinook, cutthroat trout, redband trout, among others): protecting large, intact habitat areas, protecting sites with exceptional biodiversity values, improving habitat connectivity, and restoring habitat processes and function.

The landowner has a 60% design and funding in place for the first phase of riparian restoration, which includes the downstream 0.55 mile reach. Planned future restoration to improve both riparian vegetation and extensive reconnection with floodplains will help cold water inputs and aquatic resiliency in future climate shifts. Progress has been made on engaging the owner of land across the main stem John Day River where future restoration may be implemented; however, the application did not include written commitment to restoration, likely restoration costs, other participating landowners, implementation schedules, and funding status for this phase two work.

The landowners are working with rangeland consultants to create a comprehensive grazing plan that will address identified limiting factors in soil health and plant abundance and productivity. A key component in the plan is continued monitoring to assure upward trends in the landscape health are occurring. On the site visit, it was clear that efforts to restore the upland grass and timber lands have been initiated. Much of the overstocked timber ground was either already thinned or was flagged for future thinning with funds from NRCS and ODF. Medusahead and Ventenata treatments done last year using a granular herbicide showed promising results with perennial native grass and forbs emerging from a previous monoculture of annual invasive grasses. The application states that the grazing plan will include targeting early emerging annual grasses paired with plans for future aerial applications of the same granular herbicide; if followed, these actions are likely to improve long-term success of grassland restoration. The extensive shrub component observed on the site visit serves as an important winter food source for deer and elk as well as a myriad of other terrestrial wildlife, and the ecological benefits of maintaining connectivity between this large timber and grassland property with the other private and public holdings on either side was clear.

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. Property subdivision, development, and land use intensification would likely fragment and degrade habitat quality, complexity, and resiliency potential from current conditions.

The application states that the management plan will "balance agricultural and land uses with the protection of the existing and planned restoration efforts." While there is inevitably some balancing of uses on a working lands property, the use of OWEB funds requires that the primary purpose of a funded land acquisition is protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat. The management plan will need to ensure that its primary objectives align with the constitutional purpose of OWEB funds.

The previous application evaluation recommended that any revised application provide assurances that the proposed riverine restoration will be completed. The revised application does not appear to do that. If BMLT wishes to resubmit the application, it should consider whether to do the restoration first. Completion of the restoration before the purchase of the easement will help assure that the purchase of the easement will result in the conservation outcomes described in the application.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application describes several benefits to the community, including the long-term commitment to sustainable agriculture, the economic benefits from continued agricultural use, protecting large blocks of

habitat adjacent to locally used hunting grounds, preserving the viewshed of the Strawberry Wilderness, an important destination for the regional tourist economy, and the opportunity for the property to serve as an example of how to combine wildlife habitat conservation and restoration with active agriculture.

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

Reviewers determined that BMLT has made progress in addressing project soundness matters since previously submitting the application, including progress on title issues, communication with neighboring landowners, establishing benchmarks for monitoring grassland health, and integrating OWEB and NRCS easements on other projects. There are still a number of factors that could affect closing the transaction, including factors relative to the long-term outcomes of the proposed investment.

Soundness matters that would need to be addressed in OWEB's due diligence period include:

(i) title encumbrances that may hinder or limit the riverine restoration described in the application, depending on the details of the encumbrances such as their location;

(ii) concurrence from the neighboring landowner that the restoration described in the application and proposed for protection under the easement will be completed;

(iii) mineral reservations that third parties have indicated they will not release;

(iv) the need for all parties to agree that the conservation easement, current and future grazing leases, and management plan that will prioritize protection of the property's conservation values over agricultural activities and specify ecological goals that must be advanced by specific actions including grazing management actions that may change or limit agricultural operations on the property;

(v) revisions to the project's draft memorandum of understanding to include the landowner and establish roles and responsibilities for specific actions contained in the management plan;

(vi) obtaining the agreement of the landowner's mortgage holder to subordinate the mortgage to the conservation easement, or release the mortgage upon payment in full by the landowner at the time of the easement's purchase; and

(vii) confirmation that the landowner's current and anticipated uses of the property's water rights are consistent with the draft conservation easement and anticipated management plan for the property.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Blue Mountain Land Trust is a relatively new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. BMLT currently has two open acquisition grants with OWEB and is making satisfactory progress on both. It is a small organization, accredited since 2015, that recently expanded into Grant County to address a local need. BMLT has limited staff and financial resources, but the proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization.

The organization has gained significant understanding of OWEB and NRCS processes by working through other open projects and has the necessary staff expertise to complete the transaction. BMLT has also experienced several easement violations in recent years and has implemented new practices to improve communication between the land trust and landowners. BMLT is working with the appropriate partners, the Confederated Tribes of the Warms Springs Reservation and Life Energy LLC, to ensure successful riparian restoration and grazing management practices.

BMLT has developed a good working relationship with the landowner, which will help facilitate site management and stewardship. This relationship will be critical in the long-term management and stewardship of the site. BMLT has not yet demonstrated it has secured the funds necessary for long-term management and stewardship, this will be essential for the long-term success of this project.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held on January 13, 2020 at the Prairie City City Hall with 13 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

- Good opportunity for conservation on John Day River
- CE will help keep ranchers whole. Breaking up ranches ruins habitat.
- Fish benefits: cold water habitat for bull trout, lamprey, west slope cutthroat, Chinook and steelhead spawning habitat.
- High value fish habitat in the John Day basin.

Concerns

- Unclear what the restrictions are. If grazing is reduced, can't make a living on the property.
- Exclusion grazing in riparian may lead to over-grazing the upland.
- CE process is challenging; don't know the value until appraisal.
- Restoration plan inducing meanders may affect property boundaries; concern about flooding downstream.

SUMMARY

Since the previous application, the applicant has made significant progress addressing title issues, communicating with neighboring landowners, establishing benchmarks for monitoring grassland health, and integrating OWEB and NRCS easements on other projects. The potential for permanent protection of habitat of statewide significance, specifically ESA-listed steelhead habitat in the John Day River and Reynolds Creek is high. Given that the property includes frontage on only one side of the John Day River for the majority of its length, that restoration is likely to require changes to the river and floodplain on both sides of its current configuration, and that there is no written agreement on a restoration design with the adjacent landowner, or funding secured for restoration, OWEB investment in permanent protection of the property at this time is premature. The building blocks for success are in place and the applicant is encouraged to continue working to address the concerns noted in this evaluation. Sequencing restoration prior to land acquisition would improve the likelihood of success.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding the GSG Ranch conservation easement.

FALL 2019 OWEB GRANT OFFERING

LAND ACQUISITION APPLICATION

Application No.:	220-9905		
Project Name:	Morgan Resources Properties Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Blue Mountain Land Trust	**Region:**	Mid-Columbia
Basin:	John Day	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	$497,023	**Total Cost:**	$872,023

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION [PROVIDED BY THE APPLICANT]

Blue Mountain Land Trust proposes to acquire and monitor a Conservation Easement on Morgan Resources Properties, a 1042.43-acre cattle ranch parcel located 6 miles southeast of Prairie City in Grant County, Oregon. It lies in the Upper John Day Basin, and 2.6 miles of Reynolds Creek, an important spring fed cold-water tributary to the John Day River, flows through the property. Reynolds Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed Mid-Columbia River summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. Morgan Resources Properties is adjacent to the Malheur National Forest and two other private ranches, providing a large landscape for wildlife, including Rocky Mountain elk and mule deer winter range.

This property hosts a diversity of wildlife habitats in addition to Reynolds Creek, ranging from irrigated meadows in the lowlands, to sagebrush steppe and coniferous woodlands in the upland areas. The landowner is amenable to future restoration projects in partnership with Grant SWCD, NRCS, or the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, that would include fencing the riparian areas along Reynolds Creek, and removing juniper encroaching on the upland regions. As a working lands easement, ranching will continue under management plans designed to balance agricultural uses and protection of critical fish and wildlife habitat.

REVIEW

PROJECT SOUNDNESS

Soundness reviewers concluded that the proposed structure of the project does not assure protection and enhancement of conservation values in a manner that is consistent with OWEB's Lottery funded land acquisition program. Specifically: (i) there is not a clear commitment by the landowner to take actions to restore the property's conservation values; (ii) the project does not include a plan or funding for developing a holistic grazing plan to assist in recovering the property from grazing impacts and to aid in meeting the easement's ecological goals; (iii) the project does not include a plan or funding for periodic monitoring of the ecological conditions of the property, and therefore it would be difficult to determine whether the ecological goals of the conservation easement are being met over time; and (iv) it is not clear that the landowner understands that the conservation easement will require the protection of the conservation values over agricultural uses in the event of a conflict, and that this requirement may change or limit agricultural operations on the property.

In addition, the project's soundness challenges include but are not necessarily limited to: (i) numerous title exceptions including mineral reservations, ditch rights that may complicate the piping project described in the application, and a mortgage which the holder would need to agree to subordinate to the conservation easement or release upon payment in full by the landowner at the time of the easement's purchase; (ii) unclear vesting circumstances; (iii) unclear access and water rights circumstances; (iv) and the need for future grazing leases to be comprehensively written in a manner that clearly requires compliance with applicable terms and conditions of the conservation easement and management plan, including any necessary changes or reductions in grazing.

Any revised application should include: (i) additional information about specific actions planned to protect and restore the property's conservation values, including a management plan outline that includes fencing, restoration, and grazing management components; (ii) a plan for funding periodic monitoring of the property's ecological conditions in order to determine whether the conservation easement's ecological goals are being met; (iii) a proposal for funding the preparation of a holistic grazing plan; (iv) a draft cooperative agreement between the project partners, including the landowner, that describes the roles and responsibilities of the parties for specific restoration and management actions on the property; (v) a map of the access routes to the property and an analysis of the legal rights associated with the mapped roads and any risks to access posed by the potential closure of U.S. Forest Service roads; and (vi) a map and analysis of the property's water rights, accompanied documentation of the water rights.

ECOLOGICAL OUTCOMES

This conservation easement will provide protection for 1,042 acres, including 533 acres of sagebrush steppe, 472 acres of ponderosa pine woodland, and 22 acres of freshwater emergent marsh/riparian area. The riparian area has potentially significant conservation value and provides habitat for several priority fish species that utilize Reynolds Creek, including summer steelhead (ESA listed threatened), spring Chinook salmon (sensitive), bull trout (ESA listed threatened), westslope cutthroat trout (sensitive), redband trout (sensitive), and pacific lamprey (sensitive). The Reynolds Creek watershed is critical cold water spawning and rearing habitat for these focal fish species as well as providing connectivity and habitat to a host of terrestrial wildlife.

The property is contiguous with a downstream neighbor who is also pursuing a conservation easement that if funded, would expand the scope of protection to 2,684 acres of fish and wildlife habitat. This easement would also provide connectivity for wildlife with the adjacent national forest.

The property is located in a high priority area for restoration and protection within the Mid-C Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations, which identifies easements and acquisitions as a high priority recovery action for this Reynolds Creek Geographic area. The Mid-C bull trout recovery plan identifies actions to address habitat threats for Reynolds Creek and the Upper Mainstem John Day River Core Area. Those actions include restoring riparian cover, channel restoration and reducing grazing impacts. Several plans, including the Elk Management Plan (ODFW 2003), Mule Deer Management Plan (ODFW 2003), and Statewide Conservation Strategy (ODFW 2016), identify the Reynolds Creek watershed as important winter habitat for elk and mule deer, as well as other terrestrial wildlife.

Currently riparian and streambank conditions are fair to poor, and the application does not indicate a high probability that restoration will be accomplished, citing only that the landowner "is amenable to installing riparian fencing…" Further complicating potential restoration is that the landowner owns only one side of Reynolds Creek where the floodplain is widest and restoration potential is significant.

The condition of the upland is poor, with invasive annual grasses and juniper prevalent. The application describes rotational grazing as the only planned activity to restore a native grass ecosystem. Ecological reviewers indicate that this strategy is inadequate to improve the degraded condition of the range.

While there is inevitably some balancing of uses on a working lands property, the use of OWEB funds requires that the primary purpose of a funded land acquisition is protection and restoration of fish and wildlife habitat.

COMMUNITY BENEFITS AND IMPACTS

The application states that community benefits include: demonstrating that a ranch can remain viable both economically and ecologically to benefit local communities; preserving a large, connected landscape that preserves recreational opportunities, including hunting; and preserving the viewshed and open landscapes in proximity to the Strawberry Wilderness. Taken as a whole, these community benefits could be demonstrated through a successful conservation easement project in an area that has landowners expressing interest in easements. Currently, there are few examples of successful conservation easements locally.

ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Blue Mountain Land Trust is a relatively new applicant to OWEB's Acquisition grant program. It is a small organization, accredited since 2015, that recently expanded into Grant County to address a local need. BMLT has limited staff and financial resources, but the proposed conservation easement aligns well with the mission and geographic scope of the organization.

BMLT currently has two open acquisition grants with OWEB and is making satisfactory progress on both. The organization has gained significant understanding of OWEB and NRCS processes by working through other open projects and has the necessary staff expertise to complete the transaction. BMLT has also experienced several easement violations in recent years and has implemented new practices to improve communication between the land trust and landowners.

BMLT has developed a good working relationship with the landowner, which will help facilitate site management and stewardship. This relationship will be critical in the long-term management and stewardship of the site and to ensure that it is implementing its new practices to ensure for the long-term protection of the easement. BMLT has a plan for securing, from the landowner, the necessary stewardship funds for long-term management and stewardship; however, the estimated annual stewardship costs seem low and do not take into account ecological priorities of the site. The application indicates they will contract with natural resource professionals to assist with the land management and stewardship; however, no specific details were provided including what expertise is necessary to achieve the long-term ecological outcomes at the site.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A public hearing was held on January 13, 2020 at the Prairie City City Hall 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

- Fish Benefits- cold water habitat for bull trout, lamprey, west slope cutthroat, Chinook and steelhead spawning habitat.
- High value fish habitat in the John Day basin.
- Development threat is there; land not as valuable for grazing.
- CE will help keep ranchers whole. Breaking up ranches ruins habitat.
- Contiguous to other CE and National Forest.

Concerns

- Reynolds Creek is the property line; restoration would impact the boundary.
- Property is over-grazed.
- If riparian is not grazed, there is not much left to graze in the upland.

SUMMARY

The potential for high-value habitat restoration in a priority stream reach in the John Day basin is high at this location; however, the likelihood of attaining those benefits is low based on the information provided in the application. Specifically, the current habitat conditions of both the riparian and upland areas are degraded without a specific plan to restore them. The application does not indicate a specific pathway to develop and fund restoration, nor does it include an indication of landowner willingness to do so. Without firm plans in place, OWEB's investment is unlikely to provide commensurate ecological benefit.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the board award funding for the Morgan Resources Properties Conservation Easement.

220-9902-17343 Rainforest Reserve
Recommended Funding Conditions

Initial Funding Conditions:
The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.

B. Grantee provides OWEB with information about the adjacent property being acquired by Grantee, with the information to reasonably confirm: (i) that the purchase will be completed prior to OWEB's disbursement of purchase funds for the Property; (ii) that the property has sufficient value to satisfy OWEB's match requirement; and (iii) that the property will be permanently protected.

C. Grantee provides OWEB with copies of the purchase agreement and road assessment and maintenance analysis for review.

D. Grantee provides OWEB with written evidence that establishes that Grantee has a stewardship funding plan that will generate sufficient funds for long-term management of the OWEB funded and non-OWEB funded Rainforest Reserve properties.

E. Grantee provides OWEB with a spending plan for the due diligence contracted services Approved Budget line item that sufficiently addresses the Project's complexity and schedule.

F. Grantee maps and resolves oil, gas and mineral issues that affect the Property title, or provides OWEB with information that reasonably confirms Grantee's ability to resolve the issues to OWEB's full satisfaction within 18 months of the grant award.

G. Grantee provides OWEB with a preliminary title report or reports (PTR or PTRs), showing ownership of the Property vested in the entities named in the grant application, and maps (where possible) and analyzes the exceptions in the PTRs, including, as applicable, the following exceptions contained in the PTR submitted with the grant application: Exceptions 7, 9, 16-22, and 25-36. The analysis must clearly demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy will not materially affect Grantee's ability to achieve its ecological goals for the Property.

Secondary Funding Conditions
OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to, easements, road maintenance agreements and the warranty deed.

B. Grantee provides an explanation of how it will mark the Property's boundaries to prevent unintended trespass by adjacent timberland owners, and agrees to include the boundary

marking activities in the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement.

C. Grantee documents how remote portions of the Property that are not served by existing roads will be adequately accessed for stewardship activities.

D. If requested to do so by OWEB, Grantee agrees to grant OWEB an access easement across the adjacent property being acquired by Grantee to the Property for OWEB's conservation easement monitoring and enforcement purposes.

E. Grantee provides OWEB with sufficient evidence that Grantee will not be responsible for tax penalties, if any, that may result from changed uses of the Property. Said evidence could be a provision in the purchase agreement that makes the seller responsible for such penalties, if assessed.

F. Grantee works with the title company to prevent an "unrecorded leases" exception from being included in the title policy for the Property, using a seller affidavit, if needed, to satisfy this condition.

G. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:

   i. A detailed plan and schedule for forest health management actions, such as but not necessarily limited to thinning, if and where such management actions are necessary to accelerate the restoration of late-seral forest conditions;
   ii. A plan to monitor, maintain, and where feasible, decommission, the Property's roads in order to prevent erosion and other impacts to the Property's conservations values;
   iii. A plan for any recreational use of the Property, including:
      a. A commitment of staffing and funding necessary to inform and monitor recreational activities for the purpose of preventing impacts to the Property's conservation values;
      b. Grantee guidelines and protocols for restricting recreational access to the Property as necessary to protect the conservation values associated with the Property; and
      c. A communications plan for ensuring that the public is aware of the status of recreational use restrictions; and
   iv. A plan for addressing the legal rights of others to cross the Property (e.g., monitoring and enforcement of easement and maintenance agreement terms and conditions).

220-9909-17350 Trout Creek Preserve
Recommended Funding Conditions

Initial Funding Conditions
The following Initial Funding Conditions must be satisfied before OWEB will review due diligence items or reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above or the Secondary Funding Conditions below.

A. Grantee participates in regularly scheduled Project update meetings with OWEB staff.

B. Grantee provides OWEB with copies of new or amended purchase and sale agreement(s) that clearly define: (i) the location and acreage of the property being acquired; (ii) the key actions needed to complete the purchase, including land partitions and exchanges, if applicable; (iii) the purchase price and exchange value (if applicable); and (iv) the required form of deed(s).

C. Grantee provides another landowner acknowledgement form if additional sellers are intended to become involved in the project.

D. Grantee provides OWEB with a preliminary title report or reports (PTR or PTRs) for the parcels being acquired.

E. Grantee addresses the following certain exceptions that were included in the PTR submitted with the grant application, if those exceptions are expected to be included in a subsequent PTR for the property being acquired by Grantee (the "Property"):

   i. Grantee clearly maps (including reserved interest in the Priday deeds) and resolves the oil, gas and mineral interests affecting the Property, or provides OWEB with information that reasonably confirms Grantee's ability to achieve this outcome to OWEB's full satisfaction within 18 months of the grant award;

   ii. Grantee clearly maps and analyzes all other encumbrances affecting Property, with the mapped items to be easily relatable to specific PTR exceptions. Special attention is needed as to Exception 30 in the PTR submitted with the application; that exception appears to be a blanket easement affecting a large area of the Property. The analysis must demonstrate, to OWEB's satisfaction, that the encumbrances that are expected to remain in the title insurance policy will not materially affect Grantee's ability to achieve its ecological goals for the Property;

   iii. Grantee works with the title company to remove inapplicable or redundant exceptions from the PTR (e.g., Exception 8 appears to be addressed by Exception 14, and Exception 9 appears to be addressed by Exception 35); and

   iv. Grantee confirms that deeds of trust will be removed before or at closing and that no financing statements exist that will conflict with Grantee's intentions for the Property.

F. Grantee helps OWEB determine whether OWEB will incur tenant relocation obligations as a result of the Property purchase, and cooperates fully with OWEB if a determination is made that OWEB will be responsible for providing relocation assistance to a displaced tenant.

Secondary Funding Conditions

220-9909-17350 Trout Creek Preserve
Recommended Funding Conditions

OWEB will review due diligence items and reimburse costs associated with the standard funding conditions above and the following Secondary Funding Conditions only after Grantee has satisfied the Initial Funding Conditions above.

A. Grantee obtains OWEB's approval on all significant project documents prior to signature, including, but not limited to, plats, easements and warranty deeds.

B. Grantee provides: (i) documentation of the Property's water rights, including a map; (ii) confirmation that the rights are in good standing; and (iii) an explanation of Grantee's intention for the portion of the water rights that will not be transferred instream as described in the grant application.

C. Grantee provides an evaluation of the BLM inholdings on the Property, including a determination of the level of risk the inholdings pose to the protection of the Property. The evaluation must include consideration of BLM's rights to access the inholdings and authorize such access by third parties.

D. Grantee documents how remote portions of the Property that are not served by existing roads will be adequately accessed for stewardship activities.

E. Grantee confirms OWEB's rights of access to the Property for conservation easement monitoring and enforcement purposes, and revolves access deficiencies, if any, to OWEB's full satisfaction.

F. Grantee provides OWEB with sufficient evidence that Grantee will not be responsible for tax penalties, if any, that may result from changed uses of the Property. Said evidence could be a provision in the purchase agreement that makes the seller responsible for such penalties, if assessed.

G. Grantee agrees that the management plan required by OWEB's standard form conservation easement will include, but not be limited to, the following:

    i. Actions for establishing and maintaining channels of communication with neighbors, the local fire protection district, and other parties that may assist with, or be affected by, Grantee's management of the Property.

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Land Acquisitions

BMLT



We are generally supportive of efforts to conserve private lands and agricultural opportunities in Grant County. Our Board and members are familiar with conservation easements and their prior application in Grant County. Specifically, we are very supportive of the focus on properties that have long-term histories in cooperative conservation projects and proposed future investments in additional conservation measures. We also support the concept of constructing flexible management plans at the time of the easement and with allowances for future reasonable modification of the easement deeds as necessary.

However, we are very concerned with some of the details, or lack thereof, of these Projects[1]:

1) Prior large, land-interest acquisition projects like these have been actively and personally coordinated with local governments and the various, local landowner organizations through individual outreach and open public meetings. To our knowledge, this level of communication did not occur for these Projects. Rather, a few people received a highly impersonal "dear interested party" letter inviting them to a formalized "hearing". That type of notification can be intimidating to some local citizens unfamiliar with bureaucratic processes. To those who are veterans of the usual, *pro forma* "we are only telling you what we are going to do" meeting, they can indicate a "done deal" and, therefore, a waste of time.

   Unfortunately, OWEB's application contains no questions where the applicant must describe local coordination efforts or local government concurrence, in contrast to an entire section devoted to describing interaction with Tribal governments. The immediate reaction is, of course, that OWEB cares little for meaningful local coordination or that there is a presumption that agencies effectively represent local interests.

2) Blue Mountain Land Trust (BMLT) is a newcomer to our County and most of their visibility has been associated with so-called "progressive" organizations and initiatives (many of which have little support or are actively opposed by local landowners). This generates substantial concern as to BMLT's true objectives in Grant County and whether they are sincere in their professed support for agriculture and private property rights and how that will manifest itself on important, perpetual projects such as the proposed easements.

   a) The organizations and individuals listed as Project "supporters" are all beneficiaries or have a close and unique relationship to other Project participants. We could find no conflict of interest disclosures or benefit statements to determine the exact nature of the

[1] Even while recognizing that space within the Applications is limited and that OWEB did not require some of the information. Many of our concerns would have likely been addressed given an opportunity to hear directly from the Applicant and ask specific questions of details not captured in the documents provided.

"support", other than the financial benefit to the landowners. We also wonder if anyone other than direct beneficiaries were solicited for their opinions. Regardless, the lack of indicated support from others, such as agricultural organizations and local government is very troubling and should be a direct impediment to funding until remedied.

3) There appears to be less funding available for easements County-wide respective to demand. This suggests that funding allocations should focus on properties with outstandingly remarkable features that readily distinguish proposed projects from others. While the Applications highlight important Property features, they fail to identify what makes these properties so unique or special that they warrant atypical attention and funding. From our view, the Properties are much like surrounding ranches if not very similar to most properties in the John Day valley of similar configuration.

    i) We are particularly concerned with how these opportunities were selected and how they rank against other properties for which conservation easement opportunities are immediately available, two of which come immediately to mind—one containing the very origin of the Middle Fork John Day and another that would be the third ranch protected with an easement out of only seven private holding that contain the entire the Aldrich Front range? In other words, were these properties identified through consultation with local entities or are they merely opportunities that presented themselves, perhaps, again, identified by Project endorsers who are also beneficiaries? That's not to suggest that the Properties are unimportant or unworthy of this level of conservation, only that the Application is serious deficient in conveying why they actually the highest priorities compared with other properties or disclosing how they were identified?

    Even some of the property highlights that were identifed are largely irrelevant without assessing them relative to other properties or the overall landscape. For example, the application claims that the GSG property contains '7 Oregon Conservation Strategy habitats', "indicative of its exceptional biodiversity values"; how does that compare to all the other ranches in the area or the adjoining, existing and extensive public land?

    Our personal experience, in these highly competitive grant environments, is that applicants learn that they must characterize every project as "the best", at least until their next project. Not everything is the best, however, and it's unfortunate that often this method of overselling frequently leads to under-delivery of results.

    ii) We found little in the Applications related to the Projects that addressed critical limiting factors of resource (e.g., fish and wildlife) production, even though, again, it described some Property features. Given the precarious nature of certain, important species (such as summer steelhead and mule deer), we expected to see a clear relationship between the proposed conservation method and how it addressed production limitations rather than general statements that the future conservation measures should improve production.

4) The prior review of application 218-9902 (fall 2018) identified specific "soundness challenges" that required resolution? We compared the two versions of the GSG applications and could not find where many of those deficiencies were corrected, excepting

that conservation was prioritized over agriculture[2], and particularly where the considerations for submitting a revised application were addressed.

For example, we couldn't identify how the Project committed[3], in anything but a general sense, to future conservation improvements or actual continuation of agricultural activities. If those types of commitments are outside the deed, we expected that to be disclosed. Additionally, we are very troubled with BMLT's approach to resolving the split mineral estate, even though we understand the remoteness aspect. Conducting "extensive legal research into potential barriers to mineral extraction, should a third-party mineral right not be returned to the holder" is clearly threatening and hostile and is inconsistent with how other local organizations successfully deal with our community. Frankly, we are disturbed with BMLT's approach, which may have a decidedly chilling effect on others wanting to work with their organization.

5) The Applications frequently use absolute phrasing (e.g., "will" rather than "may" or "might") to present certain important conclusions, some of which are unbelievably broad, and other assumptions are recited as if they are readily accepted as fact (e.g., prioritizing "protection" over agriculture will contribute to the local economy). Where assumptions are a shortcut around evaluations that may be reasonably conducted or that are critically important to comprehending the Projects, especially the purpose and need, they should be required. In fact, we don't understand how Project funding or even support is warranted without specific analysis that directly supports the conclusions, particularly where they are foundational to the Project. For example:

   a) Realistically, the entire project turns on the susceptibility of the Properties to development and especially development that threatens or impairs Property resources or the (unnamed) conservation values. BMLT claims that the Properties are threatened and that their proposed Projects will eliminate those threats as well as provide specific enhancements, yet they present nothing to support those statements even where data is readily available and the local community has consistently expressed interest in understand those issues (e.g., threats to agriculture and open space development).

   b) Lacking appropriate and reasonably obtained information and analysis, it is impossible to determine whether:

      i) a narrower and less expensive easement, would accomplish the Project goals, address the identified issues, and allow for essential conservation across a larger landscape;

      ii) subdivision threats are real and imminent;

      iii) that there is a real likelihood that conservation improvements "remain vulnerable to future development and fragmentation" even Property infrastructure improvements (e.g., riparian fencing, irrigation piping, etc.) where over 40 years of local conservation demonstrates the remoteness of that occurrence;

      iv) resources are inadequately protected by current land tenure or that another type of project isn't better suited to meeting a "sub" objective (e.g., a term riparian easement or a multi-year conservation improvement contract).

---

[2] Which we find both intriguing and troubling given that the Easements are touted as "agricultural" or "working lands" easements, intended to "balance" agriculture and other resource protection.

[3] Of course, the Easement doesn't "prohibit" those activities, but that is not synonymous with a "commitment". Perhaps the other conservation activities are already contracted and funded or the agricultural lease with the neighbor covers multiple years and is renewable?

BMLT has, unfortunately, missed an important opportunity to disclose to the public what is happening to agricultural lands in the County, what is likely to happen in the future without dedicated conservation measures and to draw specific conclusions between actions today and desired future landscape conditions. Lacking that and other analysis, we do not concur with their conclusion that these Project are important demonstrations to other landowners considering similar activities.

6) There are other conclusions that we question based on local knowledge or that could have been evaluated with other data. For example:

   a) the statement that Reynolds Creek is the only mainstem tributary spawning habitat for Chinook seems inaccurate given there is known spawning Canyon Creek and the South Fork;

   b) "protecting" an investment in prior conservation projects is substantially different than funding a project to protect successful prior conservation projects. We have very good data from a very long history of conservation projects in Grant County (including from 27,000 acres of prior conservation easements). At this point we should be able to make some firm conclusions regarding these projects rather than general assumptions;

   c) Part of the long history of conservation is the particular aspects that made the early John Day conservation program so successful on so many levels. However, since the immigration of dozens of agencies and non-profit corporations to the John Day, their active participation and the use of their own "solutions" to our problems, some of our key species have taken a remarkable turnabout from recovery to decline. How this "fix" avoids contributing to that problem seems important;

   d) we question the conclusion that "successful agriculture...relies on healthy landscapes and ecosystems across land uses" and wonder how it was developed?

7) We have remaining questions related to specific commitments in the easement, such as:

   a) why violations aren't assessed as to whether there was an actual impact on a particular resource or conservation value? We recognize the consultation opportunity in the deed respective to easement violations and wonder whether that process is also used to determine whether a violation is actually meaningful to resources?

   b) most of the Projects' success (e.g., perpetuation of agriculture, protection of prior conservation investments, etc.) seems to be built upon management plans not currently available. Although the opportunity for future accomplishments seems clear, we cannot determine whether the predicted outcomes will be actually accomplished or whether they just might be.

   c) we do not understand how removing land from the agricultural base, subordinating agricultural to other resources, failing to commit to future agricultural uses, and other similar conflicting dedications be construed and represented as benefits to agriculture or the local economy, as the Applications assert. Clearly the easement is being touted as for the benefit of agriculture and one-half of the funding is stated as coming from an agricultural agency[4] under an agricultural program, but the relationship of agricultural uses to achievement of conservation outcomes or the commitment to perpetuation is incongruous to the easement. Given how the easement is being marketed, we expected

[4] The GSG application claims that funding has already been secured although NRCS states that the project has not yet been reviewed.

to see specific agricultural commitments being made to achieve specific ecological outcomes (e.g., winter grazing to reduce annual grass production).

d) whether there is "no known community opposition" because it wasn't looked for or that the concerns expressed were resolved or dismissed. The local community is well aware of projects being approved on the promise that issues will be resolved down the road, but that never are once funding is allocated (and the incentive to do so is gone).

e) what are properties previously encumbered by conservation easements selling for elsewhere on the open market? Applying a theoretical diminishment formula in a hypothetical situation to determine fair market value is substantially different from understanding what actually happens in the true market. Certainly, given the lengthy history of conservation easement applications, the communication and conformity in the land trust industry, and the ready transfer and availability of electronic data some information must be available that would be helpful to understand the true financial value of conservation easements.

f) we do not support the condition that activities will be prohibited that are inconsistent with the easement "purpose" (CE page 4) rather than prohibited if inconsistent with the Permitted Activities.

g) we contend that at this point in the Projects that the conservation values (CE, page 4) should be understood and can be described and, again, we are concerned that most of the Project's achievement is based on future conditions developed from future projects contained in future plans assessed in other documents not available, etc. etc.

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Land Acquisitions

Rainforest Reserve

Public Hearing Comment Form

OWEB

Name Debra Birkby

Mailing Address 79829 Gullinsky Rd A.C. 97102 Email birkby@charter.net

Benefits to Community Protection of community drinking water as a continued reliable source of drinking water.

Rebuild of fish species numbers as they were 56 yrs ago when my family bought land

Protection from aerial spraying typically used by Corporate Logging companies as a management style. Small local job market for timber thinning and management.

Potential for preferred timber management that stands to improve visual look of this one mile stretch along Highway 101's Federal Scenic byway designation.

Challenges to Community Super small population to try to raise acquisition funds for this important project. Combined funding from multiple agencies will be tantamount to success for the NCLC and Arch Cape Water District plans.

Other Things the OWEB Board Should Know NCLC has been stalwart partner in conservation throughout Clatsop County for many years. I had connection with NCLC's projects as a Clatsop Co. commissioner and all their projects were positive impacts for countywide ideas and long term perpetuity status.

SUZANNE BONAMICI
1ST DISTRICT, OREGON

2231 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: 202-225-5860
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12725 SW MILLIKAN WAY, SUITE 220
BEAVERTON, OR 97005
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FAX: 503-469-6019

http://Bonamici.house.gov

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3701

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND LABOR
SUBCOMMITTEES:
CIVIL RIGHTS AND HUMAN SERVICES, CHAIR
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
ENVIRONMENT
INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT

Received By
OWEB
OCT 21 2019

220-9902-17343

Meta Loftsgaarden
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem OR 97301

October 17, 2019

Dear Ms. Loftsgaarden,

I write in support of North Coast Land Conservancy's application for an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board acquisitions program grant for $2 million to create the Rainforest Reserve and protect this unique area for the benefit of the community and the local ecosystem.

Conservation of this pristine area will produce many benefits for our communities, which rely on the forest for clean drinking water, tourism jobs, and outdoor recreation. Protecting these 3,500 acres will also profoundly benefit the ecosystem, which includes diverse and unique birds, fish, insects, plants, and wildlife, some of which are found nowhere else on earth. With connectivity to Oswald West State Park and the Cape Falcon Marine Reserve, preservation of this forested watershed has the potential to unite an entire landscape from mountain to sea.

In this era of climate crisis, it's more important than ever that we are strategic and thoughtful with our conservation investments. It is extremely rare to have an opportunity to preserve an entire ecosystem, but that is exactly what North Coast Land Conservancy and the community can accomplish by creating the Rainforest Reserve. OWEB's support can allow this landmark project to come close to achieving its fundraising goals.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting and restoring watersheds in Oregon, and for giving this application your full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Bonamici

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

Public Hearing Comment Form

OWEB

Name John Merserean

Mailing Address _____ Email metsereau@charter.net

Benefits to Community Providing a healthy, long term, forest with all its benefits of clean water, public access for recreation, protection of wildlife, resiliancy in light of climate change, potential for local jobs w/forest maintanance like thinning projects. Other benefits to community of tourism imbedded with recreation.

Challenges to Community Access issues to this property long term, should it become a popular area to recreate. The egust is becoming aware of the issues connected with the increase of tourism — this applies to much of the state. In reality, this property has always had public access (no motor vehicles) & to date has not been an issue.

Other Things the OWEB Board Should Know As a forty five year resident of Arch Cape, I believe the community is very excited about this project in their back yard, especially the clean water component & other health benefits. There is also a great trust that the NCLC is well positioned to steward this land us to perpetuity — they have an excellent track record in the community.

Public Hearing Comment Form

OWEB

Name Daniel J. Seifer

Mailing Address 79916 Cannon Rd, Arch Cape 97102 Email daniel.j.seifer@gmail.com

Benefits to Community

Maintenance and restoration of watersheds, particularly including that which is the source of drinking water for the Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District immediately adjacent to and below the lands subject to this application, and habitat for native fish and wildlife, some of which are absolutely unique to the lands subject to this application.

These will benefit this community's water source, provide local jobs, enhance its primary industry (tourism), allow new recreational opportunities, and complement the prospective Arch Cape Community Forest immediately adjacent.

Challenges to Community As with all of Oregon, the North Coast is threatened with excessive development and degradation of its climate, forests, wildlife, scenic beauty, and water quality and safety.

Other Things the OWEB Board Should Know The Arch Cape Domestic Water Supply District is partnered with the applicant to attempt to maintain and restore its immediately adjacent forested watershed.

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Land Acquisitions

Sycan River

Klamath Basin
Audubon Society

Representative: Eric Williams
Grant Program Manager, OWEB
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290

January 24, 2020

Subject: Grant Application No. 220-9907-17348 to the Klamath Lake Land Trust for purchase of approximately 785 acres on the Sycan River, in Klamath County.

Dear Mr. Williams/OWEB:

The Klamath Basin Audubon Society strongly endorses this proposed addition to this preserve along the Sycan River. It will add a significant amount of needed land to protect the integrity of this unusual and diverse area in SE Oregon. It is located on the eastern end of Knott Tableland, a high elevation, open area of extreme temperatures and moisture. It once had Sage Grouse and still has intact habitat for them. It is still is visited by Pronghorn Antelope and other open land species. Plants of harsh conditions, vernal pools, and sunbaked flats, many that are not common elsewhere, find their niche there.

The most dramatic feature is the very narrow and deep canyon, locally called Coyote Bucket, that comes in from the north slices across the Tableland. As one approaches from the very flat Tableland, the canyon constitutes another very sharp contrast to the Tableland and its surrounding forests and mountains.

The Sycan River, starting at the north end of the property where it abuts Fremont National Forest, is a designated National Wild and Scenic River, most of which is within the National Forest. The watershed is large and wild with a remnant population of the threatened Bull Trout, and is a spawning area for the very large and highly migratory Upper Klamath Lake and Williamson River Redband Trout.

With all of its components, the preserve will be a very diverse jewel with flowing waters to extremely dry uplands. It includes a wide range of flora and fauna that inhabit habitat types such as sage steppe, canyon cliffs and talus slopes, mature ponderosa pine, aspen groves, wet meadows and other wetlands, flowing water and tributary streams with their various riparian habitats.

The acquisition helps make the area a much more defendable, viable, and valuable preserve. It becomes more of a whole unit, is mutually enhanced with the adjoining National Forest and Wild River providing an extended corridor and connectivity for the native flora and fauna. We encourage your needed assistance for this acquisition.

Most sincerely yours,

Marshal A. Moser, Jr., C.W.B
Certified Wildlife Biologist
Conservation Chair, Klamath Basin Audubon Society

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Land Acquisitions

Trout Creek

January 15, 2020

TO: Eric Williams-OWEB and Wasco and Jefferson County Commissioners
FROM: Annan Priday-email:p92jams@gmail.com

The proposed Deschutes Land Trust/Priday Ranch transaction arose from a desire by my wife and myself to retire from ranching after managing the ranch since 1980. We approached or were approached by several neighboring ranches about purchasing the property but they were not interested due to being difficult to manage the small fields irrigated from a seasonally limited water source and the steep terrain. We chose to accept the offer by Deschutes Land Trust and feel they have the best ideas on keeping the parcel as one unit and their goals for fishery management are in keeping with efforts that we have been making since the mid 1980's to improve the riparian areas, fish habitat and stream flows.

Our sale consists of two parts - one to the DLT and the other to a young ranching family we have chosen and helped make it possible for them to start a base for their ranching operation. We feel they will be a great asset to the community, provide assistance with community needs such as wildfires and emergencies and bring some younger blood to an aging occupation.

This property has three streams that help support steelhead spawning and rearing and has become important in the efforts at steelhead recovery in the Deschutes basin. Traditional irrigation practices and other factors have resulted in much of Trout Creek being dry from mid July until late winter moisture arrives. We shortened our irrigation season in an attempt to keep water in our portion of the creek and as a result were limited to only 1.5 cuttings of hay each season. If irrigation was cut further or eliminated on this property I believe this portion of Trout Creek would have water almost year around.

Other than the stream areas and adjacent farmland (150-200 acres) this property is steep and rugged with very little or no water in the higher areas. The terrain makes it extremely difficult to achieve controlled grazing and some of the steep hillsides have not been grazed for years due to an almost 45% slope. We have traditionally grazed this portion of the ranch during April and May, have used the small flatter areas for winter feeding of hay from January through March and the rest of the year the cattle were moved to other property.

There are many areas around the county and state that have much better potential for livestock grazing and ag production but there are very few that have this quality of habitat and potential for steelhead production. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annan Priday

Annan Priday

Received By
OWEB
FEB 11 2019

DESCHUTES REDBANDS
TROUT UNLIMITED CHAPTER

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290

February 7, 2020

SUBJECT: SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST'S GRANT APPLICATION – TROUT CREEK

Dear Mr. Williams:

The Deschutes Redbands Chapter of Trout Unlimited is writing in strong support of the Deschutes Land Trust's grant application for acquisition and preservation of an absolutely critical section of the Trout Creek corridor within the Priday Ranch. This includes 11 miles of very high value Deschutes River steelhead spawning habitat that must be protected. The availability of this property presents a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that should not be missed.

Trout Unlimited is all about preservation of cold water fisheries. Our Deschutes Redbands Chapter has 634 members most of whom live within the Deschutes Basin. The vast majority of our members routinely fish the lower Deschutes for a chance at landing (and releasing) steelhead trout. This fishery is in trouble for many reasons, but a major factor is the degradation of key spawning areas and none is more critical than Trout Creek. The proposed property acquisition would include just under 9 square miles of tributary area which includes 154 acres with water rights. The ability to redirect this water right in-stream while re-establishing a viable riparian zone would be a huge step toward rebuilding the Trout Creek spawning grounds and ultimately the Deschutes fishery. Returning this fishery and watershed to its former "blue ribbon" status will produce significant economic and recreational benefits to the region which fits squarely within OWEB's mission.

We hope that OWEB will give the Deschutes Land Trust's grant application a very favorable review. This property needs to be protected and the Deschutes fishery restored. Please do not miss this chance.

Sincerely,

Shaun Pigott, President
Deschutes Redbands Chapter - Trout Unlimited

C. E. "WIN" FRANCIS
915 NW Gasoline Alley
Bend, OR 97703-2797
winfrancis@yahoo.com
541-323-0323 (office)
541-410-9747 (cell)

January 15, 2020

Eric Williams
Grant Program Manager
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street, NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290

eric.williams@oregon.gov

Re: Grant Application 220-9909-17350

Dear Mr. Williams:

I am sending this letter in support of the Deschutes Land Trust acquisition for protection of the Priday Ranch consisting of approximately 5,700 acres on Trout Creek.

Five generations of my family have fished, floated, hiked, camped, bird watched, and enjoyed the Deschutes River between Warm Springs and Maupin and occasionally to the mouth. All members of my family fish. However, I have not fished for Steelhead for the past two years due to the declining runs. My thinking is that as an individual I need to do as much as possible to enhance the Steelhead fishery, which means not partaking in the fishery until the runs are restored.

My understanding is that Trout Creek is the major producer of Steelhead in the Deschutes River. One of the main reasons is its size and amount of water.

Eagle Creek, which I have hiked many times, produces Steelhead some years when there is sufficient water. A real issue of the Lower Deschutes River is lack of water. My understanding is that the Land Trust's acquisition of the Priday Ranch has the potential to increase one additional cubic foot of water per second in Trout Creek. That, in my view, is crucially important.

Aside from the fish, the wildlife in the canyon is tremendous. Deer, sheep, upland birds, waterfowl, song birds, etcetera. The more water and the more riparian habitat, the more wildlife of all types.

Since I attended high school in Oregon, the population of Oregon has more than doubled increasing the pressure on our open spaces. Wildlife has decreased due to the population increase. It is vitally important to protect and preserve Oregon's wildlife and open spaces.

Another issue is wildlife grazing. I hiked and fished in the Lower Deschutes before the cattle were fenced off from the river area. The cattle completely pound the stream side vegetation. The grass is no longer there, there are no birds and forbs are not there. There is dust and erosion. Removing or restricting the livestock from the Priday Ranch would enhance the water quality of the river.

In closing, I support the application for the Trout Creek preserve referenced above by the Deschutes Land Trust and strongly encourage you to authorize the grant.

C. E. "Win" FRANCIS

CEF/grs

cc: Brad Chalfant *(via email)*

From: OWEB GrantProgram * OWEB
To: HARTSTEIN Eric * OWEB
Subject: FW: A letter supporting THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST'S TROUT CREEK application
Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:46:47 PM

For you-

Katy Gunville - CPM
Manager, Administrative Services
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE, Ste.360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
503-986-0058
503-986-0199
5 katy.gunville@oregon.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Stu Garrett <garrett@bendcable.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 19, 2020 1:25 PM
To: OWEB GrantProgram * OWEB <GrantProgram.OWEB@oregon.gov>
Subject: A letter supporting THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST'S TROUT CREEK application

A letter supporting THE DESCHUTES LAND TRUST'S TROUT CREEK application

Feb 19,2020

Dear OWEB Grant Review Team:

I am writing a letter as a member of the Native Plant Society Oregon and a trout and steelhead fisherman in strong support of the Deschutes Land Trust's application for acquisition and preservation of an important section of the Trout Creek corridor within the Priday Ranch. This includes over 10 miles of important Deschutes River steelhead spawning habitat that needs protection. The availability of this property presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. This fishery is in trouble for many reasons, but a major factor is the degradation of key spawning areas and none is more critical than Trout Creek. The Native Plant Society has supported restoration of the Trout, Antelope, and Ward Creek tributaries over time. The proposed property acquisition would include just under 9 square miles of tributary area which includes 154 acres with water rights. The ability to redirect this water in-stream while re-establishing a functioning riparian zone would be a huge step toward rebuilding the Trout Creek spawning grounds, the Deschutes fishery, and the native vegetation and the numerous species it supports. Returning this fishery and watershed to its former "blue ribbon" status will produce significant economic and recreational benefits to the region which fits squarely within OWEB's mission.

We hope that OWEB will give the Deschutes Land Trust's application a favorable review. This property needs to be protected, the riparian vegetation enhanced, and the Deschutes fishery restored.

Sincerely,

Stuart Garrett, MD

garrett@bendcable.com
Bend, Oregon

Received by
OWEB

JAN 15 2019

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301

January 13, 2020

Re: Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350

Dear Mr. Williams,

I am writing in support of this Grant Application by the Deschutes Land Trust which would make possible the purchase and permanent protection of the 5,680 acre Friday Ranch on Trout Creek in Central Oregon. I would cite two reasons why I am in support. First, as long time fishers on the Deschutes River, my wife and I are all too aware of a deterioration of the steelhead fishery in recent years. Protection of the Trout Creek spawning habitat would be a positive step in returning this fishery to its former self. Second, the Deschutes Land Trust has a solid record of responsible stewardship of watersheds important to the Deschutes. I am confident they would bring their same, considerable talents to managing the Friday Ranch property.

Sincerely yours,

John Gray

From:	Malek Hall
To:	WILLIAMS Eric * OWEB
Subject:	Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350
Date:	Friday, January 17, 2020 9:18:42 AM

Please support the Deschutes Land Trust purchase of Priday Ranch in the Trout Creek Watershed.

Thank you,

Malek Hall

3310 NW Franklin Ct.
PDX, OR 97210

From:	Hoffman Harvey
To:	WILLIAMS Eric * OWEB
Cc:	bsc@deschuteslandtrust.org
Subject:	Priday Ranch
Date:	Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:40:48 PM

Eric,

I would like to add my voice in support of creation of the Trout Creek Preserve through the Deschutes Land Trust purchase of 5680 acres of the Priday Ranch near Willowdale, Oregon. The project would help protect and restore native wildlife and improve downstream water quality of this important tributary to the Deschutes River. The Deschutes is heavily impacted by runoff from livestock production and agricultural fertilizer use primarily originating in the Crooked River drainage; addition of this preserve could help mitigate those impacts to some extent.

Thank you for including my comments in the January 17 OWEB hearing at Madras City Hall.

Frank Hoffman
Madras, OR

Jody Holmes
8401 NE Trout Creek Road
Ashwood, Oregon 97711

Received By
OWEB
APR 0 9 2020

April 5, 2020

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
503-986-0047
Eric.williams@oregon.gov

Dear Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board,

My name is Jody Holmes, and I am property owner and rancher on the 27 Bar Ranch, which is adjacent to the Priday Ranch where the Deschutes Land Trust (DLT) is proposing to acquire the property through the help of an OWEB Land Acquisition Grant in order to create the Trout Creek Preserve. Our ranch lies just up the Canyon from the Priday property. Pridays own 6.2 miles of Trout Creek, of which roughly 2.3 miles are within the tight Degner Canyon cliff constraints, and 3.9 miles are surrounded by farming fields. My family owns approximately 6 miles of Degner Canyon. When I was middle-school-aged, I lived up the canyon on the Priday property for several years as my Step-father worked for Annan Priday on the ranch.

I have met with Deschutes Land Trust and their staff twice, once on the property and once here in Madras, to discuss concerns about their project proposal, and although I am hopeful about the direction our discussions have moved towards, I am disturbed about what they have written in their OWEB grant proposal, and have grave concerns about the projects stated need.

The proposed Preserve has a stated need to protect this land from the threats of wind or solar development, agriculture infrastructure, livestock grazing, and land fragmentation, mainly for the benefit of threatened steelhead habitat in and alongside Trout Creek. However, these threats are exaggerated to artificially create a need for the purchase and funding.

There are no Wind or Solar developments in the Willowdale or Antelope/Ashwood areas, and this land is unlikely to be selected for development due to the lack of ground that is generally flat terrain, and easily accessed through existing roads.

Agricultural infrastructure has already been minimized along this stretch of creek through the CREP program and changing water withdrawal points. In fact, the creek's primary floodplain has been restored, replanted, and protected through fencing and exclusion of livestock.

would have considered a lessor offer from a family member who was still interested in continuing the property as a ranch. Perhaps the DLT will change their mind and decide to allow an economic use of the land for leased livestock grazing, agricultural hay production, rental of the home on the property, and leased hunting rights, but without a developed management plan, it has been unclear as to what the future of the property will look like.

In addition to the private property in this purchase, also included in this purchase price is a grazing permit for the J. Friday Allotment, #500, which includes approximately 1,440 acres of BLM owned ground. It is unclear whether this allotment will be relinquished to the BLM due to non-grazing use by DLT, or if it will be sold (it has already been asked of the neighbors if they wish to purchase it), or if due to access, grazing use of the land will be retired. At a minimum, the value of this grazing permit should be separated from the value of the private property purchase, and this portion of the purchase should not be eligible for reimbursement for a grant.

Although the grant application touts the extensive stream restoration that has been done on this ranch, I could only find 1.61 miles of stream restoration on Trout Creek funded in 2006, and a second project of 1.8 miles funded in 2007 by the Patton Round Butte Fund, for a total of 3.41 miles of restoration. The DLT writes that the "Riparian and stream conditions are generally excellent thanks to the work of ODFW and the Jefferson County SWCD," "over the past two decades." I would attest that riparian conditions are excellent due to the management of the Ranch by Amos Friday, and his willingness to protect the streamside habitat through management practices, and cooperating with agencies. This history of management goes much further back than the last 20 years, as I remember planting willows along Trout Creek in the area with my youth 4-H club in the 1980s and 1990s. In fact, many ranchers along Trout Creek strive to protect and preserve riparian habitat and have a proven history of endangered species protection.

The land trust model of purchasing property and locking it up to protect it, does not work in todays environment of invasive species and changing climates. A February 2009 paper published by the Nature Conservancy on the Lawrence Memorial Grasslands Preserve, just north of the Friday ranch, details that since 1993 to 2008, vegetation within the preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy has decreased in native forbs and a native grass species, but that the annual invasive grass, Medusahead, has increased. This change has occurred with the exclusion of livestock grazing, with the management style of locking it up and doing nothing. DLT's grant application references the Lawrence Memorial Grassland as an example of an "ecological outcome" that they will strive to complement, however, The Nature Conservancy's own studies have shown that their management has not been successful to create an ecological outcome that should be emulated.

Deschutes Land Trust does not have a thoughtfully developed plan for what they will do with this property, and how they will manage it, which is easily illustrated by

their Director, Brad Nye, not being aware of what was written in their OWEB grant application proposal about the management plan for the property. They have also contradicted what is in their OWEB proposal in public meetings, seemingly changing course in mid-stream. Frequent and contradictory changes in their vision for this property will not provide stability to the steelhead specie and the important land values they purport to need to protect. Deschutes Land Trust does not have a history of managing a property of this size, and frankly, they do not have the experience to do it well. A full-time staff person is needed to care for a property of this size, just for maintenance of the status-quo. This also does not address weed management or improvement, property maintenance of buildings, fencing, roads, and management of trespassers.

Although their intentions are well-meaning, their experience and ability to manage land in this ecosystem is lacking. Reject this OWEB Grant Application and send it back to the Deschutes Land Trust so that they may learn what ownership of a landscape of this scale entails, and give them time to figure out what they are going to do. Let them determine what portion of this land actually needs protection and preservation, parcel off the pieces that are superfluous, and return with a management plan that merits an investment of this scale by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. A conservation easement is forever, and should only be used with careful forethought and planning, on lands that actually merit protection.

Sincerely,

Jody Holmes

Jody Holmes

JEFFERSON COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

85 S.E. "D" Street, Madras, Oregon 97741 Phone: (541) 475-4462 FAX: (541) 325-5004

Est. 1914

April 6, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290

Re: Public Hearing Notice for OWEB Land Acquisition Grant Program Concerning Approximately 5,680 Acres in Jefferson County Oregon – Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350.

Dear Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above described application in Jefferson County, Oregon.

The following comments are intended to add clarity to information supplied at the public hearing. Jefferson County Community Development Department staff reviewed the application information and listened to the public meeting presentation and have the following comments.

This letter is intended to improve communication about the request and what is required by Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board per ORS 197.180(1)(a.)(b.).

1) 5,680 acres of the land mentioned in the application is in Jefferson County, Oregon and has a Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Designation of Rangeland and has a Jefferson County Zoning Designation of Rangeland. In accordance with Section 301.10(C) of the Jefferson County Zoning Ordinance, the land has been established to recognize and preserve areas containing predominantly non-irrigated agricultural soils which are being used, or have the capability of being used, for livestock grazing. Page 5 of the application shows "Threats and opportunities that will be addressed by the acquisition" which states "ceasing livestock grazing", which can mean that there will be a negative effect on livestock grazing.

2) The property is about 1 mile from Highway 97 making highway access feasible for livestock grazing operations.

3) As found on National Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) Community Panel Number 410101 0100 B from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the land has an NFIP designated floodplain that runs thru the property which is mapped as Zone A. The location of the 100 year floodplain generally follows Trout Creek and a tributary. Please see the FIRM Maps for more details which is available at the Jefferson County Community

Development Department. In accordance with Section 316 of the Jefferson County Zoning Ordinance, any work within the NFIP floodplain requires approval by the Jefferson County Community Development Department and may, depending on the amount of work that is done require a Letter of Map Revision from FEMA. Jefferson County mentions this because the application mentions on Page 2 that a significant amount of work is planned to be done within the river bed area. Please see Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 60.3 for details.

4) Page 5 of the application indicates that it will provide critical habitat protection for Golden Eagles. Jefferson County is required to assess needed protection of Golden Eagle Habitat under Oregon Statewide Planning Goal 5 which includes creating an inventory of sites that are required to be protected. There are no Goal 5 Golden Eagle Sites listed in the Jefferson County Goal 5 Inventory that need protection or protection of habitat, so CDD is not sure why this is mentioned.

5) On Page 2 of the application it indicates that there are 154 acres of water rights that are being considered for transfer. Please note that Page 15 of the Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan Policy 2 - Policy 2.1 states:

Policy 2: Recognize the importance of irrigation for crop production.

2.1 If possible, require that agricultural water rights be transferred to other agricultural land if irrigated land is developed for non-agricultural use.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

If you have any questions please contact me: 541 ; 475-4452

Cordially,

Phil

Phil Stenbeck, CFM
Jefferson County
Community Development Director

c: [redacted]

From:	Steve Kramer
To:	WILLIAMS Eric * OWEB
Subject:	OWEB Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350 (Deschutes Land Trust)
Date:	Tuesday, April 7, 2020 4:04:58 PM

April 7, 2020

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

(Sent by email to: eric.williams@oregon.gov)

Subject: OWEB Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350 (Deschutes Land Trust)

Dear Mr. Williams,

I respectfully reiterate the comments submitted on behalf of Wasco County by Angie Brewer on January 16, 2020. In addition, please consider my resolute personal position urging the highest levels of scrutiny regarding the use of public funds for projects not narrowly tailored to an mission of an agency.

Steve Kramer

--

Steve Kramer | ***Commissioner***
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

stevek@co.wasco.or.us | www.co.wasco.or.us
541-993-2051 | Fax 541-506-2521
511 Washington Street, Ste. 101 | The Dalles, OR 97058

From:	Ben Ochs
To:	WILLIAMS Eric * OWEB
Subject:	Re: Madras Meeting
Date:	Saturday, January 18, 2020 10:14:08 AM

Sorry for the typo, Eric. See below...

Eric,

Thank you for facilitating OWEB public-comment meeting yesterday in Madras. I was impressed by the thoughtfulness behind many of the comments. There is always some less-informed input in a forum like that, but, on balance, I thought it was quite reasoned.

As promised, I submit my verbal comments in writing:
Desired assurances -
- that commentary reach the board without paraphrase, restatement, or misrepresentation
- that juniper trees be cleared to mitigate the effects of turn-of-the-century overgrazing by sheep and cattle ranchers and to enhance natural grass recovery
- that the final agreement clearly state current verbal interpretations (to protect against changes in administration and potential changes in interpretation) regarding neighbor access for legitimate reasons like cattle retrieval without fear of prosecution for trespass
- that responsibility for fence maintenance/repair/replacement be clearly stated based on responsible party(s), including incidents of Force Majeure
- that an onsite manager be present at all times to monitor visitor movement and activity, and for maintaining the property including fences
- that neighboring land owners be compensated for the illegal taking of game by visitors when pursued across fence lines

Benefits -
- resources for rangeland reclamation and enhancement
- inform and educate potential visitors/users of the benefits of grazing and responsible range management rather than perpetuating a false claim of all grazing being harmful and detrimental

Concerns -
- fire
  - not just suppression, but controlled burns to discourage juniper proliferation and enhance grass density and health
  - protection from, and accountability for, visitor-caused fires and their spread into neighboring properties; destruction of fences, structures, and livestock
- clarity around terminology in the application/agreement including the definition of "appropriate" (and other general terms) relative to intended public use
- encroachment of hikers, hunters and other visitors onto neighboring properties and the risks associated
  - visitors' understanding, and respect for, their limitations and responsibilities upon encountering a fence when in pursuit of game or upon seeing something interesting they desire to investigate or gather
- pressure by OWEB or the Land Trust on neighboring land owners to implement like controls or changes initiated on the OWEB property
- proposed fortified and secured gate(s) and neighboring land owners' access

- management and security of remote access points (those other than identified access points)

You may receive more from me as I hear from others who request my help in reaching you with their concerns and observations.

Regards,

Ben

On Sat, Jan 18, 2020 at 10:09 AM Ben Ochs <bcochs@gmail.com> wrote:

> Eric,
>
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You may receive more from me as I hear from others who request my help in reaching you with their concerns and observations.

Regards,

Ben

--
BEN C. OCHS, PH.D.

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(503) 914 6346

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BEN C. OCHS, PH.D.

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(503) 914 6346

Testimony by Jarold Ramsey (5884 NW Highway 26, Madras, OR 97741; 541-475-5390)

--for: Hearing 1/17/2020 on prospective sale of Friday Ranch to OWEB/Deschutes Land Trust

I'm Jarold Ramsey; I grew up on a ranch on Agency Plains—and then went off to college, and ended up teaching for 35 years in New York State. But in 2000 we retired and moved back to the ranch—so maybe by now I'm reconstituted as a "native," and maybe even as an "old-timer"!

I was saddened to hear that the Friday family had decided to sell the home ranch below Willowdale—the Fridays have had a long, illustrious, and historically important tenure in this county, and specifically on that beautiful property along Antelope and Ward Creeks, and their local presence as land-owners will be missed.

What I want to say here today is to commend and support their decision to convey the place to the Deschutes Land Trust, in connection with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Under the leadership of Brad Chalfant, the Land Trust's record of conserving valuable lands in Central Oregon over twenty years surely speaks for itself. What they've done to conserve and in some cases like Camp Polk Meadows to rescue and preserve vulnerable properties is very impressive, and probably indispensable. Here in Jefferson County the Land Trust has taken on the stewardship of sites like Alder Springs and the Metolius Preserve, and just recently the Erskine Wood Family property on the Metolius River. In every one of their acquisitions, to my knowledge, they have acted carefully, responsibly, and accountably, and always with tact and respect for the concerns of neighboring landowners and others who have an interest in the places they acquire. And part of their mission is to preserve and convey to the public information about both the natural and the <u>human</u> history of these places. The value of that part of their work for historic old ranches like the Friday Place can't be overstated, in my opinion.

Maybe I can best emphasize my endorsement of the Deschutes Land Trust's intentions in this particular case by explaining that my own family has owned another old Jefferson County ranch for seventy-five years . . . it's east of Hay Creek Ranch, and runs just under Blizzard Ridge. It's made up of parts of six homesteads; we bought it originally as "summer range" for what was then our cattle operation. It's quite a bit smaller than the Friday spread, and its creeks lack the important spawning beds that make the Friday land so important. But in its own way, our old place is priceless to us just as it is, and to those who know it, and our family hopes to keep it for the foreseeable future. But if that hope should ever fail, I would have no hesitation about asking the Deschutes Land Trust to consider taking it under their stewardship, just as they intend to do for the Friday Place, to conserve its hills, creeks, and wildlife for posterity—ours, yours, everybody's.

From: Thomas Shuman
To: WILLIAMS Eric * OWEB
Subject: Trout Creek Accquisition by Deschutes Land Trust
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2020 3:42:50 PM

As a private individual I would like to submit a letter of support for the Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350 Trout Creek Ranch by the Deschutes Land Trust. I feel they will be a good steward of the important fisheries values on the property.

Tom Shuman
541-390-0563

From:	Ann
To:	DUTTERER Andrew * OWEB
Subject:	Priday Ranch Proposal
Date:	Thursday, February 06, 2020 10:41:22 AM

Andrew,

I attended the meeting in Madras on January 17 about the proposal for Deschutes Land Trust to purchase the Priday Ranch in Willowdale with a large grant from O.W.E.B. I stated some concerns there about fire, being good neighbors and more, but one of my biggest issues is that I don't feel it is necessary to pull that whole 6,800 acres out of commercial ranch production and private ownership to protect three creeks that are already protected by substantial fences. Like it was mentioned at the meeting, there needs to be more homework done on water rights, and what effect pulling those water rights might have on irrigators above and below this property on the creek among many other things.

This ranch has been very well managed by the same family for 100 years or more. Removing grazing from western range lands in this day and age is not necessarily the best way to improve wildlife habitat. With all the introduced, noxious plant species that native wildlife often won't eat, but cows, sheep and goats often will. Look what happened at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge when they pulled all the cattle and goats off of it. It became such a mat of weeds and Russian Olive that many of the birds and animals abandoned it for the managed meadow lands on the ranches. Look at Alan Savory's well documented work on intensive grazing and habitat improvement. Look at the papers done in Wyoming about grazing sheep and cattle back to back, and how that has improved sage grouse habitat. We don't have sage grouse here, but it would also improve habitat for fawns, both deer and antelope. This property could become a poster child for mixed grazing to cut back on the nap weed, medusa head, and yellow star thistle that are rampant here. Sheep and goats will select for them when they are still green.

Please look at all this and possibly go for a wildlife easement across all this property and then either Anon could sell it at a slightly lesser price to a cooperative buyer, or Deschutes Land Trust could buy it, and lease it to a cooperative rancher.

There is much more homework that needs to be done, before this grant is given to take this land out of production and lock it up. Please listen to some of us local land owners who really do care about the land and it's management, and our local communities.

Thank you Ann Snyder

Ann Snyder

White Diamond Ranch

Ashwood, Or. 97711

541-489-3239

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

2705 East Second Street • The Dalles, OR 97058
p: [541] 506-2560 • **f:** [541] 506-2561 • www.co.wasco.or.us

Pioneering pathways to prosperity.

January 16, 2019

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
775 Summer St. NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(Sent by email to: eric.williams@oregon.gov)

Subject: OWEB Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350 (Deschutes Land Trust)

Dear Mr. Williams,
The Wasco County Planning Department appreciates the importance of conservation and agrees with the Deschutes Land Trust's statements regarding the presence and quality of the natural resources and habitat values found on the properties described in OWEB Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350. We are not opposed to the proposal, but feel it necessary to clarify several pieces of information included in the application materials to ensure OWEB and the Deschutes Land Trust are fully informed with respect to the following topics:

- Current protections offered by zoning and environmental protection districts
- Existing and future land uses on the property
- Lawful parcel status
- Tax information assumptions made in application materials

Zoning and Environmental Protection Districts (EPDs)
All parcels listed in the application within Wasco County are zoned A-1 (160). This zone is an Exclusive Farm Use Zone required by the State to maintain a minimum parcel size of 160 acres. The existing property is very large, so there is potential for future division(s). It is worth noting however, the requirement to maintain a maximum density of 160 acre parcels is considered by state standards to be sufficient protection and preservation of agricultural lands from the deleterious erosion of resources by urbanization. The EPDs described below further limit future development by way of protecting of identified sensitive resources.

Beyond the 160 acre minimum density standard, the largest parcel (Tax Lot 8S 15E 0 3500) is protected by five Environmental Protection District (EPD) overlay zones, including EPD-1 (Flood Hazard), EPD-2 (Geological Hazards), EPD-5 (Mineral and Aggregate), EPD-7 (Natural Areas), and EPD-12 (Sensitive Bird Sites). The other properties are touched by some but not all of these districts. Maps are attached to this letter illustrating the areas included in the EPDs, with the exception of EPD-12. EPD-12 data identifies the locations of Threatened and Endangered Species and cannot be distributed publically for the protection of the affected resources.

Each of these EPDs require applications for new development and changes in use to meet specific criteria and standards, and several elevate many permitted uses to a Conditional Use – a discretionary review that provides the County with the ability to condition development standards and restrictions.

In addition to the EPDs, State Wetland Inventory significant riparian areas exist on the properties. These features are protected through setback buffers and notification requirements to partner agencies, including the Department of State Lands. Setback buffers and notifications are two regulatory protections that keep development from encroaching on critical natural resources.

Existing and Future Land Uses & Development

This portion of the County, by in large, consists of very large parcels of land in A-1 (160) that are enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or are grazed by livestock. According to the 1996 application for mining activity for Tax Lot 8S 15E 0 3500, and a letter received by the Board on January 15, 2020 from the landowner, this property has been used in part for commercial cattle grazing. Cattle grazing typically requires minimal agricultural infrastructure to support commercial farm activity. According to our inventories, the property currently contains an existing farm dwelling, farm buildings, and infrastructure related to a wireless communications facility and tower that was conditionally approved in 2011.

The larger property includes a significant aggregate site. This site, in accordance with Oregon Land Use Planning Goal 5 and OAR 660-23, went through a Comprehensive Plan amendment to be included on the Mineral and Aggregate Inventory and Map as a significant site and is now protected as a resource. Delisting of this site would require a DOGAMI compliant reclamation plan, consistent with the County permit requirements to ensure the site will be restored or rehabilitated for the land uses specified in the underlying zone. When the reclamation plan is completed to DOGAMI's satisfaction, the site is eligible for removal from the inventory and EPD. That process includes a Comprehensive Plan and Comprehensive Plan Map amendment through Wasco County.

Short of delisting the aggregate site however, the presence of the aggregate overlay requires that new development or uses within the impact area of the significant site may need to be processed as a Conditional Use or, if found incompatible with mining, prohibited. Development permits will need to be submitted to Wasco County in accordance with the Land Use and Development Ordinance and reviewed for impacts.

It is worthwhile noting that mining activity on the larger parcel is likely to have a greater impact on the natural resources and characteristics than agricultural development. Mining use often includes a variety of activity that can represent adverse impacts including dust, noise, and ground disturbance. If Deschutes Land Trust is awarded the grant, we recommend that they be required to submit reclamation plans to DOGAMI and go through the Comprehensive Plan Amendment process to remove the significant aggregate site from the County's Goal 5 inventory.

Application materials identify future development in the form of stream and riparian restoration projects. Trout Creek, one of the resources identified for restoration work, is within EPD-1, Special Flood Hazard areas. Pursuant to Section 3.212 (E) of the Wasco County Land Use and Development Ordinance, restoration and enhancement activities within the special flood hazard areas require a floodplain development permit. EPD-1 was created to be consistent with FEMA's Flood Insurance program, and therefore development review along Special Flood Hazard areas is a federal requirement.

EPD-7, Natural Areas overlay, also requires review of development – including grading or filling land, hauling materials, or any building to be reviewed for timing of activity and impact to protected species including any generation of noise, dust, vibration, lights, and traffic. Because of the presence of EPD-7 and EPD-1, this includes restoration work in the riparian areas.

There may be additional development or restoration activities not detailed in the narrative that occur on the property, depending on the location, that also require permits. Application materials identify perceived potential land use conflicts with the properties. We'd like to clarify the likelihood of those conflicts, given the land use planning regulations and framework.

The application indicates threats from solar or wind development. In the A-1 (160) zone, commercial energy facilities are reviewed as a Conditional Use. Because of the presence of EPD-7 (Natural Areas overlay) on several of the parcels, Conditional Uses in the underlying zone are prohibited. Were these constraints to be remedied through Land Use and Development Ordinance amendments, the remaining EPDs and associated resources would make siting a solar or wind facility on the subject parcels challenging, if not impossible based on potential adverse impacts to the protected resources.

In a January 15th presentation to the Wasco County Board of Commissioners, Mr. Nye from the Deschutes Land Trust indicated the goal for public access, recreation, and educational opportunities on site. Private parks may be permitted on A-1 (160) lands through a Conditional Use permitting process, however Conditional Uses are currently are prohibited on lands included within the EPD-7, Natural Areas overlay.

These are just a few examples of the situations where proposed activity may require permitting through the Wasco County Planning Department. We encourage all property owners and developers to check with Wasco County Planning staff about specific projects so we can advise them on the process, timelines, and requirements.

Lawful Parcel Status

The properties are currently a part of a legal parcel determination application being processed by the Wasco County Planning Department. The legal parcel determination involves eleven tax lots. I have included a map of the subject tax lots for reference. Legal parcel determinations involve research into when and how a unit of land was created or modified. New development and changes in use can only be approved on lawfully created parcels. Although the determination has not yet been completed, please be aware that any unlawful parcels will need to be rectified prior to the commencement of any future development activities.

Taxes
Farm tax deferral was created by the Oregon legislature to provide financial incentive to property owners, in the form of reduced property values, for keeping their land in agricultural production. This program includes a potential tax payback if commercial farming is discontinued or the property is converted to non-farm use. The threshold for qualification for farm tax deferral is that the land be used primarily to make a profit by farming.

The application materials asserts the intention to discontinue all commercial farming. This is somewhat conflicted by Mr. Priday's letter (attached). Properties are only eligible for farm tax deferral with a qualifying farm use. The application also suggests possible application of the conservation easement deferral taxes. Wasco County is not currently a participating county in the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Habitat Conservation and Management Program. Additionally, the application indicates the property is being acquired through fee simple rather than conservation easement therefore they would not be eligible for a traditional conservation easement deferral.

As the application indicates, most rural Oregon counties have limited tax bases and over 96% of our rural lands are in a deferral program. Removing over 5,000 acres from any taxation would have significant impact to Wasco County. Wasco County would like to see more clarity in the application in regards to taxation.

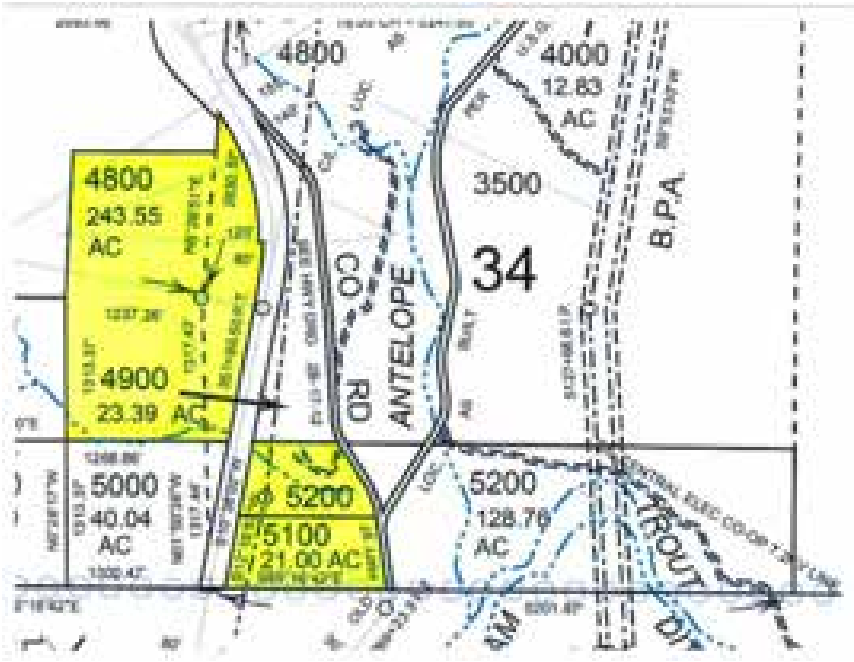
Wasco County is interested in transparency and clarity of our existing regulations and criteria to ensure for the most informed decision possible and to ensure future agency coordination. I hope my comments provide insight into some of the necessary steps required for development on the properties, including restoration work, and continued protection of the valuable resources that exist on the parcels.

Sincerely,



Angie Brewer, AICP
Planning Director

CC: Wasco County Board of Commissioners
Tyler Stone, Wasco County Administrative Officer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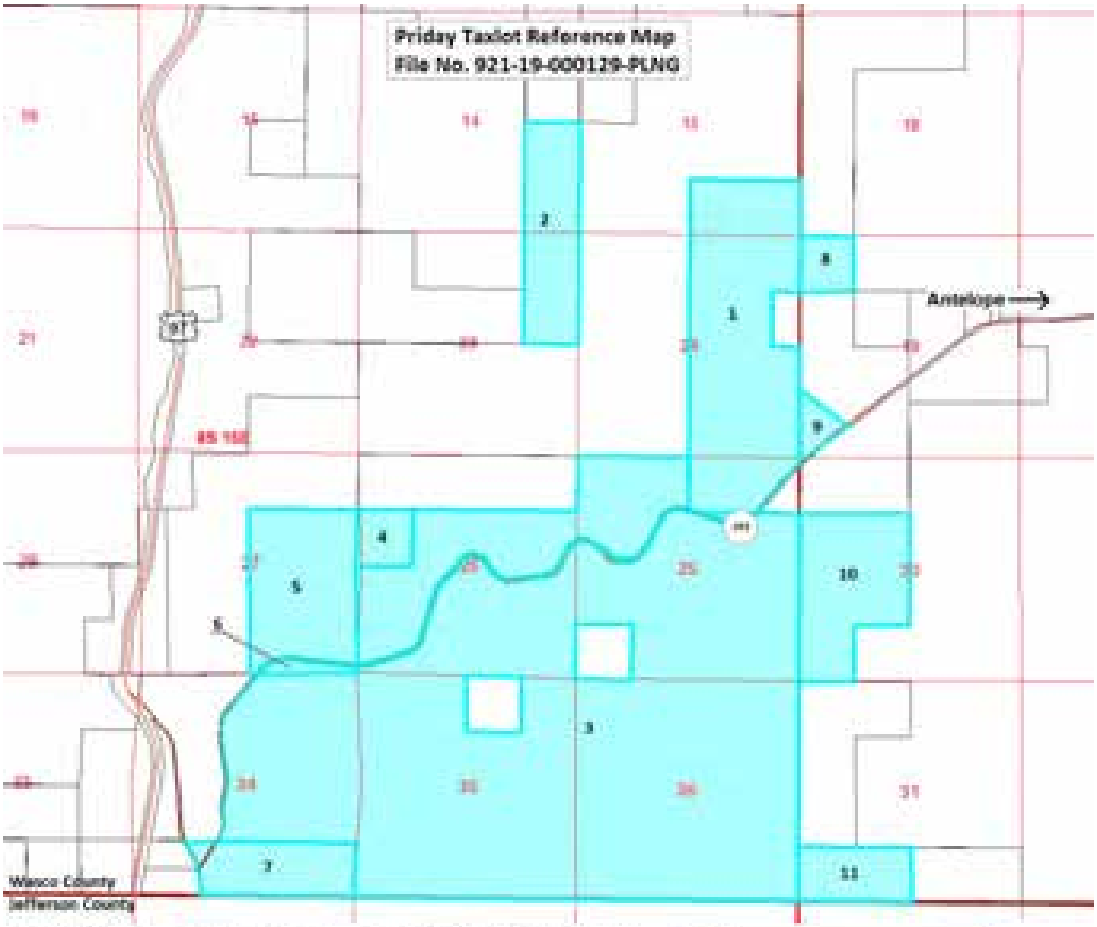
Priday Taxlot Reference Map
File No. 921-19-000129-PLNG
Antelope
Wasco County
Jefferson County
1. BS 15E 0 2600 (Acc # 13517) (448.36 acres)
2. BS 15E 0 2700 (Acc # 12907) (160 acres)
3. BS 15E 0 3500 (Acc # 11718) (3436.72 acres)
4. BS 15E 0 3800 (Acc # 11718) (83.00 acres)
5. BS 15E 0 3900 (Acc # 15720) (213.04 acres)
6. BS 15E 0 4000 (Acc # 15719) (12.83 acres)
7. BS 15E 0 5200 (Acc # 11728) (128.76 acres)
8. BS 16E 0 1900 (Acc # 13519) (38.37 acres)
9. BS 16E 0 2200 (Acc # 13520) (22.45 acres)
10. BS 16E 0 3600 (Acc # 11757) (197.75 acres)
11. BS 16E 0 3800 (Acc # 11758) (82.03 acres)
This product is for informational purposes and has not been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.
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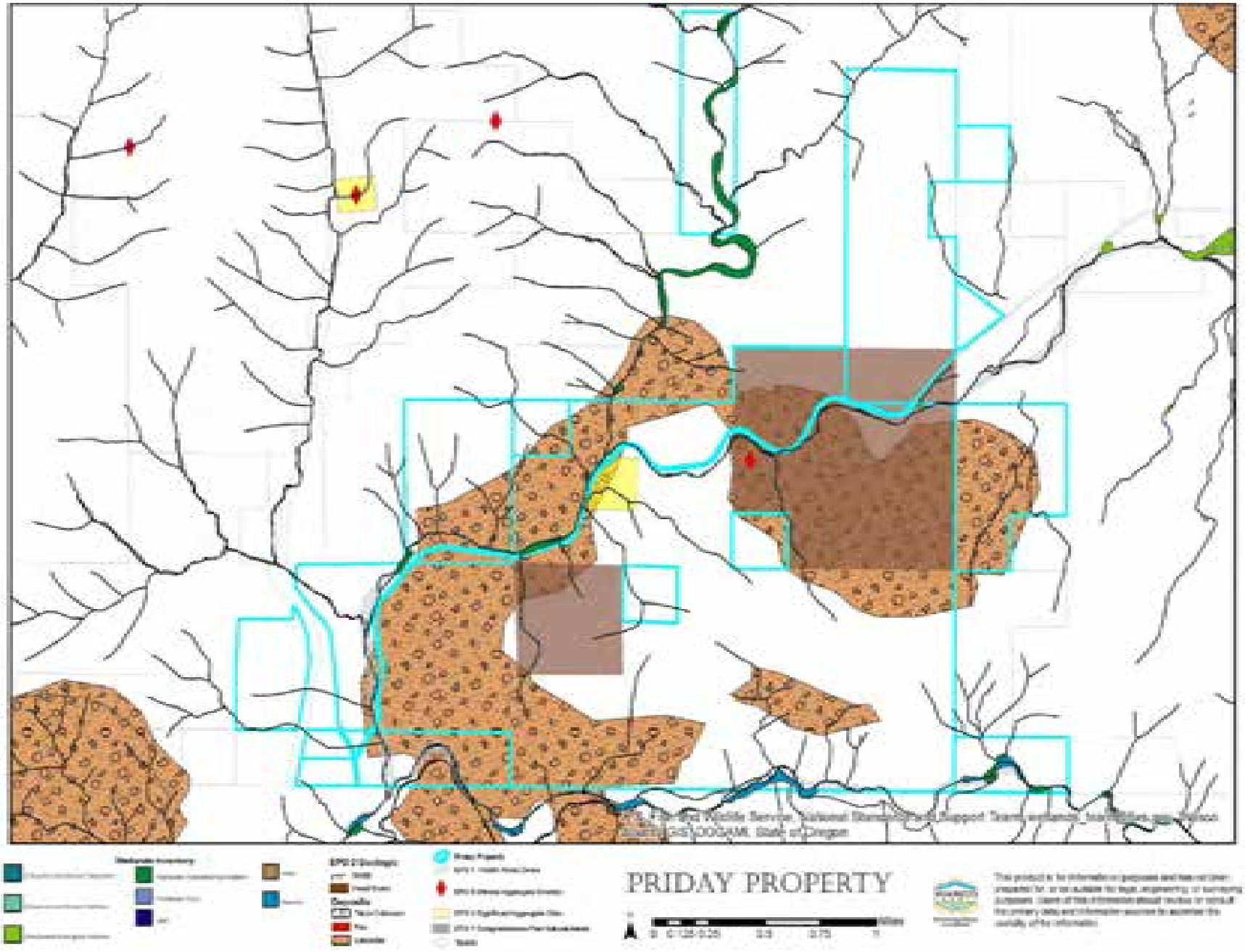

PRIDAY PROPERTY

January 15, 2020

TO: Eric Williams-OWEB and Wasco and Jefferson County Commissioners
FROM: Annan Priday-email:p92jams@gmail.com

The proposed Deschutes Land Trust/Priday Ranch transaction arose from a desire by my wife and myself to retire from ranching after managing the ranch since 1980. We approached or were approached by several neighboring ranches about purchasing the property but they were not interested due to being difficult to manage the small fields irrigated from a seasonally limited water source and the steep terrain. We chose to accept the offer by Deschutes Land Trust and feel they have the best ideas on keeping the parcel as one unit and their goals for fishery management are in keeping with efforts that we have been making since the mid 1980's to improve the riparian areas, fish habitat and stream flows.

Our sale consists of two parts - one to the DLT and the other to a young ranching family we have chosen and helped make it possible for them to start a base for their ranching operation. We feel they will be a great asset to the community, provide assistance with community needs such as wildfires and emergencies and bring some younger blood to an aging occupation.

This property has three streams that help support steelhead spawning and rearing and has become important in the efforts at steelhead recovery in the Deschutes basin. Traditional irrigation practices and other factors have resulted in much of Trout Creek being dry from mid July until late winter moisture arrives. We shortened our irrigation season in an attempt to keep water in our portion of the creek and as a result were limited to only 1.5 cuttings of hay each season. If irrigation was cut further or eliminated on this property I believe this portion of Trout Creek would have water almost year around.

Other than the stream areas and adjacent farmland (150-200 acres) this property is steep and rugged with very little or no water in the higher areas. The terrain makes it extremely difficult to achieve controlled grazing and some of the steep hillsides have not been grazed for years due to an almost 45% slope. We have traditionally grazed this portion of the ranch during April and May, have used the small flatter areas for winter feeding of hay from January through March and the rest of the year the cattle were moved to other property.

There are many areas around the county and state that have much better potential for livestock grazing and ag production but there are very few that have this quality of habitat and potential for steelhead production. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Annan Priday

Annan Priday

From: Don Wilt
To: HARTSTEIN Eric * OWEB
Subject: Support for Deschutes Land Trust OWEB Grant
Date: Thursday, March 5, 2020 7:09:17 PM

Would you please add our voices in support of the Deschutes Land Trust's application for a grant from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to help acquire Priday Ranch in Central Oregon. It's a matchless property that deserves the quality stewardship of capable and proven organizations like OWEB and the land trust.

We are long-time supporters of the Deschutes Land Trust and have watched them very capably manage their properties for many years; one is the Metolius Preserve just a short distance from where we live. Great neighbors, great stewards, great conservationists.

If you've been over this way lately, you probably know that this region's population is exploding. We need projects like Priday Ranch to save the best of it for everyone.

Thanks.

Don and Priscilla Wilt
PO Box 125
Camp Sherman, OR 97730

From: Tom Wood
To: WILLIAMS Eric * OWEB
Subject: Grant Application No. 220-9909-17350. Deschutes Land Trust purchase of Priday Ranch
Date: Monday, January 13, 2020 5:54:21 PM

Dear Mr. Williams,

I wanted to send you a brief note expressing my serious and strong support of the Deschutes Land Trust acquisition of the Priday Ranch. Please support the Grant application! I very much support the conservation of one of the Deschutes River's life blood tributaries, Trout Creek, so that future generations of Oregonians can experience one of Oregon's unique splendors, the Deschutes steelhead. Almost 30% of all Deschutes River wild steelhead were spawned in Trout Creek, and I want to be sure we protect this habitat for my great-grandchildren. The Deschutes Land Trust has a track record of preserving important Deschutes spawning habitat. Please help them preserve the Deschutes Steelhead fisheries for future generations by supporting this grant.

Best Regards,

Tom Wood
912 4th Street
Hood River, OR 97031
541.380.0562

June 10 & 11 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Public Comment

Land Acquisitions

Wren Marsh

Wren Marsh OWEB Land Acquisition hearing 1/15/20

Don Wilbur Ltd – Megan Gerber, Office Manager:

DWL supports MRT's ownership of and restoration of the Wren Marsh property adjacent to the WIMB! We have been in good communication for years, and share similar interests for our properties.

WIMB is the eastern half of Wilbur Island, a 300-acre parcel that is adjacent and immediately downstream from Wren Marsh. The western 150 acres has always been estuarine wetlands, with a few acres of spruce forest, and a population of rare Henderson's checkermallow. The eastern half was all diked & drained in the '40's, and in the '90's one dike was breeched naturally, restoring tidal flows to about 60 acres. The remaining 80 or so acres of wetlands were restored in about 2012. So we have a great comparison of native plus new and old restored tidal marshes right next door to Wren Marsh.

- We appreciate the vehicular access across this parcel, and our neighbors have been very neighborly, but we recognize it may not continue. Future access to WIMB could continue via our own dock, but is not logistically quite as easy. We've always known that it won't last forever.

- At some point in the future, it is expected that the river will cut through there. Where is unknown.

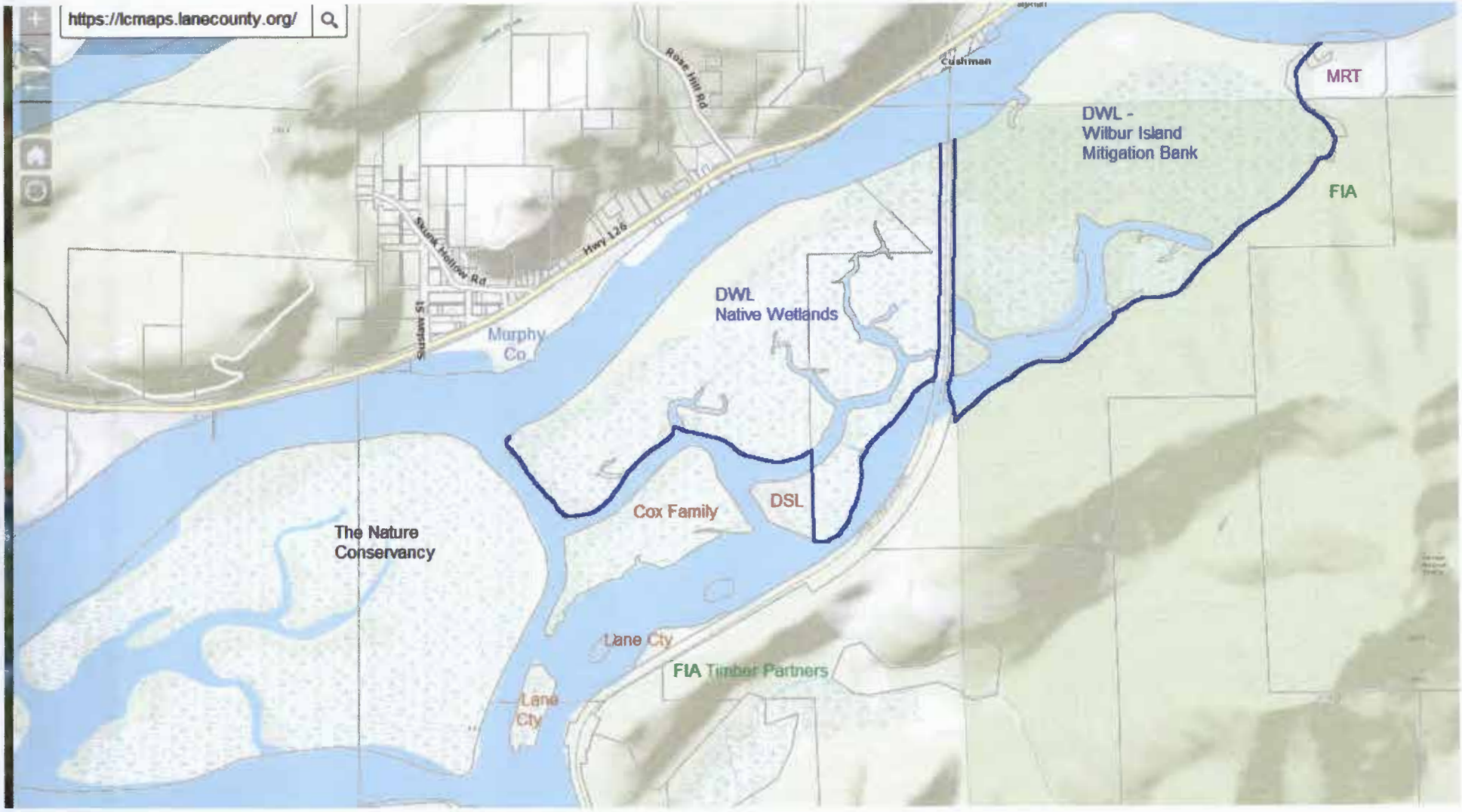
- Fithian struggled with annual flooding - the land wants to be tideland again! Our contract states our obligation to protect it up to 11', but as extreme weather events continue to be more extreme, this has already been slightly insufficient... expect more so in the future. I can't speak to whether sea level rise will affect us here, but we've seen weather events get more extreme in recent years.

- This property offers wonderful habitat - in the early 2000's our assessment noted wildlife observed there including: Bald eagle, Osprey, American Bittern, coyote, beaver, deer, elk, mink, river otter, as well as Coastal coho & chinook salmon, steelhead, herring, etc.

- Similar goals & obligations for the adjacent properties, with shared water flows - makes sense to cooperate fully. Each benefits from the responsible management of the other. Alternately, DSL owns one island in there, and does zero mtnc or monitoring. If invasives get a toe hold there, nobody is watching or doing anything there... so they will become problems for both of us.

- WIMB will be sold due to family circumstances. Any future ownership is required to protect it via covenants & restrictions (now) and long-term stewardship obligations (which require a CE in the future); long-term cooperation aids management for both properties.

- We also look forward to working with MRT to resolve some of the issues regarding property boundaries and encroachments, which previous owners were unwilling to address. We believe that the Wren Marsh property encroaches on WIMB property about the same amount that WIMB encroaches on Wren March land. Although there are multiple possibilities to resolve these issues, it seems the most likely would be a survey to establish a new boundary along the existing dike and quitclaim deeds for each party.


https://lcmaps.lanecounty.org/
Rose Hill Rd
Cushman
MRT
DWL -
Wilbur Island
Mitigation Bank
FIA
Hwy 126
Siuslaw Hollow Rd
Siuslaw St
DWL
Native Wetlands
Murphy
Co
Cox Family
DSL
The Nature
Conservancy
Lane Cty
FIA Timber Partners
Lane
Cty

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item I supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget
June 10-11, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests the board's approval of budget proposals that will be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) for the 2021-2023 biennium.

II. Budget Preparations for the 2021 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with policy narratives and justification. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages." Agencies are also required to submit reduction options. This is typically set at 10%, but may be updated as more information becomes available.

Budget instructions for the 2021-2023 biennium were released on March 17, 2020. All financial information must be entered into the state's budgeting system by the end of June 2020. OWEB will submit its ARB narrative to the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) by September 1, 2020. The Governor's Office then will develop state budget recommendations in partnership with agencies, known as the Governor's Budget (GB). This budget proposal may also include additional Policy Packages that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings during the 2021 legislative session. During session, agencies may advocate for their individual Policy Packages only to the extent that they are included in the GB.

III. Budget Proposals for the 2021-2023 Biennium

Attachment A provides the current agency organizational chart. As noted at the January 2020 meeting, OWEB's budget proposals for next biennium are based on an analysis of current staffing included in OWEB's 2019-21 Legislatively Adopted Budget, relative to agency functions anticipated to be needed during the 2021-2023 biennium, including if and how needed functions could be completed with existing staffing or contract resources. The budget proposals

also reflect needs associated with broader initiatives coordinated with the Governor's Office and other agencies. As a result, OWEB's Executive Team proposes that, in addition to the agency's base budget, the ARB include funding for positions and contracted services identified in Attachment B to the staff report.

IV. Next Steps for Budget Development

Staff will use the budget proposals approved by the board at the June 2020 meeting as a foundation for policy packages that will be included in the ARB. At future meetings, staff will keep the board apprised about the status of the 2021-23 biennium budget process.

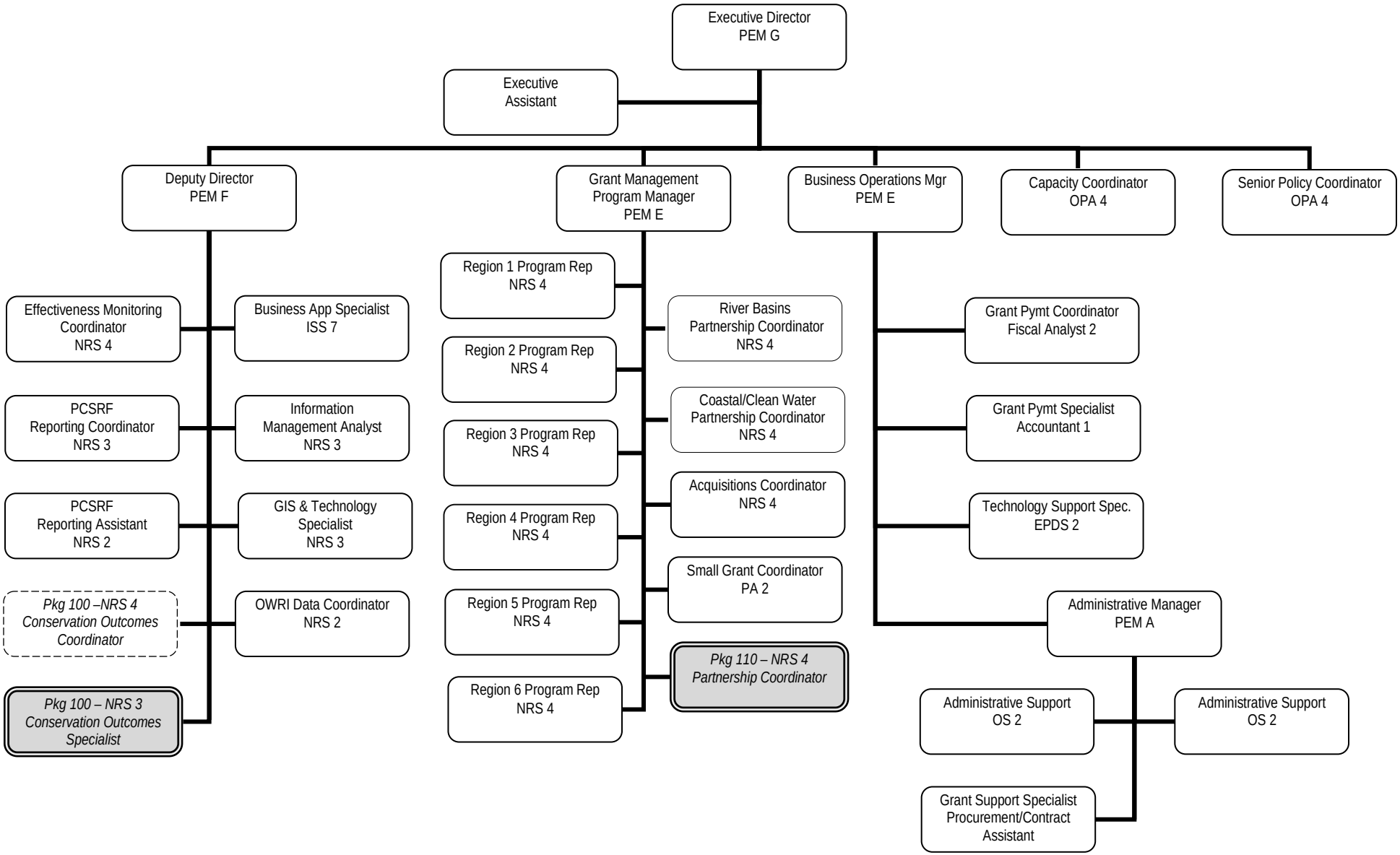
V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the budget proposals included in Attachment B of this staff report, for inclusion in OWEB's 2021-2023 ARB.

Attachments

A. OWEB Organizational Chart, 2019-2021
B. Draft Proposed Policy Option Packages for OWEB's 2021-23 Agency Request Budget

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Organizational Chart
2019-2021 Legislatively Adopted Budget



Permanent

Limited Duration FTE

34.00 - FTE
34.00 - Positions

OWEB 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget

Policy Option Package Proposals

Packages below are broken into three categories. The first two categories are focused on the agency operations portion of OWEB's budget and are divided into two levels of priority: Priority 1 is critical agency needs and will be prioritized first if opportunities to submit POPs are limited based on revenue forecasts, and Priority 2 is a suite of packages that are important to move forward long-term strategic initiatives around water, climate change, and working lands. The third category focuses on the grants portion of OWEB's budget, and includes both standard requests that allow grant funds to be carried forward to future biennia, and requests for expenditure limitation to allow for receipt of federal and other funds.

Priority 1

OPERATIONS – Program Continuity	**Estimated Amount**	**FTE**	**Proposed Fund Source**	**Strategic Plan Priority**
Conservation Outcomes Specialist (Natural Resources Specialist [NRS] 3) – Continues a limited duration position to implement aspects of OWEB's program to measure and report on ecological, economic and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. The position assists with implementation of coordinated monitoring, adaptive management, and shared learning aspects of OWEB's updated strategic plan.	$275,000	1.00	Lottery Funds	6 and 1
Partnerships Coordinator (NRS4) – Continues a limited duration position to address workload created by the board's increase in grants for Focused Investment Partnerships, which are long-term investments in high performing partnerships implementing restoration actions to achieve ecological outcomes at the landscape scale. FIP investments now comprise approximately 27% of OWEB's biennial spending plan for 2019-21.	$300,000	1.0	Lottery Funds	3 and 7
Contracted Services to Support Audit Functions – Proposes contracted services funding in support of a shared services agreement with Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) for an Internal Auditor 2. This request follows on recommendations included in the 2019-2021 Governor's Budget (GB), which proposed internal auditor positions for several agencies, including OWEB. The position would be split between WRD and OWEB, and would coordinate internal fiscal and performance audits to ensure the agencies are employing all necessary and available tools for fiscal accountability and transparency.	$162,500		Lottery Funds	All priorities

Priority 2

OPERATIONS – Water Vision and Climate Change Initiatives Coordination	Estimated Amount	FTE	Proposed Fund Source	Strategic Plan Priority
Provides funding for one staff position (Operations and Policy Analyst [OPA] 4), in addition to contracted services funding, to assist with Phase II of 100-Year Water Vision planning and climate-changes initiatives. Oregon has been a national leader with the water visioning process. In addition, OWEB is involved in multiple climate-change related initiatives, including board-level work focused on nature-based climate solutions and the Governor's Executive Order 20-04 regarding climate. The position will coordinate with agency and local partners on water and climate issues. The position also will be an important asset as the state pursues federal stimulus funding for water infrastructure and climate by helping to ensure the state is responsive to stimulus opportunities. This request complements policy packages being included in other agency request budgets.	$385,000 (including approx. $60,000 in contracted services)	1.0	Lottery Funds	4 and 7

OPERATIONS – Coordinated Streamside Management Technical Support	Estimated Amount	FTE	Proposed Fund Source	Strategic Plan Priority
This request would provide funding for staffing and contracted services in support of Coordinated Streamside Management monitoring activities associated with Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs). A statewide monitoring advisory group, consisting of OWEB and the Oregon Departments of Agriculture (ODA), Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Fish and Wildlife, coordinate 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. OWEB technical support staff (one NRS3 position) supported by this package will assist local partners with the development and implementation of SIA monitoring, along with associated contracted services funding. This request complements policy packages that are anticipated to be included in ODA's and DEQ's ARBs.	$300,000 (including $25,000 in contracted services)	1.0	Lottery Funds	5 and 6

Other than the first package relating to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, the remaining are standard packages requested each biennium. Amounts in some cases are to be determined.

Grants

GRANTS – Additional Grant Funds for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program – Other Funds Limitation	Estimated Amount	FTE	Proposed Fund Source	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from other sources, should this service be requested and if other funds are available for this purpose during the 2021-23 biennium. Specifically, this packages requests limitation for funding from yet-to-be-identified sources that would support Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program grants for succession planning, conservation management plans, and working land conservation covenants and easements.	$5 million	N/A	Other Funds	5

GRANTS – Carry Forward	Estimated Amount	FTE	Proposed Fund Source	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2012-23 biennium.	TBD	N/A	Federal Funds, Other Funds	N/A

GRANTS – Additional Grant Funds – Federal Funds Limitation	Estimated Amount	FTE	Proposed Fund Source	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from other sources, should this service be requested and if federal funds are available for this purpose during the 2021-23 biennium. An example of additional grant funds is funding from Natural Resources Conservation Service for local technical and administrative assistance. (If needed based on when the funding is available, a portion of this request may be made to the Oregon Legislature prior to the 2021 session, during interim Legislative Days.)	TBD	N/A	Federal Funds	3 and 4

GRANTS – Additional Grant Funds for Habitat Restoration – Other Funds Limitation	Estimated Amount	FTE	Proposed Fund Source	OWEB Strategic Plan
This policy package would allow OWEB to receive and expend as grants funding from other sources, should this service be requested and if other funds are available for this purpose during the 2021-23 biennium. Examples of additional grant funds are funding from PacifiCorp ($6 million) in support of water-quality related habitat improvements in the Upper Klamath Basin and/or from Idaho Power ($1 million) in support of restoration work for native salmon habitat and water quality improvements in eastern Oregon. (If needed based on when the funding is available, a portion of this request may be made to the Oregon Legislature prior to the 2021 session, during interim Legislative Days.)	$7 million	N/A	Other Funds	3 and 4

OWEB Strategic Plan Priorities

1. Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds
2. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
3. Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
4. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
5. The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health
6. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness
7. Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

June 10-11, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update J – Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update

This report provides the board an update to the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program.

Background

Governor Brown will use $30 million in Federal Funds to administer a COVID-19 response program to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers. As noted in Attachment A, Governor Brown has directed the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to run the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program using CARES Act funding.

Program Goals

This program has been developed rapidly in response to safety needs for farmworkers who harvest Oregon's many agricultural products. Changes to Oregon Occupational Safety Health Administration (OR-OSHA) temporary rules in response to COVID-19 have led to changes in housing, field sanitation, and transportation requirements for farm workers. These requirements come with an increased cost to growers who have already established housing and other safety systems that now do not meet OR-OSHA safety rules. The goals of the program are to:

- Deploy rapid support and resources to Oregon's agricultural growers to meet harvest demands and ensure the protection of migrant and seasonal farmworkers during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Reduce the potential for illness and death associated with COVID-19 among farmworkers, their families, and employers, and other residents in rural and urban communities.
- Enhance the public health of the state and educate Oregon's agricultural industry to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

OWEB Partner and Agency Roles

OWEB will receive $15 million of the $30 million total. With those funds, the agency will administer the response program. Two of the programs under this funding will focus on housing and field sanitation assistance. OWEB will enter into interagency agreements with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to help develop and communicate the program. ODA and OHCS will provide policy direction for the program, and OHCS' internal auditor will provide financial oversight functions and lead the agencies' oversight team.

Program Implementation

It is expected the program will begin receiving applications on June 8. A team of OWEB staff will coordinate the program throughout the fall, with an expected program end date of October 31.

For the housing assistance program, OWEB will coordinate with both ODA and OHCS to invest $10 million to provide safe housing to migrant workers who have been displaced by reduced occupancy levels. This program is focused on housing workers due to the new OR-OSHA rules; it is not designed to provide assistance to those who are COVID-19 symptomatic and need to isolate. Reimbursement is either through direct coordination with hotels, or an equivalent rate to employers who have secured alternative housing onsite to provide additional occupancy.

The remaining $5 million will be invested in a field sanitation program through direct reimbursement to cover costs of providing additional field sanitation units (toilets and handwashing stations).

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov.

Attachments

A. Governor Brown Letter

KATE BROWN
Governor

May 22, 2020

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE, #360
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Loftsgaarden,

On March 8, 2020, I signed Executive Order 20-03, declaring a state of emergency in response to the novel coronavirus and the disease known as COVID-19. Paragraph 4 of that executive order "authorize[s] all executive agencies of state government to take, upon further direction from me or my office, any actions authorized under the provisions set forth in ORS 401.168 through 401.192," as necessary to respond to the emergency. To that end, I am directing the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to administer the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Project utilizing CARES Act funding.

ORS 401.168(1) provides: "During a state of emergency, the Governor has complete authority over all executive agencies of state government and the right to exercise, within the area designated in the proclamation, all police powers vested in the state by the Oregon Constitution in order to effectuate the purposes of this chapter." ORS 401.168(3) also provides: "During a state of emergency, the Governor has authority to direct any agencies in the state government to utilize and employ state personnel, equipment and facilities for the performance of any activities designed to prevent or alleviate actual or threatened damage due to the emergency." Additionally, ORS 401.188(2) and (3) allow the Governor to "[p]rescribe and direct activities in connection with use . . . of materials, services and facilities, including, but not limited to, . . . supply of labor, . . . housing, . . . and other essential civil needs," and to "[t]ake any other action that may be necessary for the management of resources following an emergency."

We must remain vigilant in our efforts to slow and contain the spread of COVID-19, to protect Oregonians at the highest risk from contracting the disease. To that end, and pursuant to my emergency powers, I direct OWEB to administer the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Project utilizing CARES Act funding allocated for this purpose.

Through an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS), OWEB will administer programs for housing, field sanitation, and other programs necessary to support Oregon agriculture during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Currently, this includes the following programs. The Farmworker Housing Response Program will provide safe housing and social distancing transport options to migrant workers who have been displaced by reduced occupancy levels. The Field Sanitation Program will set up a system for employers to recover costs that occur with the deployment of additional field sanitation units.

OWEB will administer all funding and coordination of these programs and other programs that may be identified while serving the goals of the Project, including the deployment of assistance and resources to Oregon's agriculture industry, reducing the potential for COVID-19 exposure and enhancing public health of the state.

Sincerely,



Governor Kate Brown

KB:smg

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item H 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: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Approval of Receipt of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Funding

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board proactively approve receipt of up to $2,999,997 in federal funds from the BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects distributed across the state over three years.

II. Background

The Oregon/Washington BLM is responsible for management of more than 16 million acres of public lands scattered across the State of Oregon. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. To accomplish this, the BLM frequently works with partners, such as state agencies, through cooperative agreements.

An opportunity exists for development of a cooperative agreement between BLM and OWEB, using the Good Neighbor Authority. This partnership would serve to further the respective missions of both agencies, gain efficiencies, and ultimately benefit both fish and aquatic wildlife resources throughout the state. The primary objective of this partnership would be to work together to facilitate aquatic restoration projects with local partners, in areas of mutual interest over a three-year period. The focus of the work would be on design and implementation of instream restoration projects that increase habitat complexity and resiliency, as well as the removal of passage barriers to fish and other aquatic species.

III. BLM Funding

Funds from BLM at an amount of up to $2,999,997 over three years (i.e., $999,999 for each of three geographies) currently are available via a federal solicitation for the state of Oregon. OWEB has proposed development of a cooperative agreement for administering these funds, which would support aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects distributed across the state. Projects are expected to be identified and implemented in phases, as funding becomes available. BLM staff will develop projects, in coordination with

local partners, and use existing BLM review and prioritization processes to determine which projects would be proposed to OWEB and funded under this agreement. The specific details about each project phase will be agreed upon by the BLM and OWEB annually. Phase 1 projects, listed in Table 1, are currently ready to for implementation and have already been reviewed and prioritized by BLM staff. BLM expects to have projects identified for Phase 2 by August/September.

Table 1. Phase 1 projects.

BLM District	OWEB Region	Project	Fund Amount ($)
NW	1	Boulder Creek Project	$30,000
Medford	2	Walker Creek Culverts	$150,000
Coos	2	Woodward Creek Culverts	$193,000
Vale	5	Willow Creek Stream Restoration	$163,000
Vale	5	Sheep Creek Stream Restoration	$22,000
		PHASE 1 TOTAL	**$558,000**

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board proactively approve receipt of up to $2,999,997 from the BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects over the next three years, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an effective date of July 1, 2020.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Alvarado Ron
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Forney Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbremer, Mark
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT
Henson, Paul
Murray, Eric

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 11, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

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Boyer, Barbara
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Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Henson, Paul

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Forney Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbremer, Mark
Hartstein Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Silbernagel, Cindy
Williams, Eric

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

The June 10, 2020 meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. PCSRF Funding Update (Audio 0:26:15)
Deputy Director Renee Davis gave an update on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund funding.

2019-2021 Budget Projections & Spending Plan (Audio = 0:36:14)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the board with an introduction to budget projections and the resulting need for rebalancing of the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan, as Oregon lottery revenues have declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Public Comment (Audio = 0:52:47):
Agenda Item A3

1. Jan Lee, OR. Assoc. Conservation Districts
2. Cheryl McGinnis, Clackamas River Basin WC
3. Melaney Dunne, Coquille WA
4. Troy Abercrombie, Cascade Pacific RC&D
5. Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
6. Wendy Gerlach, Pacific Forest Trust
7. Lee Russell, Elk Creek WC
8. Clair Klock

Agenda Item K

1. Joe Moll, McKenzie River Trust
2. Brad Nye, Deschutes Land Trust

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 11, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

The June 11, 2020 meeting was called to order at 8:02 by Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

C. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:18:54):
Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities and shared information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 1:08:55):
The minutes of the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting were presented for board approval.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. 2019-2021 Budget Projections and OWEB Spending Plan (Audio = 1:09:51):
Following the previous day's introduction to the topic and public comment, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden answered questions from the board regarding the previous day's budget presentation.

Deputy Director Renee Davis requested the board approve receipt of funds from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for support of OWEB and ODFW programs, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Finally, the board deliberated on options for rebalancing the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan.

Item A-1 / PCSRF Funding: Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of PCSRF Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funding for inclusion in current and future OWEB spending plans, and utilize a combined total of $9.5 million from the FFY20 award and previous PCSRF awards for the update to the spending plan. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item A-1 / PSMFC Funding: Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of Federal Fiscal Year 2020 PSMFC funding for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW totaling $291,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2020. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item A-3 / Spending Plan Rebalance: Randy Labbe moved the board approve Spending Plan Option C as described in Attachment B of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan Rebalance staff report, including the commitment to award funding at the beginning of the 2021-2023 biennium to bring existing FIP partnerships to the full funding level approved by the board for FIP budgets during the 2019-2021 biennium. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Focused Investment Partnership 2021-2023 Solicitation (Audio = 2:47:17):
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams led the board in a discussion on postponing the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership solicitation, due to Oregon lottery revenue declines because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jason Robison moved the board postpone the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership application deadline until at least June 30, 2021, Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 2:58:24):
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided background information on the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. The board considered grant applications submitted through the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations were discussed and acted on by the board.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report, with an award date of April 22, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Labbe Recused from voting; Project # 220-5040-17377 Malheur Watershed Council

K. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 3:45:33):
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney requested board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2019 grant offering.

Mark Labhart moved the board award funding for Rainforest Reserve (220-9902) and Trout Creek Preserve (220-9909) as described in Item K, effective April 22, 2020 and with a requirement to close the transactions by April 22, 2023, and including the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C to the Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the transaction closing dates for Tillamook Head (219-9900) and Mt. Hood Oaks (219-9901) be extended 18 months, from October 17, 2020 to April 17, 2022. Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. OWEB Agency Request Budget (Audio = 5:29:51)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis requested the board's approval of budget proposals to be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor's Office and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the OWEB Agency Request Budget proposals found in Attachment B of the staff report, for inclusion in OWEB's 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Director's Update (Audio = 6:14:27)

Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Manager Eric Hartstein updated the board on the Food Security and Farm Worker Safety Program.

O. Other Business (Audio = 6:31:19)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff requested that the board approve receipt of up to $2,999,997 in federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects.

Jason Robison moved the board approve receipt of up to $2,999,997 in federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
September 9, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
September 9, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the September 9 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming**: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:** Dial 1-669-900-6833. When prompted, enter ID number 876 6834 9457 and password: 550061. For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment
OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments
Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, September 4 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments
Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item B) at approximately 8:50 a.m. on September 9. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 8, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

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

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

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the June 10-11, 2020 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item*.

C. Public Comment (8:50 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting.

D. Committee Updates (9:20 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (10:05 a.m.)

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

F. Oregon Conservation Partnership – Updates During Covid (11:00 a.m.)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Kelly Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Vanessa Green from The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils will provide an update on how the Oregon Conservation Partnership is working with and supporting its stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item*.

G. Governor's Office Update on Equity and Environmental Justice Initiatives (12:00 p.m.)

Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Amira Streeter, will join the board to provide an update on several initiatives she is leading related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She will highlight equity and environmental justice work related to the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04, as well as the environmental work taking place as a part of Governor Brown's Racial Justice Council. *Information item*.

H. Telling the Restoration Story – Deer Creek (12:30 p.m.)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho and local partners, Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Council and Kate Meyer from the US Forest Service, will be highlighting outcomes associated with the floodplain restoration efforts on Deer Creek located in the McKenzie River watershed. *Information item*.

I. Organizational Collaboration Grants (1:00 p.m.)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will present a plan for a grant offering specifically focused on organizations that may need funding to consolidate or merge with other organizations during and/or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item.*

J Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Grants (1:30 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will present a plan, developed in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), for moving forward with technical assistance and monitoring funding for the remaining SIAs slated for initiation this biennium. *Information item.*

K. 2021-2023 Spending Plan Initial Discussion (2:00 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will discuss the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiate a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan, the long-term investment strategy, and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan. *Information item.*

L. Global Warming Commission and Governor's Climate Executive Order (2:30 p.m.)

Cathy MacDonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission), will highlight the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04 and the Commission's work related to the Executive Order. *Information 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

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.

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 April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack 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, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, 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 – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21, Virtual
June 10-11, Virtual
September 9, Virtual
December 16, Virtual

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

March 10, Virtual
June 9, Virtual

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

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

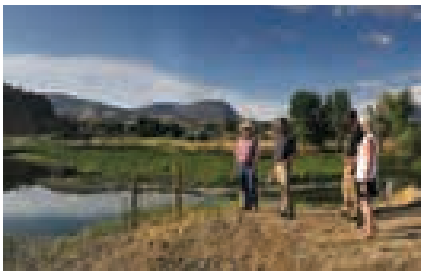


Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- 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.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Alvarado Ron
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Forney Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbremer, Mark
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT
Henson, Paul
Murray, Eric

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 11, 2020 Board Meeting
Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Alvarado Ron
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Henson, Paul

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Forney Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbremer, Mark
Hartstein Eric
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Silbernagel, Cindy
Williams, Eric

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 10, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

The June 10, 2020 meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. PCSRF Funding Update (Audio 0:26:15)
Deputy Director Renee Davis gave an update on the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund funding.

2019-2021 Budget Projections & Spending Plan (Audio = 0:36:14)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided the board with an introduction to budget projections and the resulting need for rebalancing of the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan, as Oregon lottery revenues have declined due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

B. Public Comment (Audio = 0:52:47):
Agenda Item A3

1. Jan Lee, OR. Assoc. Conservation Districts
2. Cheryl McGinnis, Clackamas River Basin WC
3. Melaney Dunne, Coquille WA
4. Troy Abercrombie, Cascade Pacific RC&D
5. Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
6. Wendy Gerlach, Pacific Forest Trust
7. Lee Russell, Elk Creek WC
8. Clair Klock

Agenda Item K

1. Joe Moll, McKenzie River Trust
2. Brad Nye, Deschutes Land Trust

The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
June 11, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CU4LYDnKRD4)

The June 11, 2020 meeting was called to order at 8:02 by Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

C. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:18:54):
Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities and shared information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 1:08:55):
The minutes of the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting were presented for board approval.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A. 2019-2021 Budget Projections and OWEB Spending Plan (Audio = 1:09:51):
Following the previous day's introduction to the topic and public comment, Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden answered questions from the board regarding the previous day's budget presentation.

Deputy Director Renee Davis requested the board approve receipt of funds from the National Marine Fisheries Service's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund for support of OWEB and ODFW programs, and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding for monitoring efforts in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed.

Finally, the board deliberated on options for rebalancing the 2019-2021 OWEB Spending Plan.

Item A-1 / PCSRF Funding: Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of PCSRF Federal Fiscal Year 2020 funding for inclusion in current and future OWEB spending plans, and utilize a combined total of $9.5 million from the FFY20 award and previous PCSRF awards for the update to the spending plan. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item A-1 / PSMFC Funding: Randy Labbe moved the board approve receipt of Federal Fiscal Year 2020 PSMFC funding for the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW totaling $291,000 and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2020. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Item A-3 / Spending Plan Rebalance: Randy Labbe moved the board approve Spending Plan Option C as described in Attachment B of the 2019-2021 Spending Plan Rebalance staff report, including the commitment to award funding at the beginning of the 2021-2023 biennium to bring existing FIP partnerships to the full funding level approved by the board for FIP budgets during the 2019-2021 biennium. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Focused Investment Partnership 2021-2023 Solicitation (Audio = 2:47:17):
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams led the board in a discussion on postponing the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership solicitation, due to Oregon lottery revenue declines because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jason Robison moved the board postpone the 2021-2023 Focused Investment Partnership application deadline until at least June 30, 2021, Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (Audio = 2:58:24):
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided background information on the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. The board considered grant applications submitted through the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations were discussed and acted on by the board.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Fall 2019 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report, with an award date of April 22, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Randy Labbe Recused from voting; Project # 220-5040-17377 Malheur Watershed Council

K. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 3:45:33):
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney requested board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the Fall 2019 grant offering.

Mark Labhart moved the board award funding for Rainforest Reserve (220-9902) and Trout Creek Preserve (220-9909) as described in Item K, effective April 22, 2020 and with a requirement to close the transactions by April 22, 2023, and including the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C to the Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the transaction closing dates for Tillamook Head (219-9900) and Mt. Hood Oaks (219-9901) be extended 18 months, from October 17, 2020 to April 17, 2022. Randy Labbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. OWEB Agency Request Budget (Audio = 5:29:51)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis requested the board's approval of budget proposals to be included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget to the Governor's Office and the Oregon Department of Administrative Services for the 2021-2023 biennium.

Jason Robison moved the board approve the OWEB Agency Request Budget proposals found in Attachment B of the staff report, for inclusion in OWEB's 2021-2023 Agency Request Budget Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Director's Update (Audio = 6:14:27)

Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Manager Eric Hartstein updated the board on the Food Security and Farm Worker Safety Program.

O. Other Business (Audio = 6:31:19)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff requested that the board approve receipt of up to $2,999,997 in federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects.

Jason Robison moved the board approve receipt of up to $2,999,997 in federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Committee Update

Committee Members

Jason Robison, Liza Jane McAlister, Bruce Buckmaster, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Alan Henning, Meg Reeves

Background

The Executive Committee held their first committee meeting August 13. The committee discussed the charge from the board in January 2020 – addressing budget, policy, and program issues; and ensuring the board is actively working to implement the strategic plan, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

Summary of Discussion

The executive committee received updates from discussions from both the DEI and strategic plan committees. Those are included in separate committee reports.

Members had a robust conversation about what the role of the committee should be (outlined below). As a result of that conversation, the committee members identified that 'executive' committee is likely not the right title for the committee, given that executive committees tend to have 1) decision-making authority, and 2) engagement in staff-related issues. This committee serves neither of those purposes. Committee members proposed looking at the functions of 'coordinating', 'advisory', and 'steering' committees to determine which of those titles best fits the identified functions of the committee.

Role of Committee

The committee discussed the following roles and their relevance to the work of this group:

1) Guidance and direction for board discussions. This was discussed as a key role for the committee. When topics come from staff or committees that need framing to help the board make effective decisions, this committee could serve that role effectively.
2) DEI and Strategic Plan. Members agreed with the recommendation from the board in January that both DEI and Strategic Plan should be the responsibility of this committee.
3) Keeper of 'ad hoc' issues. Members identified this committee could serve a valuable role if ad hoc issues are raised by the board to be addressed. The committee can determine how best to follow through on those issues.
4) Cross-connection between committees and board. There are times that an issue might come up in two or more committees, and warrants coordination at a higher level. In addition, there may also be times that committees need assistance from a cross-committee group to further vet issues before they come in front of the board. This committee can serve both of those roles. In addition, this group could serve the role of making sure committees are staying on track to implement their work.

In addition to the roles identified above, members asked about other roles that were not likely best filled by the committee. These included:

- Would topics come to the committee and not to the full board? It was determined there would likely not be topics that come before this committee that are not ultimately presented to the full board.
- Is the committee a decision-making body? Members discussed whether the committee is a decision-making body. Statutorily it cannot be, so the role is more advisory or coordinating in nature. If there is disagreement on the committee, it would likely be noted in the form of a majority/minority opinion or a suite of recommendations for the board to consider.
- Should the committee work on board meeting agendas? Currently, the co-chairs serve in the role of coordinating with staff on board meeting agenda development. That process is working well, so it was determined that the function should stay with the co-chairs.

Future Meetings

The committee will establish a twice-yearly meeting schedule (likely April and October), and will add meetings as needed to address specific issues that need to be addressed.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Liza Jane McAlister

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

Meta.Loftsgaarden@Oregon.gov or 503-986-0180

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Tony Selle (Chair), Bruce Buckmaster, Debbie Hollen, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on July 22, 2020, the first meeting of the committee since committee reorganization. The committee provides input to the board on solicitation, implementation, outcomes measurement, and reporting on Focused Investments.

Summary of Discussion

The committee reviewed the components and history of the Focused Investment Partnership initiative and discussed a regular quarterly committee meeting schedule.

Status of Funding for Current Initiatives

The committee reviewed a spreadsheet showing the funding status of the 11 implementation FIPs following spending plan rebalancing by the board at the June meeting. It was noted that four FIPs obligated all funds allocated to date, including two first cohort FIPs (Tri-county Sage-grouse and Ashland Forest) that have completely obligated all six years of funding. Each FIP operates on different schedules for holding grant cycles to obligate FIP funds, largely depending on the nature of the restoration work and timing of project implementation. At this time, match funding has not been an issue for FIP partnerships, but there is some concern that match funding may be impacted in the future due to ongoing impacts from Covid.

Implementation FIP Solicitation

The committee discussed the current paused status of the implementation FIP solicitation for the 2021-23 biennium. Initially slated for June 2020, the board postponed the application deadline until at least June 2021. The solicitation schedule will be revisited as the board develops the 2021-23 biennium spending plan.

Board Reporting

In previous biennia, partnerships presented progress on their FIP initiatives at the January meeting, along with written reports to the board. The written reports were in the form of Progress Tracking Reports that include metrics, narrative, and adaptive management measures implemented. Pre-covid, staff planned to have cohort 2 partnerships present to the board in January to inform spending plan proposals for the second biennium in April, with cohort 1 partnerships making final presentations in July. This would break the reporting of all 11 FIPs into two meetings. The reporting schedule is being adjusted to account for spending plan reductions made by the board in June. Cohort 2 partnerships will present progress to the board in December, with Progress Tracking Reports submitted at the March meeting to help inform spending plan decisions for the second biennium of investment. Since cohort 1 will not be fully funded at the end of the biennium, staff will defer setting a date for final board reporting.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Alan Henning (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee held their first committee meeting after committees reorganized on July 10. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board: Oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring, including quantifying conservation outputs and outcomes, FIP monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Discussion

The committee will maintain its current scope as described above. In this capacity, committee members will work with staff to track implementation of ongoing projects, which were reviewed during the July meeting. Given recent staffing reductions, the committee will assess progress on their projects relative to staff capacity in the coming months. They also will help OWEB staff consider emerging opportunities and priorities related to monitoring work, given reduced capacity at present, while optimizing the agency's impact with its monitoring resources, including through such activities as roll-out of refined monitoring grant-making processes based on the rulemaking process that concluded in April 2020.

Status Updates about Ongoing Projects

The committee reviewed status updates about ongoing projects. Monitoring projects that are continuing as planned, despite staffing reductions, include Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program performance tracking, Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, effectiveness monitoring of tide gate restoration via the Ni-les'tun project, and Stage 0 restoration monitoring and shared learning. Efforts that are continuing, but at reduced capacity, include existing *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, wrap-up of FIP cohort 1 supplemental monitoring grants, and development of outreach products stemming from the tide gate report recommendations. Projects that are 'on pause' due to staffing and/or resource reductions include soliciting new *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, FIP progress tracking reporting, FIP cohort 2 supplemental monitoring grants, and retrospective evaluation of capacity investments.

Committee members recommended leveraging partnerships and collaborations where possible to help keep projects moving forward, despite staffing constraints, and offered to help identify potential opportunities for that.

Emerging Opportunities

The committee discussed several emerging areas for OWEB's monitoring work, including:

- Links to the climate committee's work, such as surveying current monitoring investments to determine how some could inform climate-change planning and considering how monitoring can help assess restoration return on investment relative to climate impacts;

- Use of drones in monitoring, such as a) best practices on drone collected data for use in reporting to OWEB; and b) connecting with regional processes to address drones/sensors needed for specific uses;
- Social science assessing co-benefits to restoration investments, including better understanding in what areas social science is being applied such as FIPs, and Stage 0 restoration monitoring; and
- Data management relative to monitoring projects, including using the roll-out of revised monitoring rules to help identify needs associated with data management that local partners are experiencing.

Next Steps

The committee will continue to track progress for ongoing projects and provide guidance to staff as they explore the emerging opportunities described above.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Alan Henning, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Climate Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee held their first committee meeting July 2. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board in April 2020: To identify ways to incorporate climate change into OWEB's grant programs. The group discussed potential refinements to the scope, along with OWEB's role in the Governor's Executive Order (EO) on Climate and opportunities to listen, learn, and gather information to inform the committee.

Summary of Discussion

Areas of Focus

The committee discussed several possible initial areas of focus, including: identifying approaches to help disseminate climate science to partners; identifying climate-related gaps in information that partners need to better understand how climate change could impact projects, and bringing that information to the scientific community; and inviting expert review of OWEB's granting through the lens of climate action and justice. More specifically, they discussed potential actions that the committee could take to advance these early ideas:

- Document climate co-benefits from traditional investments;
- Help the board understand the effectiveness of restoration investments in addressing climate change and in mitigating and adapting to climate impacts;
- Better signal OWEB's expectations around carbon sequestration and adaptation to applicants;
- Connect to other agencies' climate expertise, including through the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC), and explore coordinated monitoring related to climate effects of investments; and
- Assess what measurement tools are available to estimate/quantify carbon sequestration from projects, among others.

Role of the committee

The committee discussed the importance of clarifying what its "sphere of influence" is, relative to the board's needs and expectations, other processes that are underway like implementation associated with the Climate EO, and staff capacity. The committee also will assess how to interface with the board on setting measurable goals related to climate and from which the committee's work will tier; and, through time, share ideas with the board about concepts such as developing a climate action statement for OWEB.

Next Steps

The committee brainstormed near-term activities in the coming six months that would advance the focus areas described above. Initial actions will focus on establishing a common

understanding related to climate, including such activities as: describing how OWEB addresses climate in its current grant-making processes and criteria, and learning about both existing processes and quantitative analysis that describe the carbon sequestration benefits of natural climate solutions. The committee will scope OWEB's climate goals by communicating with representatives from the Governor's Climate Office and OGWC, developing links to other committees such as monitoring and focused investment, and taking early steps to outline an approach to incrementally incorporate climate considerations, based on available resources.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Water Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Chair), Ron Alvarado, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray, Meg Reeves

Background

The Water Committee held their first committee meeting July 30. The committee based their discussion on the charge from the board in January 2020 – to develop a more refined purpose, including strategic alignment with the 100-Year Water Vision and with future OWEB grants. The committee concluded that additional discussion is needed before developing a formal proposal to the Board.

Summary of Discussion

The committee recommends using the 100-Year Water Vision work that has been completed to date to guide OWEB's work related to water, even though the work hasn't been finalized.

Role of the committee

As noted above, the committee would like to continue discussions before proposing a final role to the board. Initial ideas for committee work include:

- Helping the board identify strategic priorities for investment,
- Helping to identify funding gaps,
- Helping non-traditional partners and vulnerable communities identify potential resources to compete for grants (this also supports equity), and
- Helping push the conversation forward to incorporate natural resources into statewide agency planning.

Natural Infrastructure

In addition, the committee discussed the role of OWEB funding relative to natural infrastructure. The committee proposes to initiate a conversation about natural infrastructure by presenting some specific examples of natural infrastructure, showing how OWEB and other partners participate in funding those projects, and suggesting opportunities to improve coordination. This may also help identify funding challenges for local communities.

The committee also discussed the role of OWEB in working with other funders to better understand the funding picture for natural infrastructure, funding gaps, and who is best to fill them. Finally, the committee discussed ways to elevate the conversation more broadly regarding the use of natural infrastructure as a viable solution to build infrastructure projects. This may include considering ways to encourage natural infrastructure as an option in project planning, while at the same time recognizing that every situation is unique and has its own challenges.

Equity

The committee identified the nexus with Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and identified the need for organizational growth to better incorporate equity into our work. They concurred with the DEI committee that asking the Governor's Office to join a conversation with the board about their DEI focus would be helpful. The committee also discussed incorporating the equity framework and community feedback into the water committee's work by expanding partners and identifying water-related needs.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Chair

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

Meta.Loftsgaarden@Oregon.gov or 503-986-0180

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ad hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Background

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) ad hoc Committee held their first committee meeting July 27. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board in January 2020, including the following items:

- OWEB staff and board are trained and model that we are inclusive and diverse;
- OWEB ensures all stakeholders are heard and at the table;
- OWEB considers ways to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into how and where we grant; and
- OWEB works to ensure that the agency reaches diverse participants to make sure they know funding is available and how to participate in OWEB programs.

Summary of Discussion

Action items to help board increase their knowledge and understanding of DEI and their role

This is a critically important issue for the board, especially in this time of challenging budgets and limited funding. Short-term actions include:

- Have staff share grantee DEI survey results with Executive Committee and at a full board meeting so board members gain an understanding of where local partners are in their DEI work.
- Invite Governor's Office (Amira Streeter) to come and talk about what she is working on with respect to equity and Governor Brown's work around racial justice.
- Ask partners to come and talk about their specific experiences to help the board better understand local perspectives.
- Identify potential online resources that can be a training tool for board – ask them to commit time to accessing those or other resources to get themselves up to speed on these key issues.
- Tie DEI to all aspects of OWEB's strategic plan – it fits all priorities.
- Survey board members to assess their current understanding of DEI, and potential challenges and opportunities.
- Look for opportunities, wherever possible, to coordinate with other agencies/Governor's Office on this work.

Additional lens for board and staff consideration

In addition to goals, committee members recommended having board and staff consistently ask the following questions when making major board decisions (excerpted from "Is your business model anti-racist?" by Nadia Owusu (Quartz, online)):

- How have our programs and services left out or harmed communities of color in the past?
- Reflecting on that past, what potential adverse impacts or unintended consequences on communities of color could result from our current and future programs/services and how might we work to address them?

- Have stakeholders from communities of color been meaningfully represented in the development of our programs and services?
- How might we work to ensure that communities of color benefit from our programs/services and how might we maximize those benefits?

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, committee member

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

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September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Bruce Buckmaster, Debbie Hollen, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Background

The Strategic Plan ad hoc Committee held their first committee meeting July 16. The committee based their discussion on the charge from the board in January 2020 – to develop a high-level template measuring how OWEB's projects advance the strategic plan, and to design an approach for the executive committee to review progress toward the plan. In addition, during the meeting, the committee discussed developing a formal process to update the strategic plan as suggestions arise.

Summary of Discussion

The ad hoc committee recommended that future conversations regarding the strategic plan and the next steps outlined below move to the executive committee given that much of the membership is the same and the executive committee is made up of the co-chairs and other committee chairs.

Recommendations for next steps

As noted above, the committee provided a suite of recommendations for the executive committee to consider. These included:

- Measures. The committee recognized staff are working on strategic plan measures and the board should engage in this work as well. The committee advised on the value in bringing back the external advisory group who helped guide the 2018 strategic plan to have them provide feedback on measures that would be valuable
- How well is the plan being implemented. The committee suggested developing a '360-like' survey to provide to our customers (grantees and partners) to have them provide feedback about the board and staff's implementation of the strategic plan.
- Reporting. The committee recommended that staff should continue reporting using the existing quarterly format, but focus on what's changed (not just ongoing reporting) and any red/yellow flags around the plan for now. In addition, should add a column that references challenges we are facing in implementing priorities.
- Connection between granting and the strategic plan. The committee would like to consider ways to encourage the board to think about the strategic plan in terms of our granting – what offerings we provide, what questions we ask of grantees, etc.
- Plan updates. The committee recommended establishing a formal way to update the plan through the committee process

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jason Robison

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E-1: Budget and Staffing

This report provides the board an update about OWEB's budget and staffing.

Background

At its June meeting, the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 spending plan to address budget shortfalls due to reductions in lottery revenues. The rebalancing option selected by the board awarded Open Solicitation grants and provided funding for a subset of Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grants, while reserving approximately $4.7 million for future open solicitation granting. In June, the board also heard an update from the Executive Director about staffing reductions that were necessary, also due to budget shortfalls. By early July, the number of staff working on OWEB's grant programs was reduced by 33%, with 11 of 34 staff being reassigned to work outside of OWEB's core missions, moving to job rotations or positions with other agencies, or selecting another professional option of their choice. This impact will continue through the rest of the biennium.

Budget Update

Regarding budget, updates fall into two categories:

2019-2021 budget – In August, OWEB received its quarterly distribution of lottery revenues, as required by the Constitution. Revenue to the OWEB grant fund came in at 41% of the expected amount. This number is higher than expected, given that lottery machines were turned off for nearly two of the three months of the quarter. Operating revenues were higher than expected as well, coming in at around 96% of average, in large part because the legislature provided a beginning fund balance for the 2019-21 biennial budget. The agency intends to hold those additional funds on the staffing side in case revenues slide during winter months.

2021-2023 budget – The budget development process for next biennium is ongoing. OWEB has been required to develop a 'revenue shortfall package' based on current lottery revenue projections for next biennium. The estimated shortfall is 20.3% below Current Service Level for the agency. In contrast, though, agencies are requested to continue plans to submit policy option packages (POPs) also. In addition to the POPs approved by the board in June, staff now are also building into OWEB's 2021-23 Agency Request Budget, a 'restoration package' that—if revenues are higher than estimated—would restore most of the staffing capacity that is proposed to be lost in the 'revenue shortfall package.'

Staffing

The staffing situation due to budget shortfalls remains as discussed in June, with OWEB staff capacity reduced by 11 individuals. In addition to the staff in this group who have moved to positions at other agencies, five OWEB staff continue to be assigned to the Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Program (see Agenda Item D-4). Following completion of FSFS in late 2020, it is expected that these staff will be placed in job rotations or similar arrangements through the end of the biennium.

At the September board meeting, staff will provide any late-breaking budget updates to the board.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 503-986-0180.

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E-2: 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 (OGMS), the agency's enterprise database. Since the launch of online applications and the subsequent improvements to OWEB's online systems overall, staff have provided the board with annual updates about enhancements.

Recent Improvements to OWEB's Online Systems

Extensive improvements have been made to the online system content and functionality since the last update to the board in July of 2019. The improvements include:

- The addition of online applications for Oregon Department of Agriculture noxious weeds grants, partnership technical assistance grants, federal forest collaborative grants, and CREP technical assistance grants;
- Significant progress in preparing new small grant and Bureau of Land Management application types;
- Ongoing refinements to OWEB's existing online applications for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and land acquisitions grants, based on feedback from applicants, reviewers and staff. These refinements include the addition of character limits directly after questions, responsive design of pop-ups and tables, and various other interface updates to improve the user's experience;
- Ongoing refinements to OWEB's application review and management system, including the addition of applicant contact information, enhancement of filter functionality, and various improvements to the application builder tool;
- Creation of an award memo generator and improvements to the auto grant agreement generator;
- Refinements to Dashboard user experience, such as improved project filtering and a portal to the project completion reporting pages used by grantees; and
- Addition of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety program to OGMS.

The 'Project Life Cycle' (PLC) initiative that kicked off in 2018 continues its work to leverage existing technology and streamline processes across the full 'life cycle' of a grant. The initiative is creating 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. Current areas of focus include online payment requests and a streamlined reporting interface for restoration metrics.

Staff Contact

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

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-3: Strategic Plan Update

This report provides an update about implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

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.

Strategic Plan Update

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 latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between January and August 2020. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, January to August 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – January-August 2020

- Black text describes progress on actions and measures for the current quarter, along with the associated strategies, outputs and outcomes.
- Blue text describes all other content extracted from the strategic plan for the purpose of providing framing information, but for which no actions or progress occurred this quarter.

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

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

- New Oregon Lottery natural habitats website launched in winter 2020 featuring new OWEB projects.

So That: (outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- 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.

To Make This Difference: (outcomes)

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
  - are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed;
  - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;
  - understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-term measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views , 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019)
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January - November 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

Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations

Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

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

- Marko Bey, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Executive Director, spoke to the board in January 2020 on their work with restoration crews, specifically those of Hispanic and native maerican decent.
- Staff completed follow-up interviews with grantees as a result of the DEI surveys distributed earlier this year.
- All-staff participated in a DEI exercise during the August all-staff meeting.
- Staff received materials regarding racial equity and systemic racism. Materials were also provided to partners to share.
- The ad hoc DEI committee held its first meeting to discuss how to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into conversations with board, staff, and OWEB's operations. The initial discussion recognized that this is a critical area for board discussion and focus. The ad hoc committee with work with staff and the Executive Committee to find opportunities for presentations and trainings that can be shared at future board meetings.

So That: (outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- 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.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.
- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage

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 365 hours of training (July 2018-December 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.*

	Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)		with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.		
Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds					
Strategies	Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - While the consultant has been selected to complete the retrospective evaluation of OWEB's capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, staff have been unable to move forward with the agreement because of cuts to contracting dollars within OWEB. The intent is to pick this back up in the new biennium.	**So That:** (outputs) - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions. - 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.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - 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.
	Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity	- In January the board awarded 6 applications 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.			
	Accelerate state/federal agency participation in 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	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Partnered with NRCS to establish a tide gate coordinator position to be housed at OWEB beginning in the fall. This position will support local landowners, technical service providers and agencies to move forward tide gate repair and replacement projects in an efficient manner. - Received BLM funding to distribute as grants for projects that provide habitat benefit in local communities - In process of finalizing agreement with NRCS to support distribution of their funding to grantees in support of critical administrative work to move local conservation efforts forward.	**So That:** (outputs) - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health	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
	Align common investment areas with private foundations				
	Explore creative funding opportunities and 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	- OWEB requested funding to continue the 100-Year Water Vision work along with the Governor's office in the 2020 Short Legislative Session. While funding was slated for approval, the legislature closed the session without passing a budget, so no funding was received for the program. - The water committee held its first meeting to discuss the connections between OWEB's work and the 100-year water vision. Initial areas of focus include equity and natural infrastructure. The committee will continue to meet to develop refined proposals for board consideration. - The climate committee held its first meeting to discuss opportunities for OWEB to more fully integrate climate related considerations into its grant-making. Initial areas of focus include better understanding how existing OWEB investments are providing climate benefits and learning about complementary initiatives (e.g., Climate EO). - Continued engagement with the state's process to update Oregon's Climate Change Adaptation Framework, including final work on near-term and longer-term coordination leadership options; the draft framework is now under review by state executives. - Supported Business Oregon to develop a proposal to distribute $6 million in grants and loans for tide gate infrastructure projects for the 2020 session. While funds were not approved in February 2020, the legislature is considering $3 million in funding for the 2020 special session.	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 their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.	work that is also environmentally sustainable.	investment. - Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.
Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health					
Strategies	Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Continued discussions with the Commission around funding strategy for OAHP grant programs.	**So That:** (outputs) - 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. - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands. - Local capacity exists to implement the	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability. - Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - 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
	Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners	- Successfully launched the Food Security and Farmworker Safety grant program, which provides CARES act funding to producers to meet housing, sanitation, and PPE needs.			
	Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands	- Awarded funds for the Rainforest Reserve land acquisition project, which includes a 3,500-acre mosaic of conservation and working forest lands. Matching funds are provided through the USFS Forest Legacy Program. - Deputy Director and Executive Director began engaging with the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Natural and Working Lands process, as described in the Climate EO.			
	Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands	- OWEB and ODA staff worked together to incorporate lessons learned from Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) grant-making to date, and proposed refinements to the funding process to the OWEB board.			
	Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations	- OWEB awarded Stakeholder Engagement grants that communicate with and recruit private working landowners in the following watersheds: North Coast (forest land), South Fork Coquille (ranches and farms), Long Tom (forest land).			

			Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.		water quality. - Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation.
Priority 6 - Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness					
	Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Presented "Telling the Restoration Story" products to the OWEB board at multiple meetings, and continued work with grantees on outreach product development for ongoing projects. - The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership completed a virtual tour of the Floras Creek Watershed, to scope opportunities for a data driven case study that quantitatively describes the results from restoration; and worked with communication leads at the five partner agencies to develop a communications strategy that matches products and messages to key audiences.	**So That:** (outputs) - Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - 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.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Partners are using results-based restoration 'stories' to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - 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. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales. - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.	**Near-term measure:** - 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019). **Potential impact measure:** - 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 - 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.
	Invest in monitoring over the long term	- Worked with implementation and funding partners to secure an additional year of funding for the Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed.			
	Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- Began planning for outreach to monitoring grant applicants to provide training on the new application requirements based on revised administrative rules that were completed in April 2020. - Drafted a document to assist practitioners developing tide gate replacement or removal projects in Oregon; it is currently under review by practitioners and scientists. - Seven SIA teams have monitoring plans approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). - Engaged in planning process to update Photo-point Monitoring Guide to include drone based photos.			
	Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Engaged in the planning process to host a Stage 0 Stream Restoration and Monitoring Workshop in November 2020, at which practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders will discuss current topics and data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition. - Engaged in planning process for an Emerging Technology Webinar Series to share examples of using drones to monitor stream restoration projects. The webinar series will occur in October 2020.			
	Define monitoring priorities				
	Develop and promote a monitoring framework				
Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds					
Strategi	Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Awarded land acquisition grants to land trusts for two landscape-scale projects that will result in permanent protection of over 8,000 acres in the North Coast and Deschutes watersheds.	**So That:** (outputs) - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - Conservation communities value an	**Near-term measure:** - 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

	Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies	- Adopted extensive changes to water acquisition rules that include more options for contractually protected instream flows. Such projects can be structured to enhance both economic and ecological benefits. - Board supported additional funding for a pipe sizing tool to aid in the development of tide gate designs that meet regulatory requirements for fish passage. - Supported Business Oregon in finalizing an application for tide gate repair and replacement grants. Funding was not approved in the 2020 legislative session but may be approved in the August 2020 special session.	- OWEB's landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.	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 encourages a culture of innovation. - 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. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk	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.
	Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission	- Continued work to plan for the November virtual workshop focused on Stage 0 restoration monitoring, in coordination with a steering committee of practitioners, researchers, and agency partners. Currently, more than 80 participants are registered. - OWEB's Project Life Cycle team initiated a project to scope software programming opportunities to better capture and share lessons learned in Project Completion Reports to make the information more accessible internally and externally. Due to limited staffing the project is currently on pause.			

September 9, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-4: Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update

This report provides the board an update on the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program.

Background

In June, the legislative emergency board allocated $16 million in federal funding to OWEB to administer a COVID-19 response program to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers. OWEB entered into an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to help develop and communicate the program.

Program Goals

This program was developed in response to safety needs for farmworkers who harvest Oregon's agricultural products, and to the temporary rules enacted by Oregon Occupational Safety Health Administration (OR-OSHA) in response to COVID-19. These requirements come with an increased cost to agricultural producers in providing farmworker housing, field sanitation, and transportation. The goals of the program are to:

- Deploy rapid support and resources to Oregon's agricultural growers to meet harvest demands and ensure the protection of migrant and seasonal farmworkers during the COVID-19 emergency.
- Reduce the potential for illness and death associated with COVID-19 among farmworkers, their families, and employers, and other residents in rural and urban communities.
- Enhance the public health of the state and educate Oregon's agricultural industry to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Program Implementation

As noted at the June board meeting, staff worked with ODA, OHCS, and other agency partners to develop the Food Security and Farmworker Safety grant program, which became live on June 10. The grant program elements are:

- Farmworker Housing ($10 million)
  - Temporary Modifications to Existing Housing
  - Temporary Alternative Housing
  - Hotel/Motel Assistance
- Field Sanitation ($5 million)
  - Toilets/Handwashing Stations
  - Face Coverings
- Transportation ($1 million)
  - Rental Vehicles/Mileage Reimbursement

As of the writing of this staff report, 117 applications to the program have been received. It is expected that applications will be received into October. The program will end on October 25, 2020 as the federal funding supporting the program must be expended by December 30, 2020. In addition to grant application information, the program webpage includes additional resources for keeping farmworkers healthy:
https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/fsfs/Pages/resources-for-farmworkers.aspx

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Coby Menton at coby.menton@oregon.gov.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item F 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 F – Oregon Conservation Partnership Update
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an update on how the Oregon Conservation Partnership is working with and supporting its stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. Background

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.

III. Update

The Executive Directors of the individual organizations will provide an update to the board about how they are working together to deliver information and training opportunities to their members to provide support and resources during the COVID-19 pandemic.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 2, 3 and 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Governor's Office Update on Equity and Environmental Justice Initiatives
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

During several committee conversations, discussion arose around the connection between work of the committee and work Governor Brown's office is initiating regarding equity and environmental justice. Board members requested the Governor's Office provide an update about those initiatives, so that work can be coordinated with the various OWEB board committees.

II. Background

In March, Governor Brown approved Executive Order 20-04 "directing state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. "Section 3.E of the order establishes an Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. "The Governor's Office will convene an interagency workgroup on climate impacts to impacted communities to develop strategies to guide state climate actions, with participation by the following agencies and commissions: DEQ, DLCD, ODA, ODF, ODFW, ODOE, ODOT, OHA, OWEB, OWRD, PUC, Environmental Justice Task Force, Oregon Global Warming Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Oregon Sustainability Board."

In July, Governor Brown established the Racial Justice Council. This council has subgroups focused on criminal justice reform and police accountability, health equity, economic opportunity, housing and homelessness, and environmental justice/natural resources.

Natural Resources Policy Advisor Amira Streeter is the lead for Governor Brown's office for both Section 3.E of the Executive Order and for the environmental justice/natural resources subgroup of the Racial Justice Council. She will join the board to provide an update about both initiatives to help the board increase their understanding of this work, how it relates to the Governor's priorities, and how the OWEB board might best engage in these efforts.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priority #6: Coordinated Monitoring and Shared Learning.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H. – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. At each board meeting, staff will briefly highlight *Telling the Restoration Story* products, drawing on recently completed projects to illustrate outcomes from a range of restoration activities funded by OWEB. At the September 2020 board meeting, local partners will join staff to share information about the Deer Creek *Telling the Restoration Story* project and discuss products from the board's investment in that effort.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing monitoring data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Eight projects have been funded under this offering so far. An online map provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available: https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6

III. *Telling the Restoration Story*: Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement

This story was developed by the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) and their partners to highlight the outcomes associated with their restoration actions. The design approach, termed Stage 0, seeks to reestablish hydrologic connection across the entire valley bottom, largely through the removal of streamside berms, filling of incised channels, and placement of significant amounts of large wood throughout the floodplain. The project successfully restored

hydrologic connection and increased habitat and flow over 35 acres of the valley bottom in the lower reach of Deer Creek, a tributary of the McKenzie River in Lane County.

The relatively new design approach and the immediate geomorphic response has generated interest from a range of professional colleagues, funding entities, and the public. The *Telling the Restoration Story* project created outreach materials describing the Stage 0 design approach (Attachment A), along with an overview of the Deer Creek project and initial monitoring results (Attachment B). Short-term monitoring has shown that 'Stage 0' restoration on Deer Creek has 1) increased habitat availability and complexity, 2) increased the diversity and abundance of aquatic macroinvertebrates, and 3) enhanced spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook salmon, rainbow trout, and cutthroat trout.

In addition, a digital GIS StoryMap was created and available online: https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=a1eab14df971439580ac2c17e308fa09. Finally, a separate report outlines potential approaches for monitoring geomorphic changes associated with Stage 0 projects over time. Project partners, including the USFS, intend to use these materials to increase awareness and understanding of this emerging floodplain restoration approach.

IV. Next steps

OWEB staff will continue to share *Telling the Restoration Story* products with the OWEB board at upcoming meetings to highlight outcomes associated with OWEB's restoration investments. Staff also will identify new opportunities for investment, when funding is available.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

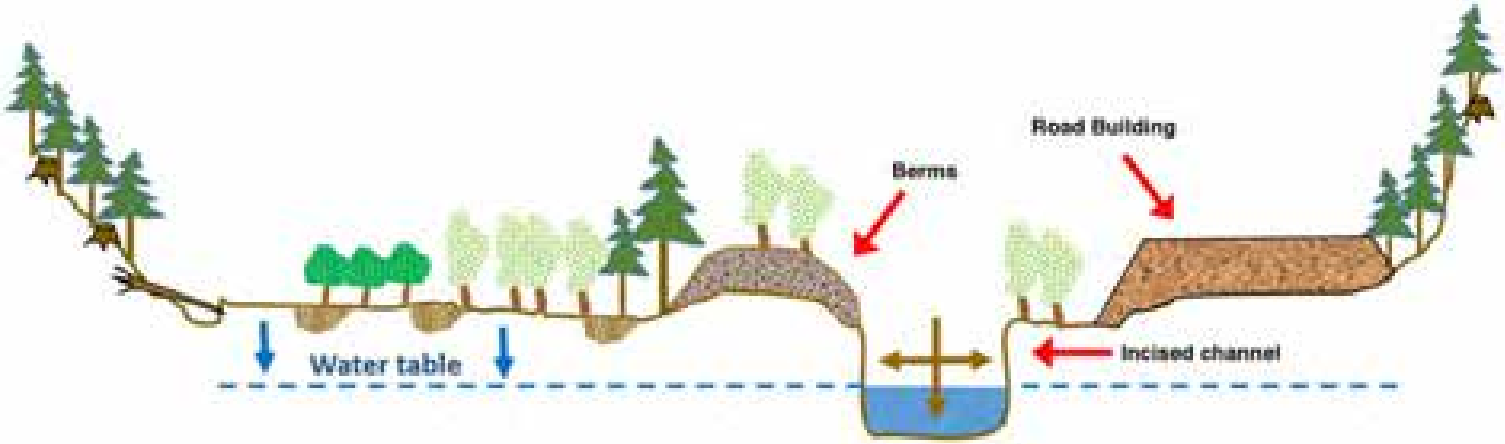
Attachments

A. Stage 0 Restoration Approach, Two-Page Flyer
B. Deer Creek Restoration, Four-Page Flyer

Stage 0 Design Approach to Floodplain Restoration

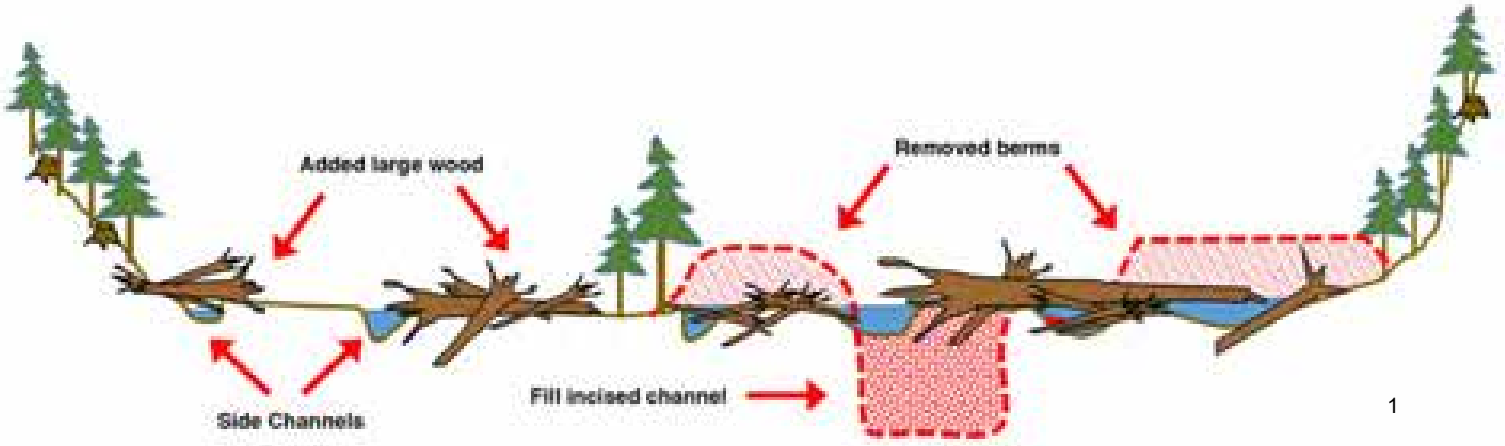
Background

Historically, valley bottoms in low gradient river valleys were complex depositional zones for sediment, wood, and nutrients from upstream areas. These conditions created and maintained braided channel networks with abundant gravels, wood, and deep pools needed to support diverse fish, wildlife, and vegetation communities. Land management practices over the last century (dams, roads, urban and rural development, agriculture, berm placement, in-stream wood removal, and harvest of timber) have channelized rivers, disconnected valley bottoms, lowered water tables, altered vegetation communities, and negatively impacted native fish and wildlife.



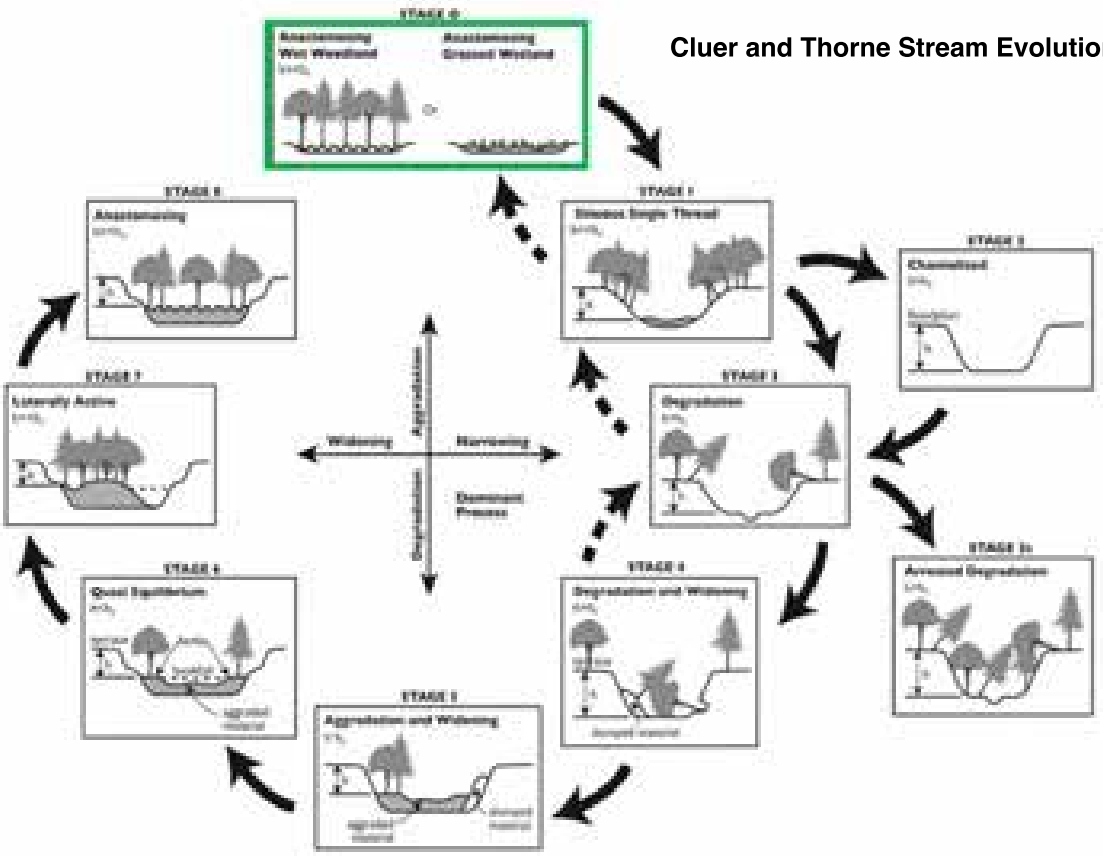
Restoration

Traditional approaches to valley bottom restoration have largely focused on working within incised channels and engineering stable channels to reconnect side channels. Recently, an alternative approach developed over time by US Forest Service specialists and community partners working in Oregon has instead focused on restoring river processes that encourage deposition and the development of complex habitat over time. This is typically accomplished by filling previously incised channels with sediment removed from stream-side berms, old road beds or natural deposits and adding high volumes of large wood. This approach creates a well-connected valley bottom and allows the river to shape braided channel networks in response to environmental drivers like floods, and biological drivers such as riparian forest development and beaver damming.



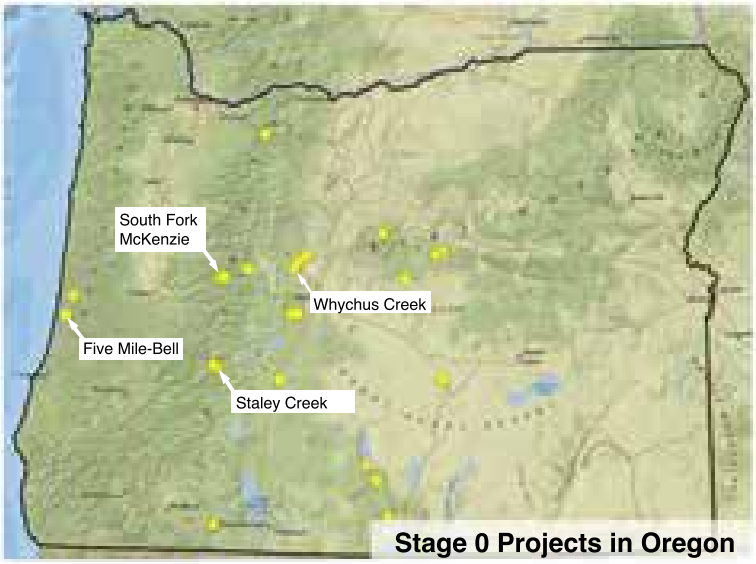
Stage 0 Restoration

This new approach to river restoration is well described in the literature by Cluer and Thorne (2013) as Stage 0 of the Stream Evolution Model. Their research shows that in wide, low-gradient river valleys, an anastomosing or braided channel network that is regularly flooded better represents historical conditions prior to widespread human disturbance. Their research also shows that habitat and ecosystems benefit significantly increase within the more complex, braided stages (Stage 0 and Stage 8) of the model.



Cluer and Thorne Stream Evolution Model

Oregon Stage 0 Projects



Stage 0 Projects in Oregon

Stage 0 restoration projects have been implemented at 20 sites in Oregon. To date, projects have exclusively been implemented on US Forest Service land and range in size from large rivers (South Fork McKenzie River) to small meadow creeks. Early results show that projects have created dynamic and complex habitats.

The next challenge for restoration practitioners and research partners will be to evaluate the linked physical and ecological responses to Stage 0 restoration. Several monitoring projects are underway on the South Fork McKenzie River, Staley Creek (Middle Fork Willamette River), Whychus Creek (Deschutes River) and Five Mile Crek/Bell Creek complex (Coastal).





Deer Creek: A Stage 0 Approach to River Restoration



Background



Deer Creek is a tributary of McKenzie River located in western Oregon in the Cascade Mountains. The creek is 8.2 miles long and drains nearly 15,000 acres. Ownership within the Deer Creek watershed is almost entirely public lands managed by the US Forest Service (USFS).

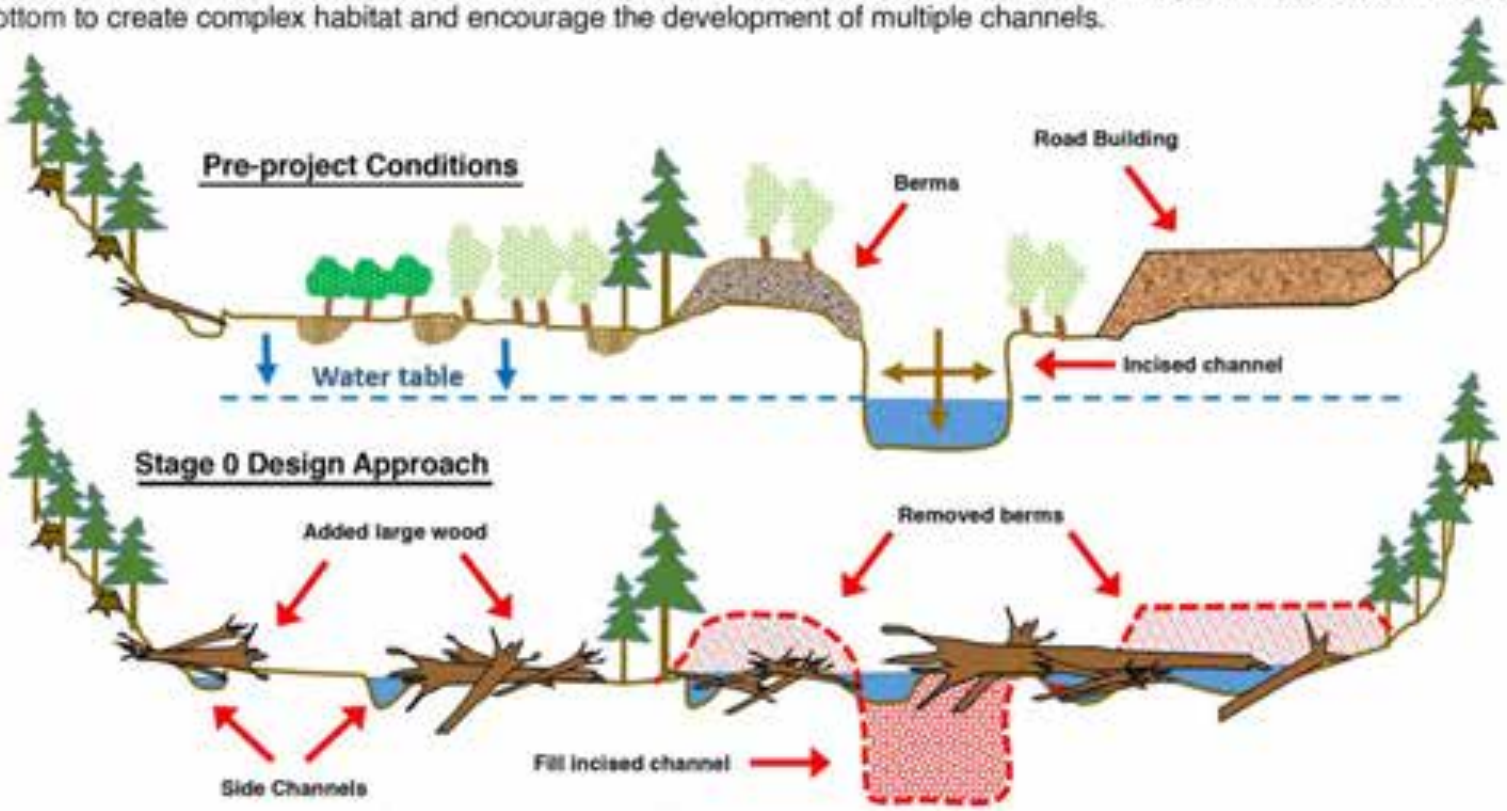
Historically, Deer Creek was a complex stream with a gravel-rich bottom. The lower portion of the creek flowed through a wide valley bottom as a braided system of channels that would move and change during periodic flooding. Fallen trees from the surrounding forest trapped sediment providing diverse habitat for native fish and wildlife including Chinook salmon, bull trout, and rainbow trout.

Deer Creek has been significantly altered by human activities since the late 1800s. Logging and the removal of large wood from the creek simplified and narrowed the channel. Stream-side berms were constructed after the historic 1964 flood to keep the stream in a single channel disconnecting it from its natural valley bottom. These changes had a dramatic impact on the physical environment of the creek and drastically changed the habitat on which salmon and other native fish and wildlife depend.


Cobble substrate - too large for spawning

Design

In 2016, the USFS and the McKenzie Watershed Council (MWC) began a project to restore habitat conditions on Deer Creek. The project followed a new design approach since termed "Stage 0", to restore natural processes that form and maintain complex in-stream and valley bottom habitat. The Stage 0 design approach removes berms or old roads that are preventing valley bottom connectivity. This material is then placed within incised portions of the stream channel to connect flows to side channels and large areas of the valley bottom. Large wood is then placed throughout the creek and valley bottom to create complex habitat and encourage the development of multiple channels.



Implementation

The Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project was designed to restore habitat for native fish and wildlife in the lower 1.1 miles and 42 acres of Deer Creek. Work started in the summer of 2016 and was completed by two Oregon contractors, Haley Construction (Sweet Home) and Blue Ridge Timber Cutting (Coos Bay).



Decked logs prior to transport to project site



Diversion channel



Berm removal and channel fill



Large wood placement



Whole trees positioned in Deer Creek



Rewatered floodplain

The first step of the Project was to divert sections of Deer Creek so that berm removal, channel fill, and large wood placement could take place in dry conditions. A bulldozer and large excavator were used to construct small dams on Deer Creek, temporarily diverting stream flow into side channels. Small teams collected stranded fish from the dewatered channel and relocated them outside of the project area. Streamside berms were then removed and the material placed within incised portions of Deer Creek. Over 450 pieces of large wood were then distributed throughout the project area in various-sized log jams. The diversion dams were then removed allowing the creek to flow freely over the newly reconnected valley bottom and around the placed log jams, forming complex pools and braided channels.



Reconnected floodplain and log jams

Project Cost

The project cost was $466,000 and was funded by a variety of state, federal, and private foundation sources., including the USFS, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Bring Back the Natives Program (NFWF), and the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI). Both the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) and the USFS provided personnel and material support. The project was managed by the MWC and Willamette National Forest McKenzie River Ranger District.

Funders	Amount
USFS	$241,000
OWEB	$142,000
NFWF	$60,000
WNTI	$17,000
EWEB	$6,000
Total	**$466,000**

Post-Project Results

Early results of the restoration are encouraging. Deer Creek changed from less than 30 pieces of large wood per mile to over 300. The previously constrained channel now connects to its valley bottom. Pre- and post-project photos show a dramatic difference in how the creek meanders through the valley bottom. Water flowing downstream is now slowed and redirected by complex log jams and islands, creating a diversity of habitats. As water flows over logs and a wider channel, it slows down allowing gravels to deposit and accumulate, creating spawning habitat. Before, a narrower channel with fast-flowing water would have carried those gravels downstream.



Pre-Project



Post-Project



Spawning Chinook Salmon

In 2017, biologists observed spring Chinook salmon spawning in Deer Creek, the first documented spawning since 1993! A summer snorkel survey also documented the presence of juvenile bull trout.

Aquatic insects are a critical part of the food web and an important monitoring tool. Analysis of macroinvertebrate samples collected in 2019 shows that the number of species present and their total biomass is significantly greater within the project area when compared to untreated sections of Deer Creek.



Newly deposited gravel

Project managers recognize the need for formal monitoring to measure the changes in Deer Creek over time. The USFS and MWC are currently working with a variety of scientists to design a monitoring program that will capture physical habitat changes and biological responses over time. Due to the large project area, partners are exploring the use of aerial imagery in combination with transect surveys across the valley bottom to efficiently track habitat complexity. This data will be assessed along with annual fish spawning and macroinvertebrate sampling.

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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: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Organizational Collaboration Grants
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of Organizational Collaboration grants and requests the board approve a revised Organizational Collaboration grant offering and signal their intent to add funding to this offering at the December 2020 board meeting.

II. Background

Organizational collaboration technical assistance grants have been offered since 2013 and support organizations working together to create strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

Past grants have funded two or more organizations to work together to change operational structure of the organizations, including the merger of four watershed councils. Through consultations, application materials, and interviews the applicants must demonstrate the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and sustainability for the purposes of achieving ecological outcomes and engaging local communities. The evaluation criteria contained in Attachment A focus on stakeholder engagement, proposal clarity, organizational capacity, and technical soundness.

III. Revised Offering

Many of our local partners are facing new and unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19. In May the Oregon Conservation Partnership sent a survey to watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and land trusts to gain an understanding of concerns and challenges due to COVID-19. Results of the survey showed that 53% of respondents are concerned about their ability to maintain current staffing levels and more than 30% expressed that they could not maintain current staffing levels if the pandemic lasted more than six months.

The revised Organizational Collaboration grant offering would focus funding specifically toward organizations exploring operational change to support improved delivery of actions

to protect and restore native fish and wildlife habitats and water quality and stream flows. Change can happen in many forms such as merger, formal alliances (i.e. administrative consolidation, fiscal sponsorship, joint programming, joint fundraising) or action networks (organizational aligning around specific objectives and common purpose and goals). Staff understand this work takes time to develop, with many conversations needed between staff and boards of interested organizations before concepts can move forward. Collaborating organizations might not be ready to apply for funds, but by announcing the offering now some groups might begin serious conversations with their partners and could be ready to apply in early 2021.

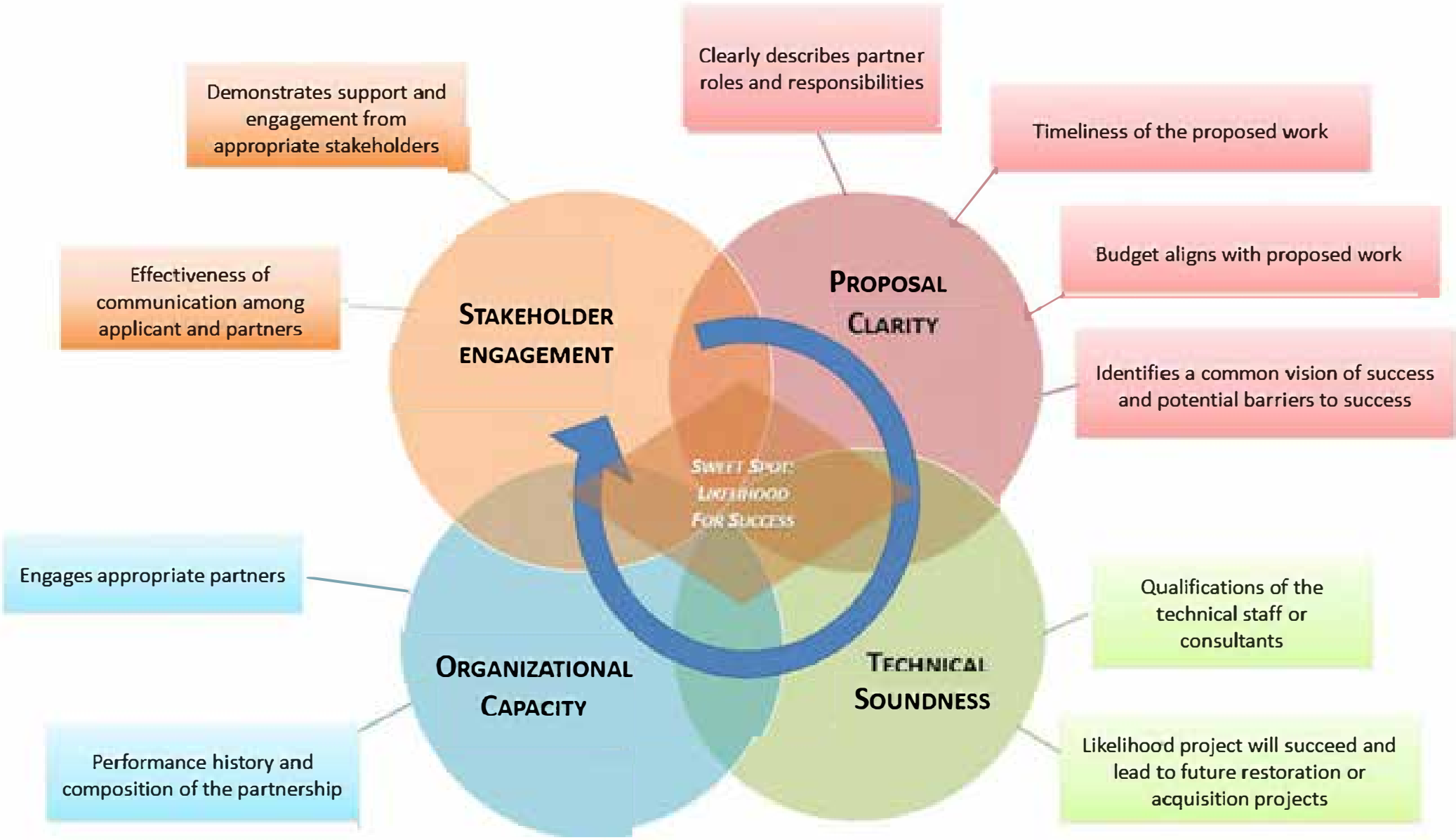
Staff intend to announce the offering in September, hold consultations beginning in October and accept applications, via a rolling deadline, beginning in early 2021. The review process involves a technical review team composed of OWEB staff and external reviewers and involves an interview with the staff and board of all organizations involved in the grant. Board action on applications could occur in March or June 2021.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve a revised Organizational Collaboration grant offering and signal its intent to add additional funds to the Organizational Collaboration TA grant spending plan category in December 2020.

Attachments

Attachment A. Evaluation Criteria



Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045(3)a-j

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Agenda Item J supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Overview of 2021-2023 Spending Plan Development Process
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will discuss the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiate a conversation with the board about the tie between the spending plan and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plate revenues, along with other, smaller funding sources. The bulk of OWEB's grant funding is 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 2019 meeting, the board adopted a 2019-2021 Spending Plan totaling $99.3 million. In June 2020, the Board revised the spending plan to address a number of issues – a drastic downturn in Lottery revenues, receipt of federal PCSRF funds, and use of recapture dollars to help fill the budget shortfall. The revised spending plan totaled $76.0 million (Attachment A). While the board has generally adjusted the spending plan in even years, primarily due to receipt of the annual PCSRF award, this year's update was a larger shift because of the shortfall in Lottery revenues.

III. Spending Plan Timeline

The 2021-23 Spending Plan will be approved by the Board in June 2021. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In September 2020, the board will discuss the overall timeline for the spending plan development process, and the connection between the spending plan, Long-Term Investment Strategy and the 2018 Strategic Plan, including an initial review of percent targets from previous board spending plans (Attachment B).

- In December 2020, based on initial conversations in September, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other grant categories.
- Between the December 2020 and March 2021 board meetings, staff and the Executive Committee will convene to discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In March 2021, staff will present on each of the grant types within each category (e.g., restoration, FIP capacity-building, etc.) and propose an investment amount for each grant type based on the overall percentages indicated by the board in December. At that time, the board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In June 2021, staff will present the 2021-23 Spending Plan as a slate of final recommendations for the board's approval. The board will also consider the latest revenue forecast and use of additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, as occurred during the June 2020 board meeting. Ultimately, in June 2021, the board will approve next biennium's spending plan.

IV. Connection to Strategic Plan and Long-Term Investment Strategy

The board is currently operating under both the Long-Term Investment Strategy (approved in 2013, provided as Attachment C) and the 2018 Strategic Plan (summary provided at the front of the board book). These continue to guide the process of developing the spending plan. In addition, the board has generally operated in a 'no surprises' approach with grantees, seeking to keep shifts in the spending plan gradual to ensure that grantees have time to respond to any changes the board proposes to make in funding categories.

V. Recommendation

This is a discussion item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. 2019-21 Spending Plan (updated in June 2020)
Attachment B. Previous Spending Plan Percentages Based on Long Term Investment Strategy
Attachment C. Long Term Investment Strategy

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Jan 20 Spending Plan	June 2020 changes	Spending Plan as of June 2020	June 2020 Awards	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration	31.200	(11.998)	19.202	7.897	15.945	3.257
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	3.100	(0.609)	2.491	0.975	1.966	0.525
5	CREP TA	1.163		1.163		1.163	0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.248	1.248	0.755	1.000	0.248
7	Monitoring grants	3.500	(1.747)	1.753	1.753	1.753	0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition	6.750	(1.845)	4.905	4.748	4.905	0.000
10	Acquisition TA	0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
11	Weed Grants	3.000		3.000		3.000	0.000
12	Small Grants	3.150	(1.650)	1.500	(1.650)	1.500	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278	(0.518)	0.760		0.760	0.000
14	**TOTAL**	**54.141**	**(18.119)**	**36.022**	**14.478**	**31.992**	**4.030**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**54.53%**		**47.39%**			
16	**Focused Investments:**						
17	Deschutes	4.000	(1.915)	2.085	(1.915)	2.085	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habi	2.180	(1.400)	0.780	(1.400)	0.780	0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	2.500	(0.100)	2.400	(0.100)	2.400	0.000
20	Sage Grouse	0.474		0.474		0.474	0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.000		2.000		2.000	0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.777	(0.466)	2.311	(0.466)	2.311	0.000
23	John Day Partnership	4.000		4.000		4.000	0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	1.715	(0.372)	1.343	(0.372)	1.343	0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.000	(0.287)	1.713	(0.287)	1.713	0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	1.500		1.500		1.500	0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.455	(0.101)	3.354	(0.101)	3.354	0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.450	(0.300)	0.150		0.150	0.000
29	**TOTAL**	**27.051**	**(4.941)**	**22.110**	**(4.641)**	**22.110**	**0.000**
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**27.25%**		**29.09%**			
31	**Operating Capacity:**						
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	14.416	(0.086)	14.330		14.330	0.000
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.250	0.175	0.425	0.175	0.425	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative	0.200	(0.100)	0.100		0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.779		0.779		0.779	0.000
36	**TOTAL**	**15.645**	**(0.011)**	**15.634**	**0.175**	**15.634**	**0.000**
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**15.76%**		**20.57%**			
38	**Other:**						
39	CREP	0.750		0.750		0.750	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000	(0.207)	0.793	(0.207)	0.793	0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	0.700		0.700		0.700	0.000
42	**TOTAL**	**2.450**	**(0.207)**	**2.243**	**(0.207)**	**2.243**	**0.000**
43	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**2.47%**		**2.95%**			
44	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**99.287**	**(23.278)**	**76.009**	**9.805**	**71.979**	**4.030**
45	**OTHER DIRECTED**						
46	ODFW - PCSRF	11.690		11.690		11.690	0.000
47	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.321		0.321		0.321	0.000
48	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.000		0.000		0.000	0.000
49	**TOTAL**	**12.011**	**0.000**	**12.011**	**0.000**	**12.011**	**0.000**
50	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds**	**111.298**	**(23.278)**	**88.020**	**9.805**	**83.990**	**4.030**

Previous Spending Plan Percentages Based on Long Term Investment Strategy*

Category	2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021
Open Solicitation	62.69%	61.65%	55.28%
Focused Investments	17.15%	19.14%	26.05%
Operating Capacity**	18.11%	16.09%	15.38%
Other	2.06%	3.13%	3.29%

**Note: the spending plan percentages are taken from the board meeting at which the board approved each of the spending plans (July of each even year), and are the 'Year 2' numbers for each approved plan.*

***Note: while the operating capacity percent has gone down each biennium, the amount for capacity has gone up using a cost of living allowance calculation in all three biennia. The lower percentage is because Lottery revenues increased more than the cost of living calculation in those biennia.*

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.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item K 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: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Grants
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the current status of SIA grants and provides a plan for funding the remaining 2019-2021 SIA areas.

II. Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program leads the SIA program, under which select areas around the state receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring funding 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 issues, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

Beginning with the 2017-2019 biennium the OWEB board awarded $100,000 of technical assistance funds for each SIA identified through ODA to support stakeholder engagement and project development. Technical assistance funds, which are available for up to four years, help SIA partners engage stakeholders, plan and develop future conservation actions to address impacts on Oregon's water quality standards, and/or to address goals identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans.

The board also awarded an additional $25,000 in monitoring funds for each SIA. These funds are available for monitoring work after an approved monitoring proposal has been developed. The purpose of SIA monitoring is to measure change in landscape and/or water quality resulting from the implementation of projects that improve agricultural management practices. Detecting a signal in water quality and landscape conditions takes time, which is why the monitoring funds are available for up to 10 years.

At the conclusion of the SIA grant period, local partners are expected to have worked with landowners within the targeted geography to address agricultural water quality concerns and limiting factors identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans and complete the necessary monitoring. Because each SIA is unique in terms of size, number of

landowners, agricultural e concerns, available data, and partnership capacity, OWEB and ODA acknowledge that the SIA process may differ. However, it is important that all components - outreach, technical assistance and monitoring - are included in each SIA.

III. Current Status

There are currently 19 SIAs that have received OWEB technical assistance/monitoring grants (Attachment A, 2017-2019 SIAs). Each lead organization has submitted an OWEB online grant application for the entire SIA amount ($125,000). Grantees cannot use the $25,000 of monitoring funds until they have a monitoring plan that has been approved by the statewide, interagency Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). Seven groups have approved monitoring proposals, three have proposals in draft form, and the remainder are in various stages of development.

IV. Next Steps

There are nine SIA's (Attachment A, identified via asterisk) that have yet to receive technical assistance and monitoring funds in the 2019-2021 biennium. OWEB and ODA have applied lessons learned during previous years' SIA to refine the funding process, which now involves additional upfront work by OWEB and ODA with the local SIA partners to clearly describe the expectations and process for the program. ODA, with OWEB's support, will talk with local partners to gain a better understanding of local capacity and funding needs prior to having the partners submit applications for funding. Partners will submit separate technical assistance and monitoring proposals for funding, and only submit those proposals when they are ready to begin the work. Ultimately, this refined approach may result in funding and implementation efficiencies for the program. OWEB and ODA staff will implement the refined process during fall of 2020 and will request funding in December to support initial technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring efforts.

V. Recommendation

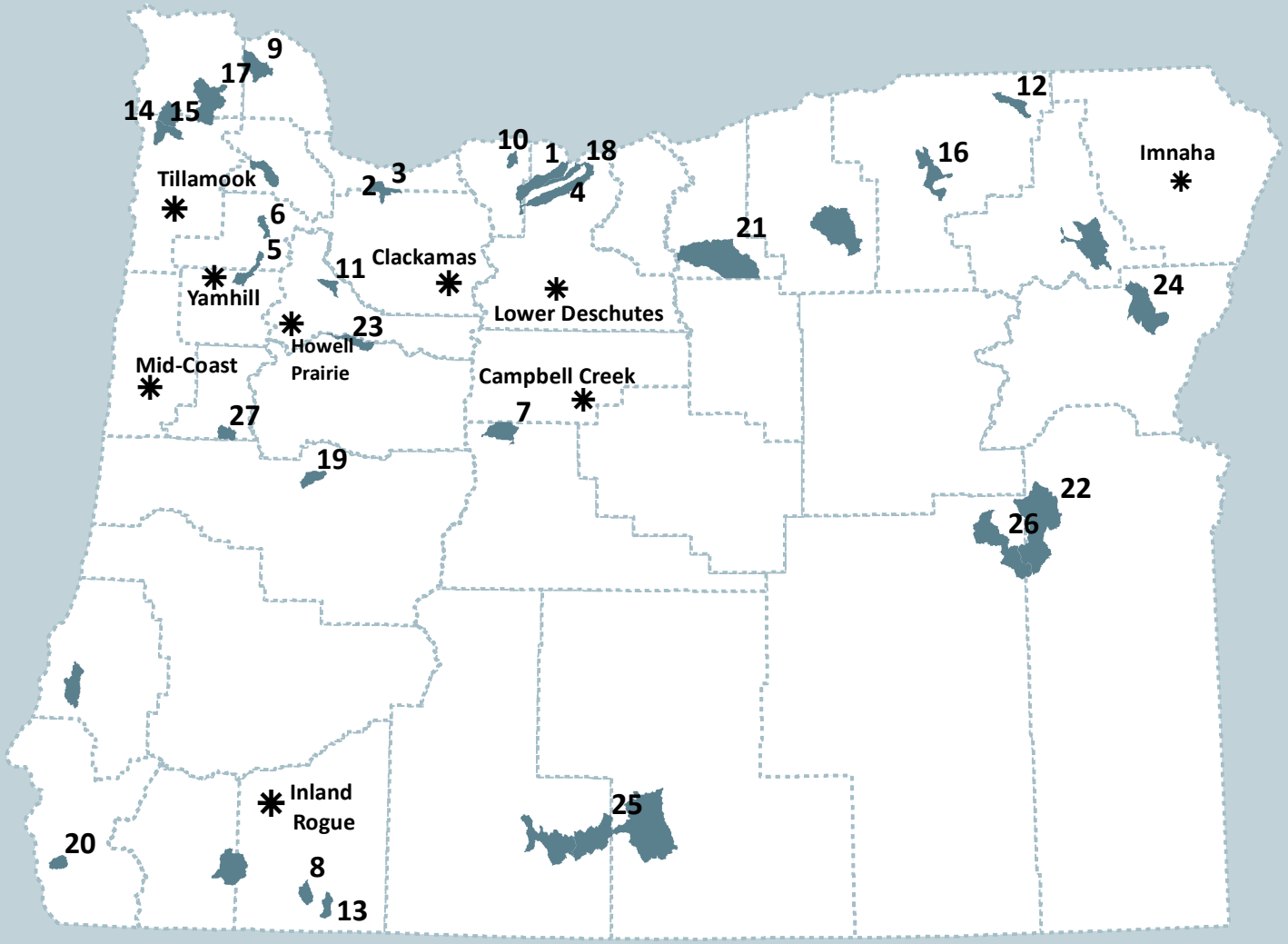
This is an information item only. Staff will identify refinements to the SIA funding process and outline steps that will take place over the coming months so the board can add funds to the SIA grant line item in the 2019-2021 spending plan at their December 2020 meeting.

Attachments

Attachment A. Map of SIAs

ATTACHMENT A

Strategic Implementation Areas 2014 to 2019 (with 2020 SIAs)



Strategic Implementation Areas 2015 to 2019

County Lines

2020 SIAs: Geographic Boundaries Still to be Determined

N W E S

0 5 10 20 Miles

Strategic Implementation Areas

2019
34 – Applegate River: Phase 1
33 – Upper Willow Creek Basin
32 – Upper Chewaucan
31 – Upper Catherine Creek
30 – Lower Coquille River
29 – Lower Gales & Carpenter Creeks
28 – Middle Sprague River

2018
27 – Upper Muddy Creek
26 – Malheur River – Drewsey
25 – Upper Sprague River
24 – Lower Powder River
23 – Walker – Stout
22 – Lower North Fork Malheur
21 – Thirtymile Creek

2017
20 – Pistol River
19 – Camp Creek
18 – Eightmile
17 – Mid-Nehalem River
16 – McKay Birch

2016
15 – Nehalem Bay
14 – Lower NF Nehalem River
13 – Neil Creek
12 – Cache Hollow
11 – Lower Abiqua Creek
10 – Odell Watershed

2015
9 – Upper Nehalem River
8 – Wagner Creek
7 – Indian Ford Creek
6 – Lower North Yamhill River
5 – Lower Salt Creek
4 – Threemile Creek
3 – Upper Johnson Creek

2014
2 – Noyer Creek
1 – Mill Creek

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Prepared By: B. Sanchez
Date Saved: 8/7/2020
Date Printed: 8/7/2020
Scale: 1:3,548,602
Projection: NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl
Path: V:\NRPA\WaterQuality\BrendaSanchez\Other Regions\SIA Location Map MAs & Cty 2020.mxd

This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities 5, 6, and 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Oregon Global Warming Commission / Executive Order 20-04 Update
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The newly formed, board-level Climate Committee articulated a strong interest in learning more about work related to the Governor's Executive Order (EO) 20-04 focused on climate. At the September 2020 board meeting, OWEB staff will be joined by Catherine Macdonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC), for an update about the OGWC's work related to the EO, and the connection to OWEB's climate initiatives and interests.

II. Background

In early March of 2020, Governor Brown issued the EO, which directs state agencies to take actions to reduce and regulate greenhouse gas emissions. In addition to the general directive for agencies to exercise authority and discretion in helping to meet greenhouse gas emissions goals and prioritize actions that will help vulnerable populations and impacted communities, OWEB is specifically identified in the Executive Order in several sections of the EO:

- Section 3.D. Report on Proposed Actions – Along with other agencies, report to the Governor by May 15, 2020, on proposed actions within OWEB's statutory authority to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change impacts. OWEB submitted its report to the Governor's Office on 6/19/20, following the agency's reduction plan being completed.
- Section 3.E. Participate on an interagency workgroup convened by the Governor's Office on climate impacts to impacted communities, with the intent of developing strategies to guide state climate actions. *See Agenda Item F for additional information.*
- Section 12.A. Directives to the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) – In coordination with Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor by June 30, 2021 for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science.

The OGWC has initiated work on several components of the EO, including but not limited to the priorities described in Section 12.A of the EO. In particular, however, the natural and working lands component of the OGWC work is especially relevant to OWEB due to 1) the agency's participation in that effort; 2) the emphasis on natural climate solutions that OWEB already is supporting via its grant investments in restoration and conservation actions; and 3) the expressed interest of the board in being more deliberate about how OWEB's investments can result in climate related benefits. OWEB staff are partnering with the OGWC (and other agencies) on the natural and working lands process, including co-sponsoring an Oregon Sea Grant fellow to assist with the process beginning in fall of 2020.

At the September meeting, Catherine Macdonald, Chair of OGWC, will join the board to provide an update about the natural and working lands component of the EO (Attachment A), and discuss with the board and staff how this work relates to OWEB's emerging climate initiatives.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

Attachment A. EO 20-04 Natural and Working Lands Implementation

MEMORANDUM

TO Oregon Global Warming Commission

FROM Catherine Macdonald

SUBJECT Implementation of EO 20-04 with a focus on the development of a proposal of state goals for carbon storage and sequestration by Oregon's natural and working lands

DATE July 10, 2020

In Executive Order 20-04, Governor Brown provided general directives to 16 state agencies and specific directives to a subset of those agencies, including the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC). The general directives require agencies to exercise any and all authority and discretion vested in them by law; to prioritize and expedite any processes and procedures; and to consider and integrate climate change and climate change impacts into their planning, budgets, investments and policy making decisions in order to accelerate reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to advance adaptation measures. The Commission will follow this general directive as we draft our new mission, vision and values statements and develop a work plan for the coming year this summer and fall.

In addition, EO 20-04 charged the OGWC with three specific directives:

1. "Participation in the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities being convened by the Governor's Office along with 14 other agencies. The Workgroup is charged with developing strategies to guide state climate actions to address climate impacts to impacted communities." (EO-20-04)

2. "Consistent with its reporting requirements in Houser Bill 2543 (2007), the OGWC shall also include reporting on progress toward the GHG reduction goals set forth in paragraph 2 of this Order, and the zero-emission vehicle adoption goals set forth in SB 1044 (2019)" (EO 20-04).

3. "In coordination with ODA, ODF and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted no later than June 30, 2021" (EO 20-04). ODEQ, DLCD and OWRD have also offered to assist the OGWC in fulfilling this directive.

Commission member Oriana Magnera has generously volunteered to be the Commission's representative to the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts to Impacted Communities. Commission member Richard Whitman will be representing the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on the Workgroup, Commission member Lillian Shirley will be representing the Oregon Health Authority, and Commission staff Maya Buchanan will be representing the Oregon Department of Energy. The first meeting will be taking place on July 30, 2020. The Zero Emission Vehicle Working Group currently tracks progress toward the vehicle adoption goals. We will include information on the zero-emissions vehicle adoption goals and on Oregon's progress toward the new GHG reduction goals in our report to the Legislature this fall.

Below, I outline draft principles, a scope of work and a draft workplan for the Commission's work to develop a proposal regarding state goals for carbon storage and sequestration in Oregon's natural and working lands. I follow these with a brief summary of information and resources I am aware of to assist the Commission meet the directive; identification of additional resources is welcome. The proposal builds on materials presented to the Commission at our December 2019 meeting and preliminary conversations with the coordinating agencies. We will discuss modifications to the principles, scope of work and draft plan and vote to adopt the principles and scope of work at our July 28, 2020 meeting. Please come with questions and comments for improvements to the principles, scope of work and draft workplan. The work plan will be finalized after additional consultation with Tribal governments and the coordinating state agencies in September 2020.

Principles:

- The process for developing a proposal for Governor Brown will be inclusive and transparent and provide opportunities for broad public engagement and coordination with other Boards and Commissions.
- The inventory, baseline and projection methods will be based on guidance from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the best available science.
- The proposed goals and practice, program and policy recommendations will:
  - —Prioritize consideration of benefits to Climate Impacted Communities,
  - —Consider landowner and community interests in policies, practices and programs,
  - —Include provisions to ensure a diversity of landowners can participate in any potential market and incentive-based programs and provide meaningful climate benefits, and
  - —Consider co-benefits—additional societal benefits occurring from an action—that may be relevant for other state goals.

Scope of Work: We have identified six tasks associated with developing a proposal for Governor Brown.

1. Create a technical and public engagement work plan.
2. Establish methods for tracking emissions, carbon storage, and sequestration from the land sector.
3. Identify existing land sector inventory data and priority inventory improvements.
4. Develop a baseline and a business-as-usual projection for land sector emissions.
5. Identify potential policies, programs and practices that could be advanced to reduce emissions and increase carbon storage and sequestration on natural and working lands.
6. Develop and finalize proposed goals and a process for including Natural and Working Lands for Governor Brown's consideration.

Draft Work Plan:

July	• Clarify the Governor's charge to the Commission • Consult with agency staff and outside experts • Draft principles and a scope of work for Commission review and approval
August	• Begin gathering existing inventory data • Determine land-specific inventory best practices from other jurisdictions
September	• Consult with Tribes • Draft priority inventory improvement recommendations • Inform other Boards and Commissions about the directive and work plan • Finalize the technical and public engagement work plan • Schedule webinars for stakeholders • Complete gathering existing inventory data •
October	• Begin developing the natural and working lands baseline Host webinars • Develop stakeholder surveys to gather input on practices, programs, policies and goals
November	• Administer surveys to collect stakeholder input • Finalize work on the natural and working lands baseline • Begin work on business-as-usual (BAU) projections
December	• Summarize survey results • Complete work on BAU projections • Begin evaluation of practices, programs and policies
January	• Present survey findings, baseline and projections to Boards and Commissions • Host webinars for stakeholders on survey findings, baseline, projections and potential goals • Continue evaluation of practices, programs and policies
February	• Present survey findings, baseline and projections to Boards and Commissions • Host webinars for stakeholders on survey findings, baseline and projections and potential goals • Draft proposal for Commission Review
March	• Submit draft proposal for public review
April	• Synthesize public comments on the draft proposal
May	• Develop a final draft proposal for Commission review and approval
June	• Complete proposal and submit to Governor Brown

Inventory, Baseline, Projection Considerations

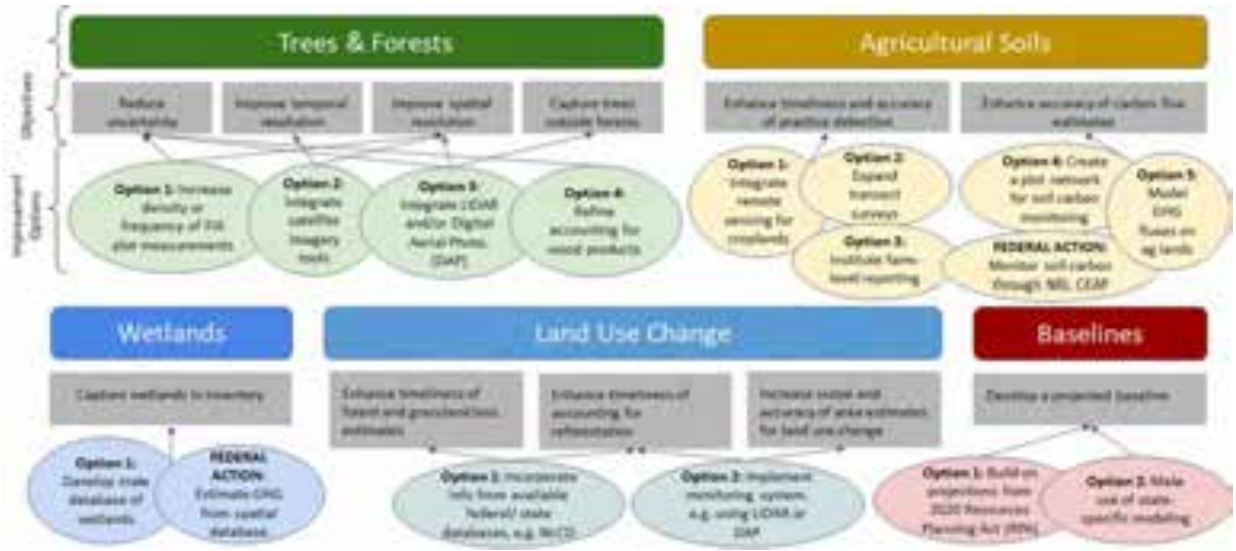
Healthy lands sequester carbon and provide significant and cost-effective opportunities to reduce GHG emissions. The Global Warming of 1.5°C Special Report from the IPCC emphasized the urgency of climate action and the important role the land sector can play as part of a comprehensive climate mitigation strategy.

Unlike other sectors, the land sector can be a carbon storage reservoir or "carbon sink" as well as a source of emissions. Natural and working lands (N&WL) carbon "stocks" (the total amount of carbon stored at any point in time) and carbon "fluxes" (the change in carbon storage between time a and time b) can be affected by both natural processes and land use and management changes. These characteristics add complexity to developing methods for land carbon inventories, establishing business-as-usual baselines and projections, and for setting emission reduction and sequestration goals.

The IPCC has developed guidelines for inventorying land sector stocks and fluxes. The EPA follows the IPCC methods to assess U.S. land sector emissions. For more details on inventory methods and considerations, the current IPCC guidelines can be referenced in their Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (2019). The World Resources Institute's Mitigation Gold Standard Report (2014) provides additional considerations for national and subnational GHG accounting and reporting.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains data and a State Inventory and Projection Tool designed to help states develop GHG emissions inventories and projections. The EPA data and tools are easy to use, and the underlying datasets are consistent with the National GHG Inventory. However, the Inventory Tool has significant data gaps, poor temporal and spatial resolution, and outdated default assumptions (5-20 plus years old) in relation to the land sector. Because of these shortcomings, several states in the U.S. Climate Alliance are opting to improve their N&WL inventories. Options for improving inventory data include increasing field data collection, integrating field data with remotely sensed data, and modeling (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Options for improving Natural and Working Land Inventories. (Source: World Resources Institute, 2019)



The Oregon Department of Forestry's recent and pending work with the U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW) is a good example of such an effort to improve forest and wood products inventory data. The Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon State University, the American Farmland Trust among others have data and tools to improve estimates of carbon stocks on agricultural lands. The Pacific NW Blue Carbon Working Group has data on coastal and marine carbon stocks. All these resources can be used to aid us in developing an improved baseline, projections, and identify additional inventory needs.

Identifying Practices, Programs, and Policy Options and Goal Setting

Reducing emissions and increasing sequestration in the land sector can be achieved through a variety of policies and programs that help support the prevention of land conversion, changes in management practices, and restoration of ecosystems. In 2018, the Oregon Carbon Policy Office convened a Natural and Working Lands Workgroup to identified potential practice, program and policy options for increasing sequestration in the land sector as part of their work to inform cap and trade legislation in Oregon. The Carbon Policy Office provided a report to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Carbon Reduction in December 2018 on the Workgroup's findings. The Department of Agriculture and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board reported on a proposed framework for an agricultural incentive programs that could be adopted as part of the state's strategy to mitigate

for and adapt to climate change. Representatives from The Nature Conservancy and American Forest Foundation reported on recommendations regarding forest incentive and offsets programs. The recommendations in these reports can provide a starting point for identification of practice, policy and program options. In addition, several states in the US Climate Alliance have or are in the process of developing action plans for increasing sequestration in natural and working lands. We can evaluate these plans to identify additional options.

Recently published research estimates that reduced emissions and increased sequestration on natural and working lands could contribute as much as 21 percent of current U.S. emissions (Fargione et al. 2018) and produce approximately 30 percent of the needed global climate mitigation needed by 2030 (Griscom et al. 2017). In Oregon, several research projects have estimated the emissions reduction and sequestration contribution that have or would result from changes in policies and land management practices, including:

- Cathcart et al. 2007 (regarding Oregon land use laws);
- Latta et al. 2016, Diaz et al. 2018, Franklin, Johnson and Johnson 2018, and Law et al. 2018 (all regarding forest management practices); and
- Graves et al. 2020 (regarding twelve practices across all natural and working land types).

In addition, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has tools for evaluating the benefits of changing practices on agricultural lands including COMET Planner and COMET Farm. COMET Planner works at the farm scale. The American Farmland Trust will also be releasing a new tool called CaRPE that builds on COMET Planner. This tool will be able to help estimate the potential increase in carbon stocks associated with increased adoption of management practices at the county level. NRCS also recently completed a report on Farms Under Threat for the US to help identify agricultural lands that are at risk of conversion. A presentation of their report for Oregon can be found here. As part of this project, they analyzed state policies and programs aimed at avoided conversion of farmlands. The Department of Land Conservation and Development also produces a Farm and Forest Report which analyzes current trends regarding the conversion of agricultural and forest lands to developed uses.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8Wju7Txm8

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Menton, Coby
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Green, Vanessa
Lee, Jan
Macdonald, Cathy
Streeter, Amira
Weybright, Jared

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8Wju7Txm8

The September 9, 2020 meeting was called to order at 8:02 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:03:05)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities and shared information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item*.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:53:30)

The minutes of the June 10-11, 2020 virtual meeting were presented for board approval. *Action item*.

Molly Kile moved the board approve the minutes from the June 10, 11, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:54:13)

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils provided written comment on the social, economic and logistical effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as they pertain to watershed councils, and the ways councils have responded and adapted. *Information item*.

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 0:55:13)

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

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:33:06)

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

F. Oregon Conservation Partnership – Updates During COVID-19 (Audio = 2:51:02)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Vanessa Green from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils provided an update on how the Oregon Conservation Partnership is working with and supporting its stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item*.

G. Governor's Office Update on Equity and Environmental Justice Initiatives (Audio = 3:45:59)

Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Amira Streeter, provided an update on several initiatives she is leading in relation to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She highlighted the equity and environmental justice work related to the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04, as well as the environmental work taking place as a part of Governor Brown's Racial Justice Council. *Information item*.

H. Telling the Restoration Story – Deer Creek (Audio = 4:16:16)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho and local partner Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Council highlighted the outcomes associated with the floodplain restoration efforts on Deer Creek located in the McKenzie River Watershed. *Information item*.

I. Organizational Collaboration Grants (Audio = 4:59:19)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff presented a plan for a grant offering specifically focused on organizations that may need funding to consolidate or merge with other organizations during and/or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item.*

J. 2021-2023 Spending Plan Initial Discussion (Audio = 5:22:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiated a conversation with the board about the ties among the spending plan, the long-term investment strategy, and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan. *Information item.*

K. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Grants (Audio = 5:52:34)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff presented a plan, developed in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, for moving forward with technical assistance and monitoring funding for the remaining SIAs slated for initiation this biennium. *Information item.*

L. Global Warming Commission and Governor's Climate Executive Order (Audio = 6:14:01)

Cathy Macdonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission), highlighted the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04 and the Commission's work related to the Executive Order*. Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
October 30, 2020

• Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
October 30, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the October 30 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

YouTube Streaming: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA

- Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.

Phone: Dial 1-669-900-6833. When prompted, enter ID number 883 7877 5507 and password: 441273.

Virtual: Log on to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88378775507?pwd=WE9KOWZIdy90NWpUcmVMYUloV0F5dz09
For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment
OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments
Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Wednesday October 28, at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments
Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item A) at approximately 8:05 am. on October 30. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 29, and provide the following information:

A. Your first and last name,
B. The topic of your comment, and
C. The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

A. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting.

B. Wildfire Grants (8:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will discuss OWEB's actions in response to Oregon's unprecedented fire season. OWEB is considering providing emergency fire response funding to the areas impacted by 14 large fires that occurred in Oregon during late summer of 2020. *Action item.*

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More Information

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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, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, 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 – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

January 22-23, in Jacksonville
April 21, Virtual
June 10-11, Virtual
September 9, Virtual
October 30, Virtual
December 16, Virtual

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

March 10, Virtual
June 9, Virtual

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

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

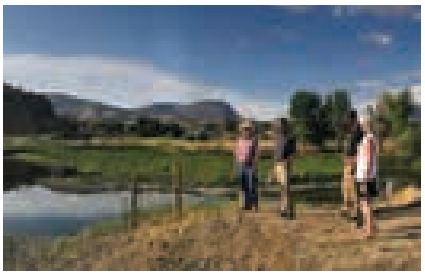


Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- 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



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Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
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(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item B 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 B – Wildfire Grants
October 30, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the proposed Wildfire Response grant offering and requests the board approve up to $1,000,000 for this purpose.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged our region this year, spreading to over a million acres in Oregon alone. The impacts from the fire pose great risk to the health of Oregon watersheds.

Since mid-September, OWEB staff have been meeting with state and federal agencies to better understand each agency's role, ways to increase coordination, and funding needs and gaps. In addition, staff held a series of listening sessions to gather information on the immediate needs of fire-affected communities. These two sets of conversations have helped staff to identify how OWEB funding could address high priorities and complement funding available from agency partners.

Another important consideration is the ability for OWEB to provide funding given the agency's budget challenges. As reported to the board in September, August revenues were better than expected. It is assumed that November revenues will also be above expectations. Combined, these two distributions will provide the agency adequate funding for the next grant cycle with additional revenues available to respond to a limited range of fire needs now.

III. OWEB's role and objectives

Staff propose a limited grant offering to respond to gaps in fire funding in the short term. While limited, OWEB has funding and can respond to this crisis within budget constraints. In addition, OWEB's granting system can deliver a quick response to this crisis in a meaningful way. Funding objectives include:

- Invest in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and
- Fill short-term gaps that aren't available through other funding sources while meeting OWEB's constitutional mandate.

IV. Proposed Structure

Local partners will identify one lead entity who will work in cooperation with area partners to apply for up to $70,000 in funding for each of the following 14 fire areas:

- 242
- Almeda
- Archie Creek
- Beachie Creek
- Brattain
- Echo Mountain Complex
- Holiday Farm
- Indian Creek
- Lionshead
- Slater
- South Obenchain
- Thielsen
- Riverside
- White River

OWEB-funded work will focus on addressing short-term needs through June 2021 on tribal lands or private land (not including industrial forestlands) that have been identified as high priority in a federally led assessment through FEMA, BLM or the Forest Service, or other assessments with approval from OWEB.

Eligible implementation funding activities:

- Log transport and stockpiling for future restoration
- A limited suite of conservation practices that NRCS is funding on fires including Conservation Cover, cover crop, herbaceous weed treatment, mulching, range planting, woody residue treatment and fencing. Since NRCS is funding these practices for landowners eligible for Farm Bill programs. OWEB funding will focus on those landowners not eligible for NRCS funding.
- Other stabilization practices designed to protect or restore habitat or water quality that are specified in a qualifying assessment and discussed in advance with OWEB.

Eligible technical assistance activities:

- Stakeholder engagement – to secure landowner buy-in and coordinate post-fire restoration actions, and
- Technical assistance – to participate on local assessment teams and select restoration practices.

Applicants will use a streamlined online application to apply for the funding. OWEB staff, including the appropriate Region Program Representative, will complete application review.

At the conclusion of the grant, grantees will be asked to report on the following in their project completion reports:

- How funds were used;
- Feedback about whether/how funds were beneficial to addressing near-term post-wildfire risk to native fish and wildlife habitat and/or water quality;
- How work completed supported disproportionately impacted communities; and
- If/how the project utilized minority and women-owned contractors/businesses.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve up to $1,000,000 in funding for a short-term Wildfire Response grant offering and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of August 15, 2020.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 30, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRLAIbu4_jo

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT
Alvarado Ron

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

A. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:36)

Three written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing the importance of weed treatments as part of the fire response grants and expressed a concern that this funding would impact future Weed Grant offerings:

- Oregon Invasive Species Council
- Western Invasive Species Network
- Public At large – Justin Cooley

B. Wildfire Grants (Audio = 0:2:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented OWEB's proposal for board consideration in response to Oregon's unprecedented fire season. OWEB staff proposed to provide emergency fire response funding for tribal and private, non-industrial land in areas impacted by 14 large fires that occurred in Oregon during late summer of 2020.

Board member Debbie Hollen noted that the Thielsen fire may have impacted 100% federal lands. Pending confirmation of 100% federal ownership of land within the Thielsen fire, funding would be awarded for 13 fires.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved to approve up to $1 million in funding for the short-term Wildfire Grant offering. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
December 16 & 17, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
December 16-17, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the December 16 and 17 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming**: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone**:
  - **December 16:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 846 6998 5835 and password: 448174
  - **December 17:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 889 9786 0238 and password: 130140
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment
OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments
Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments
Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item B) at approximately 8:50 am. on December 16 and (Agenda Item L) at approximately 8:05 a.m. on December 17. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

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 September 9 and October 30, 2020 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item*.

C. Public Comment (8:50 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting.

D. Committee Updates (9:05 a.m.)

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

E. Director's Updates (9:50 a.m.)

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

F. Budget and Legislative Updates (10:25 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the Governor's Recommended Budget and provide an update on the revenue forecast. *Information item*.

G. Spending Plan Discussion (10:55 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and request the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. *Information item*.

H. 21-23 Council Capacity/Application Process (12:25 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and seek board approval of changes to the guidance. *Action item.*

I. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Funding (1:10 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and request funding for one SIA, which is ready for implementation. *Action item.*

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHC) Appointments (1:40 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will provide a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission *Action item*.

K. Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship (1:50 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams responds to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded. *Information item.*

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

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L. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)

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M. FIP Cohort 2-Board Presentations (8:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will provide an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

N. NRCS Funding to Support Local Delivery of Farm Bill Programs (12:20 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will request the board retroactively approve receipt of up to $500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. *Action item.*

O. DEI Activity – Results of OWEB's DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps (12:30 p.m.)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff will provide an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews and discuss next steps for the board. *Action item.*

P. 2020 Fire Update (1:30 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will provide an update about OWEB's recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening at the request of the Governor's Office. *Information item.*

Q. Additional Funding for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants (1:50 p.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis will request the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants. *Action item.*

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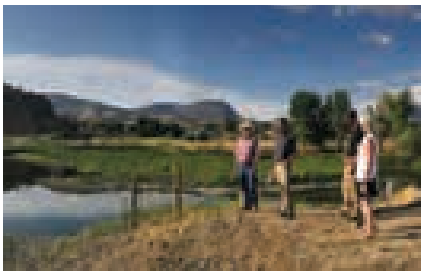

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8Wju7Txm8

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Kile, Molly
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Robison, Jason
Selle, Tony

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Fetcho, Ken
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Menton, Coby
Redon, Liz
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHERS PRESENT
Beamer, Kelley
Green, Vanessa
Lee, Jan
Macdonald, Cathy
Streeter, Amira
Weybright, Jared

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
September 9, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ql8Wju7Txm8

The September 9, 2020 meeting was called to order at 8:02 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:03:05)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities and shared information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item*.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:53:30)

The minutes of the June 10-11, 2020 virtual meeting were presented for board approval. *Action item*.

Molly Kile moved the board approve the minutes from the June 10, 11, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:54:13)

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils provided written comment on the social, economic and logistical effects of the COVID-19 pandemic as they pertain to watershed councils, and the ways councils have responded and adapted. *Information item*.

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 0:55:13)

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

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:33:06)

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

F. Oregon Conservation Partnership – Updates During COVID-19 (Audio = 2:51:02)

Jan Lee from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and Vanessa Green from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils provided an update on how the Oregon Conservation Partnership is working with and supporting its stakeholders during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item*.

G. Governor's Office Update on Equity and Environmental Justice Initiatives (Audio = 3:45:59)

Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Advisor, Amira Streeter, provided an update on several initiatives she is leading in relation to diversity, equity, and inclusion. She highlighted the equity and environmental justice work related to the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04, as well as the environmental work taking place as a part of Governor Brown's Racial Justice Council. *Information item*.

H. Telling the Restoration Story – Deer Creek (Audio = 4:16:16)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho and local partner Jared Weybright from the McKenzie Watershed Council highlighted the outcomes associated with the floodplain restoration efforts on Deer Creek located in the McKenzie River Watershed. *Information item*.

I. Organizational Collaboration Grants (Audio = 4:59:19)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff presented a plan for a grant offering specifically focused on organizations that may need funding to consolidate or merge with other organizations during and/or as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. *Information item.*

J. 2021-2023 Spending Plan Initial Discussion (Audio = 5:22:20)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the process for building and approving the 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan and initiated a conversation with the board about the ties among the spending plan, the long-term investment strategy, and OWEB's 2018 strategic plan. *Information item.*

K. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Grants (Audio = 5:52:34)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff presented a plan, developed in collaboration with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, for moving forward with technical assistance and monitoring funding for the remaining SIAs slated for initiation this biennium. *Information item.*

L. Global Warming Commission and Governor's Climate Executive Order (Audio = 6:14:01)

Cathy Macdonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission (Commission), highlighted the Governor's Climate Executive Order 20-04 and the Commission's work related to the Executive Order*. Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 30, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
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OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Henson, Paul
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT
Alvarado Ron

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

A. Public Comment (Audio = 0:00:36)

Three written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing the importance of weed treatments as part of the fire response grants and expressed a concern that this funding would impact future Weed Grant offerings:

- Oregon Invasive Species Council
- Western Invasive Species Network
- Public At large – Justin Cooley

B. Wildfire Grants (Audio = 0:2:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams presented OWEB's proposal for board consideration in response to Oregon's unprecedented fire season. OWEB staff proposed to provide emergency fire response funding for tribal and private, non-industrial land in areas impacted by 14 large fires that occurred in Oregon during late summer of 2020.

Board member Debbie Hollen noted that the Thielsen fire may have impacted 100% federal lands. Pending confirmation of 100% federal ownership of land within the Thielsen fire, funding would be awarded for 13 fires.

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved to approve up to $1 million in funding for the short-term Wildfire Grant offering. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 a.m. by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Tony Selle (Chair), Bruce Buckmaster, Debbie Hollen, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on October 21, 2020 to discuss Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) reporting, the FIP portion of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and the proposed virtual FIP gathering.

FIP Reporting

In-person reporting to the board by FIPs would typically occur in January of odd numbered years and would inform staff recommendations for spending plan amounts in April. The intent of reporting is to describe the progress of implementation FIPs heading into the next biennium. Due to the change in schedule necessitated by the June 2020 spending plan reductions, we will have only Cohort 2 FIPs reporting in December. Since Cohort 1 FIPs do not yet have access to their entire biennium 3 awards, board reporting is anticipated for late in 2021.

FIP Portion of the 2021-2023 Spending Plan

To begin framing spending plan conversations, and specifically the proportion of funds allocated to FIP, the committee reviewed nine scenarios generated by overall revenues of 80%, 85%, and 90% of the current biennium spending plan, and FIP spending plan proportions of 25%, 27%, and 30%. The scenarios generate available funds for a new implementation FIP solicitation in 2021-23 ranging from $2.4 million to $9.7 million. While the low end of the range would not provide enough funds to justify a 21-23 FIP solicitation, the lower middle of the range offers that possibility. Given that a solicitation is unlikely to result in awarding funds until mid-way through the biennium, the committee discussed the ramifications of awarding the first year of a six-year FIP in 2021-23, and requested staff to continue refining funding scenarios and accompanying graphics to aid in spending plan deliberations.

The committee also discussed a potential solicitation calendar, which is described in the director's update staff report, E-2.

Virtual FIP Gathering

Initially planned as an in-person meeting, the event is being converted to a virtual gathering that will be conducted over 2 3-hour sessions on separate days with a mix of topics relevant to FIPs, including some new topics such as adaptations due to COVID-19 and changes in fundraising strategies. Staff will include board members in save the date notices when available.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Acquisitions Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Meg Reeves (Chair), Barbara Boyer, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart

Background

The Acquisitions Committee was reconstituted by the board in April 2020 to include both review of annual land and water acquisition applications as well as regular policy meetings covering both programs. The first meeting of the committee was held October 5, 2020, addressing the following topics: timing of restoration on land acquisition properties, mitigation policy, and the next solicitation schedule.

Timing of Restoration on Land Acquisition Properties

The committee reviewed constitutional and statutory language, as well as program guidance with respect to restoration on acquisition properties. There is a difference between property that has conservation values in place vs. properties that require restoration to attain those values. The committee discussed risk associated with acquisition of properties requiring restoration. The committee recommended that staff include questions in the land acquisition application that solicit levels of expected outcomes, ranging from what is likely to what is probable or possible with respect to restoration. While the board does not have an expectation of a timeline for restoration, it does expect articulation of a clear path to restoration. The committee requested staff to make this clearer in application guidance, and to have further conversations on this topic with COLT and OACD.

Initial Conversation on Mitigation

Current mitigation policy precludes use of OWEB funds for required mitigation actions. Since development of the policy in 2008, mitigation actions have expanded and increased in scope and complexity. The Committee acknowledged that Water Core Team recently initiated an interagency discussion on this topic, one of the goals of which is to build a strategic framework for targeted, partnered and coordinated aquatic resource conservation, enhancement and mitigation investments, and will keep abreast of that effort and potential implications for OWEB acquisition programs

Next Solicitation

This item was deferred to the December board meeting.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Meg Reeves, Committee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Alan Henning (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on October 8. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board: Oversees work associated with several areas of OWEB's investments in monitoring, including quantifying conservation outputs and outcomes, Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) monitoring, and the monitoring of OWEB's capacity investments.

Summary of Discussion

The committee's scope includes tracking implementation of ongoing projects, which were reviewed during the October meeting. The group also helps OWEB staff consider emerging opportunities and priorities related to monitoring work, given reduced capacity at present, while optimizing the agency's impact with its monitoring resources.

Status Updates about Ongoing Projects

The committee reviewed status updates about ongoing projects. Monitoring projects that are continuing as planned, despite staffing reductions, include Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program performance tracking, Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, effectiveness monitoring of tide gate restoration via the Ni-les'tun project, FIP monitoring plan template, and Stage 0 restoration monitoring and shared learning. Efforts that are continuing, but at reduced capacity, include existing *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, and wrap-up of FIP cohort 1 supplemental monitoring grants. At the October meeting, the committee debriefed from the Deer Creek restoration story presentation that occurred at the September board meeting. This discussion transitioned into an update about the board's investment in Stage 0 on-the-ground monitoring and the Stage 0 monitoring workshop scheduled for early November. Projects that are 'on pause' due to staffing and/or resource reductions include solicitation of new *Telling the Restoration Story* grants, FIP cohort 2 supplemental monitoring grants, development of outreach products stemming from the tide gate report recommendations, and the retrospective evaluation of capacity investments.

Staff updated the committee about discussions that resulted in refinement of the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) grant scope of work associated with the FIP program to include FIP progress tracking reporting in BEF's work. The first progress tracking reports for cohort #2 FIPs will be presented to the board in March 2021, while the second progress tracking reports for cohort #1 FIPs will follow later in 2021.

Emerging Opportunities

The committee revisted the July discussion about several emerging areas for OWEB's monitoring work, including:

- Data management needs for grantees – Staff will track this need as it is articulated and/or identified through grant solicitations under the revised administrative rules for monitoring grants.

- Use of drones in monitoring – Staff will continue internal work on guidance development for grantees applying drone technology, and collaborations with regional shared learning process through efforts such as the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership.
- Social science techniques in FIPs – This work is on hold until more staff capacity exists to explore lessons learned from applications of social science in the Ashland and Harney wetlands FIPs. The committee also discussed how the retrospective capacity evaluation, which currently is on hold, may offer insights into applying social-science methods in the context of OWEB's investments.

The committee had a robust discussion about connections between their work and that of the climate committee. Areas of potential focus include clear definitions of 'monitoring' (e.g., estimation of climate benefits vs. on-the-ground monitoring of sequestration); climate impacts and benefits over different time horizons in projects funded by OWEB; consideration of climate-change projections when evaluating potential project performance/effectiveness in the future; and the potential use of OWEB investments to verify climate models.

Early Discussion about 2021-23 OWEB Spending Plan

The committee provided early input to staff about areas of monitoring investment in next biennium's spending plan. The committee signaled that it would like to retain Open Solicitation monitoring grants at an amount proportionally similar to that in the initial 2019-21 spending plan (acknowledging the potential for lower revenues next biennium) and retaining line items for both Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes (QCOO) and FIP programmatic monitoring (above and beyond monitoring conducted by individual FIPs). In QCOO, the committee noted that Telling the Restoration Story grants have been an incredibly valuable investment. If restoration stories are funded next biennium, the committee encouraged staff to explore opportunities for stories associated with effects of the 2020 fires. For FIP programmatic monitoring, post-FIP reporting will be important to track the longer term ecological effects of the board's investments in FIPs. The committee will discuss the spending plan again during its January 2021 meeting.

Next Steps

The committee will continue to track progress for ongoing projects and provide guidance to staff as they explore the emerging opportunities described above. During the committee update at the December board meeting, the committee chair will provide a brief update to the full board about the Stage 0 monitoring workshop.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Alan Henning, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Climate Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on October 14. The committee based their discussion around the charge from the board in April 2020: To identify ways to incorporate climate change into OWEB's grant programs.

Summary of Discussion

Areas of Focus

The committee reviewed the action items for the coming 6-12 months that were discussed at its first meeting:

- Discuss climate co-benefits from restoration/conservation investments;
- Review OWEB's existing 17 grant offerings through a climate lens;
- Increase understanding of sequestration and adaptation 'return on investment' for different climate actions;
- Learn about estimation and monitoring tools for carbon sequestration and/or adaptation that could be applied to OWEB projects, in coordination with monitoring committee; and
- Hear from Oregon Global Warming Commission and Governor's Climate Policy Office.

Climate Co-Benefits and OWEB's Programs

By way of background, staff reviewed with the committee several definitions related to climate actions: mitigation, sequestration, and adaptation. From the group's perspective, mitigation/sequestration and adaptation hold equal value and importance, and often are inter-related (e.g., actions such as riparian plantings that can sequester carbon also have climate adaptation benefits). They discussed the importance of grantees considering how climate change may affect projects through time, in terms of the project's ability to provide the anticipated ecological effects—especially for climate-vulnerable habitats and species. The group also noted the importance of considering actions through an equity lens of human populations that may be disproportionately impacted by climate change.

The committee reviewed and discussed a matrix of climate actions and the climate benefit provided by each, with a crosswalk to OWEB grant programs that support these actions. The group agreed that the list of climate actions was comprehensive. Members did, however, flag important nuances—in the form of questions—such as: Are issues such as plant species' sequestration capacity and/or ability to persist in changing climate conditions being considered during project design? Are grantees considering if/how projects are contributing to more fire-resilient ecosystems? What is the climate 'cost/benefit' for projects (e.g., carbon footprint during implementation vs. long-term climate benefits)? The committee noted that agency partners may be able to provide information and research findings that OWEB could provide to grantees to help them consider such questions.

Next Steps

The group discussed several follow-up items and next steps for their work:

- Learn more about how climate-change considerations are both captured within Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) ecological priorities and addressed in FIP application questions;
- Discuss available resources and information about climate 'return on investment' for various, specific on-the-ground actions; and
- Work with staff to develop an announcement to grantees and local partners about the work of the committee and the board's interest in more meaningfully addressing climate change in its grantmaking (e.g., through the possible addition of climate related evaluation criteria), with the intent of proactively communicating with stakeholders about the committee's work.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster, Chair

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Ad Hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Chair), Ron Alvarado, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray, Meg Reeves

Background

The Water Committee held their meeting on October 29. The committee debriefed on the presentation from the Governor's office at the September Board meeting related to Governor Brown's equity work. They then received an overview of the 100-Year Water Vision and discussed ways to continue to move the vision forward through the work of the Water Committee and OWEB's investment programs. As the committee continues to meet, they are refining what the role of the committee will be related to broader board discussions, and the role of OWEB related to the 100-Year Water Vision.

Summary of Discussion

The committee recommends using the 100-Year Water Vision work that has been completed to date to guide OWEB's work related to water, even though the water vision work has not been finalized.

Feedback to the Governor's Office Regarding September Presentation

The committee provided suggestions for feedback to the Governor's office regarding Amira Streeter's September presentation. Those suggestions were provided for review at the DEI committee and are further discussed in the notes for that meeting.

Water Vision and Next Steps for Committee

The committee reviewed the 100-Year Water Vision (attached). The committee discussed thinking through what the committee focus on relative to content within the water vision, and how OWEB can be an example for other agencies about how to advance components of the vision. Options discussed included: a deep dive into the environmental goal, cross-agency funding opportunities, and thinking about how to stand up an effective cross-agency decision-making structure to model an effective and inclusive strategy. Core to the conversation – what can OWEB do to move the needle?

The committee asked for a report on the 'water funding' subcommittee of the state's Water Core Team, and identification of any funding gaps if that is part of their discussions

The committee also discussed if there are ways to leverage other resources beyond just funding. They discussed leveraging design ideas and innovative approaches, and thinking about the best 'bang-for-the-buck' given limited resources across state government. Are there investments that could be made that would help reduce stressors in communities, or in the environment?

The committee also focused on the discussion within the water vision related to governance. Questions included: how do we meaningfully expand who is at the table and who is engaged in decision-making processes? Is there information the committee could gather to identify who is at the table currently and gaps?

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Chair

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision: A Call to Action

Preparing a Secure, Safe, and Resilient Water Future for All Oregonians

Vision Statement

To address changes in climate and population dynamics, Oregonians will take care of our water to ensure we have enough clean water for our people, our economy, and our environment, now and for future generations. Oregonians will invest strategically in infrastructure and ecosystems across all regions to support resilient communities, vibrant local economies, and a healthy environment for all who live here.

Premise

Many areas of Oregon are known for clean and reliable water. As identified in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, some of the forces that combine to place significant stress on Oregon's water and water systems include:

1) Climate change and associated increases in temperature, wildfire, drought, damaging floods, and harmful algal blooms;

2) A half century of underinvestment in built and natural water infrastructure;

3) Our changing population and associated development – growing in some areas, shrinking in others; and

4) Too much demand for too little water for in-stream and out-of-stream uses.



These factors impact the quality and quantity of water for our communities, including water in our rivers, lakes, oceans, reservoirs, and aquifers. Simply put, if we are not willing to roll up our sleeves and work together to invest in the ecosystems that sustain us along with built and natural water infrastructure, we place the safety of our communities, the health of our people and environment, and Oregon's economic future at risk.

Goals

Each goal below is important. No single goal can be fully realized independent of the others. Recognizing that tension, we need to invest in a range of innovative solutions that work in balance for our shared water future.

- **Health: Clean water for all who live in Oregon**
  Water should be fishable, swimmable, and drinkable. Investments in ecosystem health, and built and natural infrastructure will provide reliable access to clean water.

- **Economy: Sustainable and clean water to support local economic vitality**
  Diverse and resilient agricultural, timber, fishing, hi-tech, energy, and recreation economies require a reliable and clean water supply. Investments in built and natural water infrastructure will support high quality jobs across all Oregon communities.

- **Environment: Adequate cool, clean water to sustain Oregon's ecosystems for healthy fish and wildlife**
  Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. Investments in ecosystems also provide recreational opportunities for those who live in and visit Oregon.

- **Safety: Resilient water supplies and flood protection systems for Oregon's communities**
  Natural and built water systems designed to protect communities, and increase their resiliency to disasters like earthquakes, wildfires, floods, drought, and sea level rise, are important for all Oregon communities. Investments in those systems will help create safer communities and healthier ecosystems.

Call to Action

Oregon's limited water supplies are already being shaped by climate and population changes. We must both act now and plan for the long term. How we choose to care for our water will determine if we pass a legacy of clean and sustainable water to future generations.

Principles

Note: The following principles were raised during the 2019 Vision outreach conversations. Some of them mirror principles in the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). Where the concepts are similar, the IWRS principles are referenced. Information gathered through the fall will also be used as part of the next update to the IWRS.

While the Vision goals reflect *the needs we have* for water, our principles guide how *people can work together* to achieve a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all who live here.

Balancing Interests: Water is an essential but limited resource. We recognize there is not enough water to meet every 'want.' We will seek to balance interests across all of our water goals, and recognize the best solutions should address multiple uses. (*IWRS Principles - Balance, Sustainability, Interconnection/Integration*)

State Framework with Regional and Local Flexibility: Water challenges and opportunities vary greatly from region to region across the state. Successful strategic solutions and investments will build on flexible approaches that respect regional differences. These approaches should be both supported and bounded by a state framework, grounded in current water law, with clear policies to define the direction. (*IWRS Principles - Science-Based, Flexible Approaches, Implementation, Facilitation by the state*)

Tribal Sovereignty: Oregon's water future is best implemented when we work in partnership with the sovereign tribes in Oregon, respecting both treaty rights and tribal cultural connections to water.

Equity & Transparency: The benefits of clean and reliable water are shared by all who live here, along with our native fish and wildlife. We will build a more equitable water future by ensuring our water decisions and investments are inclusive and transparent, with opportunities for all communities to participate. (*IWRS Principles - Public Process*)

Affordability: Improvements to our infrastructure and ecosystems come with costs. We will ensure that those costs are not disproportionately borne by those who can least afford it. *(IWRS Principles - Reasonable Cost)*

Infrastructure & Ecosystems: Oregon's water goals can be met in many ways. We recognize that built systems like dams, pipes, levees are only one part of the solution. Natural systems like wetlands, estuaries, and rivers themselves must also be part of Oregon's water future - both as natural infrastructure that provides clean water for human use, and as the components of a healthy ecosystem for fish and wildlife.

Coordination & Collaboration: We support formation of regional, coordinated, and collaborative partnerships that include representatives of local, state, federal, and tribal government, private and non-profit sectors, stakeholders, and the public to plan and invest strategically. (*IWRS Principles - Collaboration, Incentives*)

Engaged Oregonians: Engaged community members and water leaders are key to helping all of us who live in Oregon understand the value water as part of our culture, our communities, and our ecosystems. We will cultivate leaders in communities across Oregon that understand the importance of conserving and keeping our water clean, and recognize the need for coordinated water investments.

Innovation: Working with creative individuals and businesses across the state, we will invest in innovative solutions that balance the advantages of built, and natural infrastructure, while also protecting ecosystem values.

Best Use of Available Science Combined with Local Knowledge: The best solutions come when we recognize that both science and local knowledge have value. We will build investment approaches that allow for learning, adaptation, and innovative ideas. (*IWRS Principles - Science-Based, Flexible Approaches)*

Water as a public resource: Public investments in our water future should result in public benefits.

Oregon's Water Challenges

Acknowledgements: Water is not like other kinds of infrastructure or natural resources. It is a public resource, but is managed by both public and private entities. It has cultural significance, and is essential to sustain life. There is a finite amount of water and it moves across the landscape while also varying in availability from year to year. Each of us has our own unique background that influences our perspectives on water and water infrastructure. This history forms the foundation for the different ways we each envision our water future. When we each bring that background to a common table, there can be disagreements. Respecting our different perspectives, the lessons we have learned, and the unique water challenges we've faced in our history will be important to develop a shared water future. Below are a list of common challenges and opportunities that will benefit from the focused attention of Oregonians with diverse perspectives.

Water System Challenges

Water Availability

System challenge: Many of Oregon's water delivery systems are outdated and inefficient, increasing the chance that water will not be available for communities when it is most needed.

System opportunity: We can incentivize water conservation and reuse, and invest in modern water delivery systems statewide. Efficiency gains and updated systems will help improve water reliability for cities and counties, tribes, ecosystems, and the many aspects of a thriving economy that depend on water.

Clean Water

System Challenge: Not all parts of Oregon have reliable access to clean water, resulting in increased health risks for those who live here.

System Opportunity: We can invest in resilient built and natural water infrastructure, and reduce pollutants to provide clean water for all Oregon communities.

Ecosystems

System Challenge: Not all watersheds provide cool, clean water and habitat for fish and wildlife, threatening the sustainability of those species in Oregon.

System opportunity: We can increase investments in watersheds to store, filter, and deliver water for fish and wildlife.

Community Security

System challenge: Too much of Oregon's built infrastructure is neglected and not keeping communities safe, while we have not fully realized the benefits of natural infrastructure and ecosystems to protect communities from harmful floods and provide resilience to drought.

System opportunity: We can modernize our flood protection infrastructure where appropriate, while fully incorporating the benefits of natural infrastructure and ecosystems. Combined, these will help mitigate impacts of increased flooding and drought, while reducing the impacts of sea level rise to coastal communities.

Management Challenges

Data & Information Services

Management Challenge: Communities across Oregon lack basic data and information to make strategic, long-term decisions about water investments and water management.

Management Opportunity: Good data is the foundation of wise and coordinated decisions. We can work across agencies at all levels, with tribes, and with the private sector to improve access to accurate, relevant, trusted, and current water data and infrastructure condition. We can also use science and information to anticipate future trends. Access to quality information will help communities strategically plan for and invest in their water future.

Community Capacity

Management Challenge: Communities with fewer resources are challenged to strategically plan for and invest in their water future and need access to a skilled workforce to implement, manage, and monitor water projects.

Management Opportunity: We can begin investing now in strong community capacity and a skilled water workforce in every region across Oregon.

Investments in Water

Management Challenge: We have underinvested in our built and natural water infrastructure, and our ecosystems. Investments in water planning and projects are not fully coordinated at the community, regional or state levels, and there has not been a concerted conversation about how Oregon will fund its future water needs.

Management Opportunity: We can coordinate our current investments and seek new sustainable, dedicated public and private funding for restoration of ecosystems, and built and natural infrastructure. Coordinated and new investments will ensure communities – including Oregon's federally recognized tribes and those people living in disproportionately impacted and rural communities - can afford and access adequate clean water, and return it to our rivers for downstream users, fish, and wildlife.

Water Investment Decision-Making

Management challenge: Oregon lacks a cohesive governance system to strategically prioritize water investments at the local and regional levels, leaving those decisions to a wide array of individuals, governments, and other interests with overlapping priorities and investment needs.

Management Opportunity: Learning from other successful models, Oregon can implement best approaches to ensure water planning and investment decisions are strategic and coordinated across jurisdictions, and with public and private partners. This system can successfully combine a state-level framework with local and regional planning and flexibility.

Education & Culture

Management Challenge: Community leaders across Oregon have limited awareness of Oregon's water challenges, the urgency to act now, and potential water solutions.

Management Opportunity: We can work with communities to build a culture and leadership that prioritizes water at the local, regional, and statewide levels.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Tony Selle

Background

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee met November 30. The committee received updates on an analysis being completed by a graduate student at PSU on OWEB's granting practices and their impact on tribes. The committee then discussed options for an upcoming board DEI survey, and received a report-out on a survey and interviews completed with grantees about their DEI work. Finally, the committee reviewed recommendations (below) from the water committee for feedback to the Governor's office following up on the presentation to the OWEB board in September.

Summary of Discussion

Tribal Grant Analysis

Ken Fetcho updated the committee on the work OWEB is undertaking with a PSU grad student focusing on OWEB's granting with tribes to identify if there are inherent challenges with OWEB's application, review, or funding processes that may inadvertently result in fewer projects awarded to tribes. A report will be provided to the board when complete.

Grantee DEI Survey and Interviews

Courtney Shaff and Ken Fetcho summarized the survey and interview results from the grantee survey and received feedback on how best to present this information to the board.

Board DEI Survey and next steps

Courtney Shaff initiated a conversation about what a board DEI survey and subsequent steps could look like. The committee discussed components of a survey, including:

- Awareness – What knowledge and skills do board members need related to diversity, equity, and inclusion?
- Strategic Plan – What connections need to be made between increased awareness and how the board implements strategic plan priorities?
- Engagement – What are some early thoughts board members have about how to engage with others on DEI, including partnerships with other funders, grantees, and new partnerships beyond funding?
- Measuring Success – What are some early thoughts board members have for what success could look like in this area?

Beyond the survey, committee members also identified the need to dig more deeply into learning what we don't yet know about diversity, equity, and inclusion. This could possibly be accomplished through another project with a grad student.

Finally, the committee recommends continuing the ad hoc committee until the survey is completed and analyzed, with strategic actions to be determined as a result of that work.

Feedback to Governor's Office on September Presentation

Meta Loftsgaarden shared recommended feedback that the water ad hoc committee suggested being shared with the Governor's office regarding Amira Streeter's board presentation in September. Feedback includes:

- Appreciation for the presentation. The work outlined is an excellent first step. It's important to go further and engage even more broadly with disproportionately impacted communities on this work
- Ask if there are specific areas that OWEB (both board and staff) can engage more deeply in this work. Suggestions from staff and DEI committee:
    - Have OWEB staff join the Environmental Justice Task Force
    - Explore how OWEB can partner with other funders to leverage existing funding opportunities.
    - Share results and next steps from surveys/interviews with the Governor's office. Grantee survey/interviews have been completed, and board survey is being initiated
    - Get Governor's office assistance in identifying individuals or organizations OWEB should connect with that the agency may not be working with currently
- Suggest that the Governor's office consider reaching out to organizations to see if the information is 'penetrating' beyond just organizational leadership into the impacted communities. Ask if there are ways that members from various boards/commissions could assist with that.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, committee member

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

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December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Committee (now Coordinating Committee) Update

Committee Members

Jason Robison, Liza Jane McAlister, Bruce Buckmaster, Tony Selle, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Alan Henning, Meg Reeves

Background

The Executive Committee held their second committee meeting October 15. The committee focused on two major topics – first, the committee name; and second, the upcoming recommendation from staff for a fire response grant program and special board meeting.

Summary of Discussion

Information about the fire response grant program is encapsulated in the October Board meeting Staff report regarding the program and under Agenda Item P – 2020 Fire Update.

Committee Name & Process Recommendations

Following the August meeting, staff provided recommendations for a name change for the committee. Given that the committee does not have decision-making or staff oversight authority, executive committee does not reflect the work of the committee. Staff provided the results of research and recommended that 'Coordinating Committee' was more reflective of the work of this group given that its role is to receive information from the various board committees and provide guidance for board discussions.

The newly named coordinating committee reaffirmed the role of the committee and then discussed how issues would be brought to the group and determined there were a few paths. First, committee chairs/staff can bring issues to the coordinating committee for further discussion. The coordinating committee may also raise topics that could go back to one or multiple committees for further discussion.

Committee members asked that the various committees share their agendas with the coordinating committee so others could see topics being raised. This allows for increased coordination and reduced redundancy across the committees.

Finally, the committee discussed the role of monitoring across all funding types.

Future Meetings

The committee has decided to meet after each board meeting to discuss issues that may have arisen at the meeting and how they might be addressed by committees or otherwise.

To Be Presented at the December 2020 Board Meeting by:

Liza Jane McAlister

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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October 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-1: Bureau of Land Management Grant Funds Update

This report provides the board an update on the distribution of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grant funds.

Background

In June, the board approved OWEB receiving up to $2,999,997 in federal funds from the BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects over three years. In August OWEB entered into three cooperative agreements covering BLM's three regions, Northwest, Southwest, and Eastern Oregon and began receiving grant applications from local partners.

Program Update

As of November 2020, OWEB received $986,825 from BLM for ten aquatic restoration projects around the state (Table 1). Applications for funding are submitted through OWEB's online application system. Prior to submission, the projects are reviewed and selected by local BLM staff based on BLM priorities. OWEB staff are then able to use the information provided by BLM and the applicant to quickly move from application to grant agreement. The individual grant agreements are managed by OWEB's Project Managers in coordination with BLM staff.

Table 1. List of BLM Funded Projects

Project Name	Grantee	Award Amount	Status
Willow Creek Restoration	Malhuer WC	$ 165,000	Awarded
Sheep Creek Restoration	Trout Unlimited	$ 22,000	Awarded
NF John Day Boundary Fence Maintenance	North Fork John Day WC	$ 130,000	Awarded
SF John Day Fencing and Water Development	South Fork John Day WC	$ 100,000	Awarded
Honey Ck Fish Passage and Screening	Lakeview SWCD	$ 54,000	Awarded
Salmon River - Boulder Ck Restoration	The Freshwater Trust	$ 30,000	Awarded
Glenbrook Tributary Culvert	Greater Yamhill WC	$ 25,680	Awarded
Walker Ck Culvert	Partnership for Umpqua Rivers	$ 150,000	Application in progress
Woodward Ck Culverts	Coquille WA	$ 233,000	Awarded
WF Cow Ck Instream	Partnership for Umpqua Rivers	$ 77,145	Application in progress

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov.

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E -2 FIP 2021-2023 Solicitation Cycle

This report provides the board an update on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) 2021-2023 Solicitation Cycle.

Background

The board awarded the initial cohort of FIP awards in the 2015-2017 biennium. Since awards were made more than 6 months into the biennium, the board decided not to solicit implementation FIPs in 2017-2019. The second cohort FIP awards were made in 2019-2021 with an expectation of a solicitation in each succeeding biennium. When the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 spending plan in response to reduce lottery revenue, it decided to postpone the 2019-2021 solicitation for at least one year. This director's update provides a possible timeline for a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation, pending availability of funds in the spending plan.

Focused Investment Committee Recommendation

Staff presented a potential timeline for a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation considering current and potential staff capacity and available funding, as follows:

July 2021 – Announce solicitation

September 2021 – Consultations

January 2022 – Applications Due

April 2022 – Expert Review Teams

May 2022 – Staff Recommendations

June 2022 – Public Hearing/Focused Investment Committee Interviews

July 2022 – Board Award

This timeline would provide funds to successful partnership in the second year of the biennium, which could result in the sixth year of funds being awarded in the fourth biennium.

Staff Contact

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

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E -3 Next Open Solicitation Cycle

This report provides the board an update on the next open solicitation cycle.

Background

In April 2020, the board paused new grant awards due to reductions in lottery revenue caused by the shutdown of video lottery during the initial stage of the pandemic. Operating on a cash-available basis, the board made open solicitation awards for restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement projects in June, and resumed authorization for small grant awards with a reduced spending plan allocation. Annual grants, including land and water acquisitions, monitoring grants, and weed grants were limited to the awards already made, eliminating the planned second year awards. This report presents potential scenarios for future open solicitation grant awards.

Open Solicitation (Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, and Monitoring)

Lottery revenues received post-shutdown have been greater than expected, with November revenues coming in at 80% of normal, when 65% was projected. With current cash on hand and anticipated revenues for February 2021, staff anticipate having sufficient funds available for the board to make awards in March 2021 for grant applications received in July 2020 for restoration, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement projects. In order to provide certainty and continuity to grantees, staff are planning to solicit the next round of open solicitation grant applications in January 2021 with a deadline in April and awards in October. Pending adequate revenues, this would put the agency on track to revert to the typical April/October application deadline and award dates through the 2021-23 biennium.

Land Acquisition/Water Acquisition/Monitoring/Weed Grants

For annual solicitations that were canceled in the second year of the current biennium, the board expressed a desire to move up the first solicitation in the next biennium to even the gaps between offerings.

For land acquisition grants, staff are tentatively planning for a solicitation in the spring of 2021 with applications due in June, rather than the traditional October deadline. This would allow for board award approximately 3-4 months earlier than is typical.

Staff are currently developing a revised water acquisition grant review and evaluation process to align with recently adopted revisions to the water acquisition administrative rules. Staff intend to continue OWEB's partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), including NFWF providing evaluation of transaction soundness, valuation, and organizational capacity. A tentative schedule for the next solicitation includes an application deadline of July 2020 with board award in January 2021. This timing aligns with stakeholder desire to better synchronize awards with the irrigation season.

Monitoring grant applications would be included in the April 2021 and April 2022 open solicitation cycles. While this adjusts the monitoring awards to October from April, it provides for the most even spacing between awards caused by cancellation of the October 2020 solicitation.

Weed grant solicitation, evaluation, and administration are managed by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) staff, who have expressed a similar desire to the board to move up the typical solicitation schedule to reduce the time delay to the next award. ODA staff tentatively plan to solicit weed grant applications in April 2021, with awards in July.

Staff Contact

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

December 16-17, 2020 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update E-4: Strategic Plan Update

This report provides an update about implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

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.

Strategic Plan Update

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 latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between September and November 2020. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 503-986-0180.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, September-November 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE – September-November 2020

- Black text describes progress on actions and measures for the current quarter, along with the associated strategies, outputs and outcomes.
- Blue text describes all other content extracted from the strategic plan for the purpose of providing framing information, but for which no actions or progress occurred this quarter.

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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Presented new Deer Creek 'Telling the Restoration Story' products to OWEB board and the interested public in September 2020.	**<u>So That:</u>** (outputs) - Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress. - 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.	**<u>To Make This Difference:</u>** (outcomes) - 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. - Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views , 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019) - 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January - November 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.
	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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This:</u> (actions) - Staff developed qualitative findings as a result of the DEI interviews with grantees. - Most staff and many board members participated in the 2020 State Diversity Conference. - Staff send an email to to all-staff recognizing Indigenious Peoples Day and providing resources for further exploration. - The ad hoc DEI committee held its second meeting and continued to discuss how to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion into conversations with board, staff, and OWEB's operations. - Initiated project to review all OWEB grants to identify whether biases occur in granting process that may impact the success of tribes in applying to OWEB's grant programs	**<u>So That:</u>** (outputs) - OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI). - OWEB has DEI capacity. - 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. - OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources. - DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate. - Board and staff regularly engage	**<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 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020). <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.*
	Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table				
	Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)				

			with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.		
Priority 3 - Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds					
Strategies	Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - While the consultant has been selected to complete the retrospective evaluation of OWEB's capacity investments in watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, staff have been unable to move forward with the agreement because of cuts to contracting dollars within OWEB. The intent is to reinitiate this in the new biennium.	**So That:** (outputs) - Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB's capacity investments - Help exists for local groups to define their restoration 'community' for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments. - Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions. - 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.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches. - OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds. - Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions. - Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity. - 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.
	Champion best approaches to build organizational, community, and partnership capacity	- Staff hosted a webinar, in collaboration with the Oregon Conservation Partnership, to highlight different approaches to collaboration and how those approaches support restoration outcomes.			
	Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships	In coordination with Oregon Departments of Forestry and Environmental Quality, OWEB staff are co-convening the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force to assist with coordination of wildfire recovery in the coming months and years. The goal is to take an 'all-lands' approach to fire recovery related to natural and cultural resources.			
Priority 4 - Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio					
Strategies	Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - Partnered with NRCS to establish a tide gate coordinator position to be housed at OWEB beginning in the fall. This position will support local landowners, technical service providers and agencies to move forward tide gate repair and replacement projects in an efficient manner. - Received BLM funding to distribute as grants for projects that provide habitat benefit in local communities - In process of finalizing agreement with NRCS to support distribution of their funding to grantees in support of critical administrative work to move local conservation efforts forward. - Initiated conversations with state agencies (WRD, DEQ, OHA, BizOR and OWEB) to identify ways to increase collaboration and streamline access to water-related grant and loan funding sources		**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration. - Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments. - Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts. - Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration. - Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.	
	Align common investment areas with private foundations	- Initiating discussions with private foundations regarding ways to engage on post-fire recovery investments			
	Explore creative funding opportunities and 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	- OWEB requested funding in the 2021-23 agency budget for a water/climate coordination position to assist with OWEB and interagency initiatives—such as the 100-Year Water Vision and Climate executive order. - The water committee held its second meeting to discuss the connections between OWEB's work and the 100-year water vision. The committee will continue to meet to develop refined proposals for board consideration. - The climate committee met to discuss how existing OWEB investments are providing climate benefits. - Supported Business Oregon to develop a proposal to distribute grants and loans for tide gate infrastructure projects. Funding was approved in the 2020 Special Session and Business Oregon is in the process of hring staff to initiate the program.	**So That:** (outputs) - OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding. - OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments. - OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations. - Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects. - Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner. - Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds - Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios. - Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.		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.
Priority 5 - The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health					
Strategies	Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) - The Board of Agriculture re-nominated two commissioners whose terms are expiring in January 2021. The OWEB board will act on the nominations in December.	**So That:** (outputs) - 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.	**To Make This Difference:** (outcomes) - Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.	**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
	Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners	- Continue implementation of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety grant program, which provides CARES act funding to producers to meet housing, sanitation, and PPE needs. Final information will be available for the board at their March meeting.			

	Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands	- Brought onboard a new Sea Grant Fellow that is jointly managed by OWEB and the Oregon Department of Energy, to develop outreach strategies and provide technical support to the Governor's Executive Order on Climate Change and to work with the Oregon Global Warming Commission's Natural and Working Lands process. - Integrated an OWEB Conservation Easement with an NRCS Agricultural Land Easement on a Wheeler County Ranch. The easement was approved as a "template" by NRCS for use in other working lands easements.	- New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation. - Strategies and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations. - Landowner engagement strategies and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations - 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.	- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands. - Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future. - Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.	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.
	Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands	- With the addition of a project in the Powder River Basin, OWEB funds are now supporting technical assistance to develop and monitor candidate conservation agreement with assurances plans outside of the Tri-County and Baker County FIP geographies.			
	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					
	Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions)	So That: (outputs)	To Make This Difference: (outcomes)	**Near-term measure:**
	Invest in monitoring over the long term	- Finalized new Conservation Effectiveness Partnership fact sheets focused on Whychus Creek and Willow Creek. - Supported the presentation of early findings from OWEB funded monitoring of Stage 0 restoration approaches at the November 2020 Stage 0 monitoring workshop	- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners. - A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects. - A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described. - Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding. - Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level. - 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.	- Partners are using results-based restoration 'stories' to share conservation successes and lessons learned. - Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs. - Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning. - Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring. - 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. - Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared. - Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed	- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019). **Potential impact measure:** - 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 - 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
	Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring	- Continued work on a document to assist practitioners developing tide gate replacement or removal projects in Oregon. - Eight SIA teams have monitoring plans approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group (MAG). - Developed guidance for drone-based photo point monitoring.			
	Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners	- Successfully hosted Stage 0 Stream Restoration and Monitoring Workshop in November 2020, at which nearly 100 practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders discussed current topics and data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition. - Participated in online presentation about the use of drones to monitor stream restoration projects as part of an Emerging Technology Webinar Series in October 2020.			
	Define monitoring priorities				
	Develop and promote a monitoring framework				

				and regional scales. - Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.	outcomes.
Priority 7 - Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds					
Strategies	Invest in landscape restoration over the long term	**In The Last Quarter, We Did This:** (actions) -	So That: (outputs) - OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community. - OWEB's landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state. - OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.	To Make This Difference: (outcomes) - Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway. - 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 encourages a culture of innovation. - 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. - OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk	**Near-term measure:** - 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.
	Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies	- OWEB developed an informal agency work group to explore options for investment approaches for water infrastructure, particularly strategies that recognize and support the value of natural infrastructure.			
	Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission	- Offered wildfire response grants to local partners around the state to address immediate fire response needs following the devastating 2020 fire season.			

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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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
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Budget and Legislative Update
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

At its June meeting, the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 spending plan to address budget shortfalls due to reductions in lottery revenues. The board also heard an update from the Executive Director about staffing reductions that were necessary, also due to budget shortfalls. Since this time, the agency received two Lottery distributions. In addition, the November revenue forecast continues its optimistic picture for funding for the remainder of the biennium at approximately 85% of what was expected 'pre-COVID'.

II. Current Biennium Grant Funds Update

OWEB received two distributions since the board adjusted the spending plan in June. The August distribution came in at 41% of what would have been expected pre-pandemic, totaling $3.46 million. The November distribution came in at just over 80% of pre-pandemic expectations, totaling $7.91 million. In October, the board committed $1 million for a Fire Response Grant Offering. These additions and expenditures, combined with $4.7 million held by the board for an upcoming open solicitation grant offering, give the board a total current balance of $15.07 million. With these funds available, the Open Solicitation Cycle Director's Update outlined a schedule to invest in grants in March 2021, keeping remaining funds, including the February 2021 and May 2021 distributions, to use in the 2021-23 biennium across all grant types.

III. Current Biennium Staffing Update

Given projected revenue shortfalls on the agency's operating budget, by early July of this year, the number of staff working on OWEB's grant programs was reduced by 33%, with 11 of 34 staff being reassigned to work outside of OWEB's core mission, moving to job rotations or positions with other agencies, or selecting another professional option of their choice.

With revenues rebounding at a higher rate than expected, and with federal funds received from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to support a tide gate coordinator

position, OWEB will be able to bring back the three staff who have been most recently focused on the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program to the agency beginning January 1, 2021. Coby Menton will again take on the work of Region 5 as the Regional Program Representative. Audrey Hatch will return to her Conservation Outcomes Coordinator position, focusing on both monitoring outcomes and the agency's work around climate change. Jillian McCarthy will be taking on a new role as OWEB's Tide Gate Coordinator, with funding from NRCS. A number of other staff continue in job rotations at other agencies. Some of those staff are in permanent positions with OWEB and, based on the Governor's Recommended Budget, are expected to return to the agency at the beginning of the new biennium.

The revenue forecast is holding stable for the remainder of the biennium at around 85% of expected revenues. That said, the agency is financially prepared to weather a worst-case shutdown scenario, given that anytime bars and restaurants are closed, the majority of Lottery revenues go away. The agency has enough in reserve to maintain current staffing levels through the remainder of the biennium.

IV. 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget

The Governor's Budget was released on December 1, 2020, using very conservative estimates for available funding in the 21-23 biennium. While the agency received some of our requested positions, including a limited duration position to focus on climate and water policy issues, an administrative services position, and a tide gate coordinator position, two other limited duration positions requested were not included in the budget. In addition, the agency sustained other cuts, totaling approximately $650,000. Some are statewide reductions, including increases in required vacancy savings and no allowance for inflation, while others are specific to the agency. As a result, based on the Governor's Budget, the agency will need to continue to take reductions in travel for board and staff, including reduced travel, and reduced in-person board meetings. Office expenses will need to be reduced by at least one-third and contracted services are reduced by nearly three-quarters. The budget is subject to change and isn't final until the Legislatively Approved budget is passed by the legislature at the end of the 2021 session. In addition, once the budget is final, the agency has some flexibility to manage budget reductions in ways that help ensure OWEB is able to effectively carry out statutory responsibilities.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item G supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Spending Plan
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 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 are questions about current spending plan line items, or other recommendations for additional spending plan line items to be addressed in March. This is an informational item only.

II. Spending Plan Process

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's next biennial budget during odd-year legislative sessions, 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, salmon license plate revenues, and other miscellaneous funds as these are available. The bulk of funding for OWEB's spending plan is 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 2019 meeting, the board adopted a 2019-2021 Spending Plan totaling $99.12 million. In June 2020, the board revised the spending plan to include additional PCSRF funding that would have increased the total to $103.999 million; however, at that time, the board also reduced the spending plan by $30 million to account for lottery revenue reductions due to the spring lottery shutdown (Attachment A).

III. 2021-23 Spending Plan Timeline

The 2021-23 Spending Plan will be approved by the board in June 2021. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In December 2020, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for the overall spending plan budget categories and identify any questions

they have related to specific spending plan line items that warrant further conversation in March, 2021.

- Between the December and March meetings, staff, in consultation with subcommittees as needed, will discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In March 2021, staff will present to the board information about each of the line items within each category of the spending plan and propose an investment amount for each line item based on the overall percentages indicated by the board in December. The board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In June 2021, staff will present 2021-23 spending plan recommendations for board approval, using final revenue numbers for the 2021-23 biennium.
- In July 2022, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recaptured grant funding, similar to the approval at the June 2020 board meeting.

IV. Spending Plan Percentages

Attachment B to the staff report provides an initial recommendation of percentages for board consideration to allocate funds among the Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other categories.

As referenced in the Item F, Budget and Legislative Updates staff report, the revenue forecast for General and Lottery funds was updated in November. Based on the forecast, it is estimated that the 2021-23 spending plan will be $104.076 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 second-year numbers, which will be updated again in May with both the latest revenues and any recaptured funds from current grants, prior to the board's final spending plan decision in June.

The initial recommendation of percentages for board consideration are similar to the percentages in the current spending plan, with FIP and other decreasing by 1% and open solicitation increasing by 2%. At the recommended percentage, the FIP allocation would allow for solicitation of a new cohort of implementation FIPs with $10 million available, which is the amount recommended by the board for the previous FIP solicitation.

V. Spending Plan Categories

Attachment A is 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

This is an information item only.

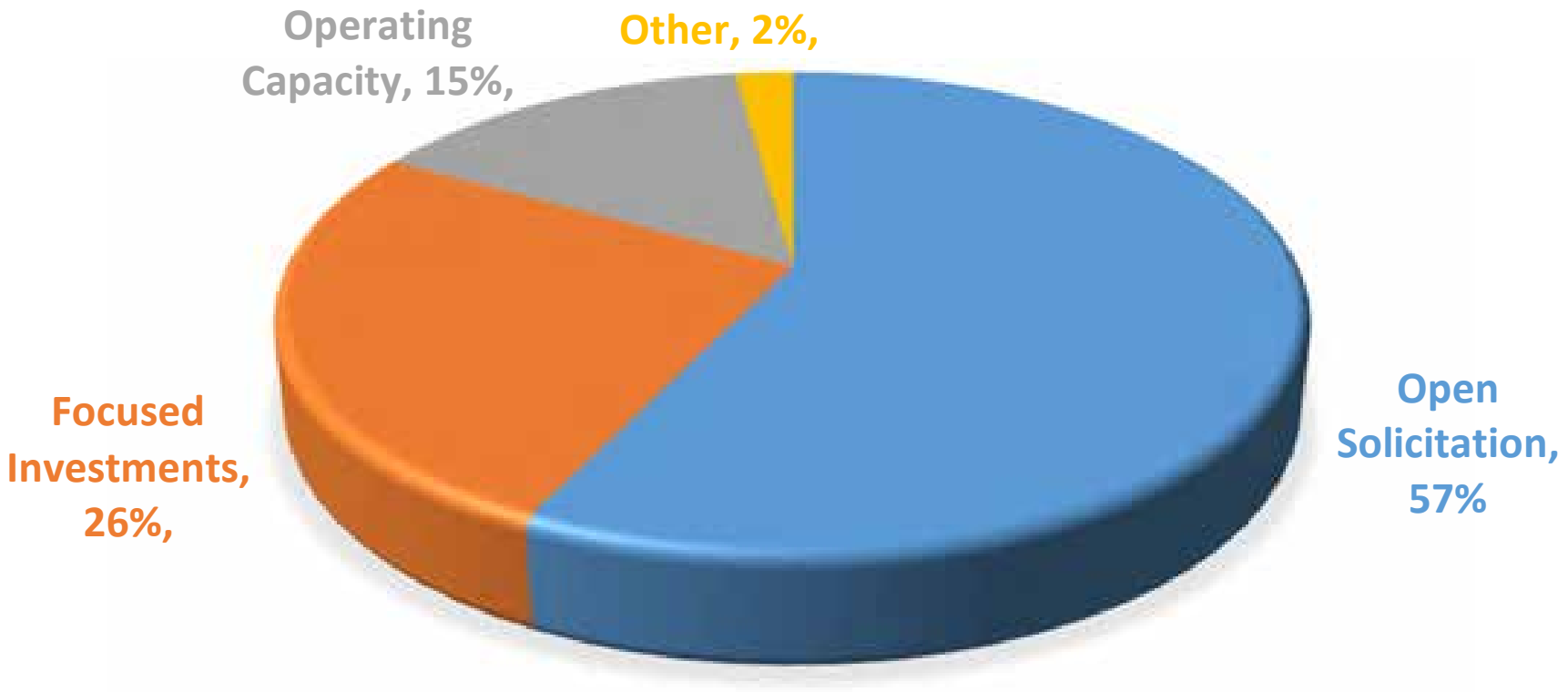
Attachments

Attachment A. Current 2019-21 Spending Plan
Attachment B. Proposed Percentages for 2021-2023 Spending Plan
Attachment C. Spending Plan Category Summaries

ATTACHMENT A

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Oct 2020 additions	Spending Plan as of Oct 2020	Oct 2020 Awards	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date
1	**Open Solicitation:**					
2	Restoration		19.202		15.945	3.257
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA		2.491		1.966	0.525
5	CREP TA		1.163		1.163	0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement		1.248		1.000	0.248
7	Monitoring grants		1.753		1.753	0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition					
9	Acquisition		4.905		4.905	0.000
10	Acquisition TA		0.000		0.000	0.000
11	Weed Grants		3.000		3.000	0.000
12	Small Grants		1.500		1.500	0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes		0.760		0.760	0.000
14	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**36.022**	**0.000**	**31.992**	**4.030**
15	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**46.78%**			
16	**Focused Investments:**					
17	Deschutes		2.085		2.085	0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		0.780		0.780	0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands		2.400		2.400	0.000
20	Sage Grouse		0.474		0.474	0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands		2.000		2.000	0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde		2.311		2.311	0.000
23	John Day Partnership		4.000		4.000	0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse		1.343		1.343	0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat		1.713		1.713	0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp		1.500		1.500	0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership		3.354		3.354	0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.150		0.150	0.000
29	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**22.110**	**0.000**	**22.110**	**0.000**
30	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**28.71%**			
31	**Operating Capacity:**					
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		14.330		14.330	0.000
33	Statewide org partnership support		0.425		0.425	0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative		0.100		0.100	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance		0.779		0.779	0.000
36	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**15.634**	**0.000**	**15.634**	**0.000**
37	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**20.30%**			
38	**Other:**					
39	CREP		0.750		0.750	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities		0.793		0.793	0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas		0.700		0.700	0.000
42	Natural Resource Emergency	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	0.000
43	**TOTAL**	**1.000**	**3.243**	**1.000**	**3.243**	**0.000**
44	**% of assumed Total Budget**		**4.21%**			
45	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**1.000**	**77.009**	**1.000**	**72.979**	**4.030**
46	**OTHER DIRECTED**					
47	ODFW - PCSRF		11.690		11.690	0.000
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.321		0.321	0.000
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.000		0.000	0.000
50	**TOTAL**	**0.000**	**12.011**	**0.000**	**12.011**	**0.000**
51	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds**	**1.000**	**89.020**	**1.000**	**84.990**	**4.030**

Staff-Proposed 2021-23 Spending Plan Percentages



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 aid 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. The land acquisition TA line item was discontinued in the 2019-2021 spending plan after a pilot in the preceding biennium.

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.

Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes

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.

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 Effectiveness Monitoring

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.

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:

8) *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.
9) *District Operations Fund* supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and help 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.

Statewide Organizational Partnership Support

The Conservation 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-groundwork. 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).

Partnership Technical Assistance

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.

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'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.

Strategic Plan Implementation

In the 2018 strategic plan, several 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.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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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 – 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and seeks board approval of changes to the guidance.

II. Background

In July 2014, the board adopted administrative rules and guidance for watershed council (council) capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective councils. Biennial grants have now been awarded three times under the revised program. The 2021-2023 biennium grant offering will be announced in December 2020, with applications due in March 2021 and board action on the grants in June 2021.

Operating guidelines for the council capacity grant program are provided in both rule (OAR 695-040) and the board adopted guidance document. This approach allows staff the flexibility to adjust the program, when necessary, to improve program delivery and be responsive to the needs of councils.

III. 2021-2023 Operating Capacity Grant Offering

The 2019-2021 biennium has been a challenging biennium for many of the 57 councils currently funded with operating capacity grants. COVID-19 has significantly impacted how councils hold meetings, engage with the public, and implement on-the-ground restoration projects. In addition, a record setting fire season all but stopped and redirected the work of a number of councils and their local partners. With these challenges in mind, OWEB staff propose changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant offering and associated guidance document to streamline the process and support effective councils around the state. The proposed changes are summarized in Attachment A.

For the 57 councils with current operating capacity grants, the attached guidance document (Attachment B) proposes a streamlined review process. OWEB has an existing funding relationship with these councils, and staff will use the information in the grant

applications, along with knowledge of and documented experience from this existing relationship, to complete a streamlined review of the applications.

There are three councils that OWEB currently is not funding due to previous Do Not Fund decisions by the OWEB Board. OWEB staff believe it is important to provide an opportunity for these councils to apply for 2021-2023 operating capacity funding. However, because of the previous Do Not Fund decisions, it also is important that OWEB utilize the full application review process, including pre-application consultations, outlined in the attached guidance (Attachment C) to evaluate these councils.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant program and guidance documents.

Attachments

Attachment A. Summary of council capacity grant guidance changes
Attachment B. Draft 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance for councils funded in 2019-2021
Attachment C. Draft 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance for councils not funded in 2019-2021

Summary of Proposed Changes to Council Capacity Grant Guidance Document for 2021-2023

General

1. Split the Guidance into two documents:
    a. 2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium
    b. 2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils NOT funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium

Background and Definitions

1. Combined these two sections. Attachment B, page 2, Attachment C, page 2
2. Added a definition of Progress. Attachment B, page 3, Attachment C, page 3

How to Apply

1. Consultations will be required for councils wishing to apply that do not currently have an Operating Capacity grant. Attachment C, page 3

Eligibility Criteria and Review

1. OWEB staff will use the results of the 2019-2021 eligibility review to determine applicant eligibility for 2021-2023 cycle. Attachment B, page 3

Merit Criteria and Evaluation

1. Councils with an existing council capacity grant will be reviewed using a streamlined process. Instead of a two-step review process, involving first OWEB staff and then when questions or concerns are raised an external review team, only OWEB staff will review the applications. Attachment B, page 5

Board Action

1. All councils with an existing council capacity grant will be recommended for funding at the same, full funding level, instead of two funding levels, full and reduced funding. Attachment B, page 5

2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium

How to use this Guidance

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

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

- Whether the council is eligible to apply,
- How to apply,
- How the application and the council will be evaluated, and
- How funding decisions are made.

Guidance Updates

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

Contact Information

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OWEB's Website: https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx

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Chapter 1: Background and Definitions

Background

Operating Capacity Investments are a core element of OWEB's 2018 Strategic Plan and 2013 Long-Term Investment Strategy. Council Capacity Grants:

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

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

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

Definitions

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

1. **Coordinating council**: A council that provides support to, and coordinates the work of, multiple councils. The coordinating council's governing body includes at least one member from each council participating in the coordinating council.
2. **Membership organization**: An organization with a defined group of individuals who play a role in the governance of the organization (i.e., by voting for a board of directors or other governing body that is responsible for the governance of the council).
3. **Local government**: Defined in ORS 174.116(1)(a) as all cities, counties and local service districts located in this state, and all administrative subdivisions of those cities, counties and local service districts.
4. **Council's governing body**: Means the group of people who have the responsibility to a) ensure that the council meets legal requirements, b) support successful achievement of the council's goals, and c) create a structure, policies, and procedures that support good governance.
5. **On-the-ground watershed restoration**: Means projects intended to 1) protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and 2) projects to protect or restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.
6. **Organizational development and management**: Activities with the objective of improving the council's organizational effectiveness and health.

7. **Progress (as used in merit criteria 2-4)**: Means actions that demonstrate forward movement toward an overarching goal or objective. Progress is not measured by the number of actions, but by demonstrated forward movement on the identified actions.
8. **Stakeholder engagement**: Activities with the purpose to communicate and build ongoing, permanent relationships with landowners, organizations, and the community in the watershed for the purposes of carrying our eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.

Chapter 2: How to Apply

APPLICATION WINDOW

December 21, 2020 – March 11, 2021, 5:00pm.

Applications are only accepted through OWEB's Online Application System.

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

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

Chapter 3: Eligibility Criteria and Review

Purpose of Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a watershed council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity Grant. The eligibility criteria do not limit or control the existence or creation of watershed councils. Watershed councils may form according to ORS 541.910 and 541.890(15); however, OWEB shall not review an application for a Council Capacity Grant unless OWEB determines the council or group of councils meets the eligibility criteria.

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

- Is an effective and accountable use of public funds;
- Supports councils that meet the intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils; and
- Encourages strategic collaboration to build collective local capacity for watershed restoration.

OWEB Eligibility Review

For the 2021-2023 Council Capacity application cycle, councils will not be required to submit materials for the eligibility review. OWEB staff will use the results of the 2019-2021 eligibility review to determine applicant eligibility.

Chapter 4: Merit Criteria and Evaluation

Goals of OWEB's Merit Evaluation

- Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
- Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils' organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities; and
- Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in their 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).

Information Considered in Merit Review

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

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

Merit Criteria

Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance and Management

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

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

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

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

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

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

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

The council's actions result in progress in achieving specific stakeholder engagement objectives.

Merit Evaluation

Review

Application materials will be reviewed using a streamlined process that will only include OWEB staff.

OWEB staff will meet to evaluate merit by considering:

- The Council Capacity Grant application;
- OWEB staff's knowledge of the council, including but not limited to the council's history of performance on project and Council Capacity Grants.

Chapter 5: Board Action

Funding recommendations and Board awards

Staff funding recommendations will be based

- The merit evaluation,
- Available funding, and
- Merger Funding Policy (see attachment A).

Staff funding recommendations and Board awards

1. All councils that received council capacity grant funding in the 2019-2021 biennium will be recommended for the same, full funding level.
2. Merger Funding for 2 or more councils that have merged.

   If two of more councils successfully complete a merger, they may receive merger funding in addition to the base capacity grant award. The details of this policy and implementation process can be found in attachment A.

Chapter 6: Use of Funds

Council Capacity Grants help fund staff, contractors and other costs of watershed councils. All eligible costs described within OWEB's Budget Categories Definitions and Policy document are eligible under Council Capacity Grants. If a council chooses to use council capacity grants funds for any aspect of a restoration project, it is the grantees responsibility to ensure they secure and provide to OWEB the appropriate landowner agreements, land use forms and/or permits in advance of implementing on-the-ground work.

Outreach Activities

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

Chapter 7: Grant Agreement Conditions

Grant agreement conditions for all Council Capacity Grants

Send all watershed council meeting announcements to the OWEB Project Manager.

Upload the Summary Chart generated at completion of the assessment with the Council Capacity grant project completion report.

Submit a progress report to OWEB by June 30, 2022. The progress report must include:

- Documentation that the council submitted an annual report to all local government entities that designated the council. Documentation can include a meeting agenda if the report was presented in person or a copy of a sent email if the report was submitted electronically.
- The annual report that was submitted.

All councils that are placed in the reduced funding merit category will be required to submit a progress report every six months.

Other Conditions

Grant agreements may include additional conditions to support increased communication between OWEB Project Managers and the grantees when appropriate. Possible conditions include:

- Regular progress reports linked to requests for funds.
- Annual meetings between OWEB staff and the council staff and board officers to discuss progress.

Oregon Watershed Councils

North Coast Watershed Association

*a. Ecola Creek WC
*b. Nicolai-Wickiup WC
*c. Skipanon WC
*d. Youngs Bay WC

e. Columbia Slough WC
f. Greater Oregon City WC
g. Johnson Creek WC
*h. Lake Oswego WC
*i. N. Clackamas Urban WC
*j. Tryon Creek WC

Salem Keizer Area Watershed Councils

*k. Claggett Creek WC
†The North Santiam Watershed Council is also locally recognized in the Mill Creek and Pringle watersheds.

*l. Spring Valley WC
*m. Rickreall WC
*n. Glenn-Gibson WC

**The MidCoast Watersheds Council is also locally recognized in the Alsea Basin and Salmon Drift.

Wasco County Watershed Councils

*Bakeoven WC
*Fifteenmile WC
*Mosier WC
*The Dalles WC
*White River WC

South Coast Watershed Council

*Floras Cr./New River WC
*Elk/Sixes River WC
*Port Orford WC
*Euchre Creek WC
*Hunter Cr./Pistol River WC
*Chetco River WC
*Winchuck River WC

Necanicum WC
Lower Columbia WC
Upper Nehalem WC
Lower Nehalem WC
Scappoose Bay WC
Tillamook Bay WC
Tualatin River WC
Hood River WG
Sandy River WC
Sherman County WC
Gilliam-East John Day WC
Nestucca/ Neskowin WC
Greater Yamhill WC
*Salmon Drift WC
Pudding River WC
Molalla River Watch
Clackamas River WC
Wasco County WCs
Luckiamute WC
**MidCoast WC
†North Santiam WC
Marys River WC
Calapooia WC
South Santiam WC
*Alsea Basin WC
Middle Deschutes WC
Mid John Day / Bridge Creek WC
North Fork John Day WC
Walla Walla WC
Umatilla Basin WC
Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Powder Basin WC
Siuslaw WC
Long Tom WC
McKenzie River WC
Upper Deschutes WC
Crooked River WC
South Fork John Day WC
*Lower Willow Creek Working Group
*Bully Creek Watershed Coalition
Malheur WC
Smith River WC
Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership
Elk Creek WC
Coast Fork Willamette WC
Middle Fork Willamette WC
Coos Watershed Assoc.
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Coquille Watershed Association
Lake County WCs
*Silver Lake WC
*Upper Sycan WC
*Upper Chewaucan WC
Harney County WC
Owyhee WC
Lower Rogue WC
Rogue River WC
Seven Basins WC
Rogue River WC
Klamath Watershed Partnership
Illinois Valley WC
Applegate River WC
*Williams Creek WC

Area with no watershed council

*** Indicates locally recognized watershed councils that have never received their own individual Council Support Grant and are not eligible for a Council Capacity Grant.**

For Purposes of OAR 695-040-0030(2)(a) Geographic Eligibility Criteria: Boundaries of Councils which received a Watershed Council Support Grant Before July 1, 2013.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

Updated by Paula Wills August 2017 using ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83 SRID 2992

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom
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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

2021-2023 Guidance for Outcome-Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants: Watershed Councils NOT funded in the 2019-2021 Biennium

How to use this Guidance

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

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

- Whether the council is eligible to apply,
- How to apply,
- How the application and the council will be evaluated, and
- How funding decisions are made.

Guidance Updates

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

Contact Information

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Interim Business Operations Manager
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OWEB's Salem Office Address
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290

OWEB's Website: https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Pages/index.aspx

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Chapter 1: Background and Definitions

Background

Operating Capacity Investments are a core element of OWEB's 2018 Strategic Plan and 2013 Long-Term Investment Strategy. Council Capacity Grants:

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

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

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

Definitions

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

1. **Coordinating council**: A council that provides support to, and coordinates the work of, multiple councils. The coordinating council's governing body includes at least one member from each council participating in the coordinating council.
2. **Membership organization**: An organization with a defined group of individuals who play a role in the governance of the organization (i.e., by voting for a board of directors or other governing body that is responsible for the governance of the council).
3. **Local government**: Defined in ORS 174.116(1)(a) as all cities, counties and local service districts located in this state, and all administrative subdivisions of those cities, counties and local service districts.
4. **Council's governing body**: Means the group of people who have the responsibility to a) ensure that the council meets legal requirements, b) support successful achievement of the council's goals, and c) create a structure, policies, and procedures that support good governance.
5. **On-the-ground watershed restoration**: Means projects intended to 1) protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and 2) projects to protect or restore natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.
6. **Organizational development and management**: Activities with the objective of improving the council's organizational effectiveness and health.

7. **Progress (as used in merit criteria 2-4)**: Means actions that demonstrate forward movement toward an overarching goal or objective. Progress is not measured by the number of actions, but by demonstrated forward movement on the identified actions.
8. **Stakeholder engagement**: Activities with the purpose to communicate and build ongoing, permanent relationships with landowners, organizations, and the community in the watershed for the purposes of carrying our eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects.

Chapter 2: How to Apply

REQUIRED CONSULTATIONS: Councils interested in applying must first complete a consultation with OWEB staff. Consultations can be scheduled by emailing Courtney.Shaff@oregon.gov Consultations will be from December 21, 2021 –January 29, 2021. No consultations will be scheduled after January 29, 2021. Councils are required to provide the following documents to OWEB 1 week before the scheduled consultation:

- Current list of council governing board members, including officers
- Bylaws
- Policies and Procedures
- Documentation of Local Recognition
- Council Adopted Action Plan

APPLICATION WINDOW: December 21, 2021- March 11, 2021.

Applications are only accepted through OWEB's Online Application System.

Applicants must complete all sections of the online application.

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

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

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

Chapter 3: Eligibility Criteria and Review

Purpose of Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a watershed council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity Grant. The eligibility criteria do not limit or control the existence or creation of watershed councils. Watershed councils may form according to ORS 541.910 and 541.890(15); however, OWEB shall not review an application for a Council Capacity Grant unless OWEB determines the council or group of councils meets the eligibility criteria.

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

- Is an effective and accountable use of public funds;
- Supports councils that meet the intent of Oregon statutes defining watershed councils; and

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

Eligibility Criteria

Local government designation as a watershed council

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

Geographic Area and Population

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

Council Action Plan Adopted by Governing Body

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

A Council Action Plan is NOT a watershed assessment and is not the 2 year council capacity work plan. Action plans are living documents that will change over time as projects are implemented and new priorities arise. At a minimum, the plan or set of plans need to identify and prioritize ecological problems the council seeks to address, and voluntary on-the-ground watershed restoration activities the council will conduct to address those problems. The plan(s) can either be for the entire watershed or for sub watersheds, depending on the focus areas of the council. Council Action Plans may also contain other goals and objectives such as stakeholder engagement efforts, monitoring, and funding strategies for priority restoration work.

Organizational Structure and Business Operations

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

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

OWEB will also determine when the council last reviewed its bylaws and policies and procedures. **Beginning in the 2023-2025 biennium OWEB will require council's governing body to formally review these documents once every three years.**

OWEB Determination

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

Topics Covered in Current Bylaws or Charter

1. **Council Mission**

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

2. **Governing Body and Officers**

   The bylaws or charter shall contain the following topics:

   a. How the governing body is selected;
   b. Titles of officers, e.g., Chair, President, Secretary, Treasurer;
   c. How officers are selected;
   d. Who is eligible for the governing body;
   e. Who is eligible to be an officer;
   f. Length of service on governing body;
   g. Length of service for officers;
   h. Powers of governing body;
   i. Powers of officers;
   j. Minimum number or frequency of governing body meetings;
   k. Decision making process of governing body; and
   l. A statement that the council intends its governing body to include a diverse range of geographic areas and community interests in the watershed in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

3. **Process for Amending Bylaws or Charter**

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

4. **Membership Organization Provisions**

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

a. Who is eligible for watershed council membership;
b. Minimum frequency of council membership meetings;
c. The decision making role of the membership; and
d. Mechanisms to remove members from the watershed council or terminate the voting rights of members. The bylaws or charter may provide for either removal or voting right termination, or provide for both.

Topics Covered in Current Policies and Procedures

1. **A list of the geographic areas and community interests** the council intends to include on its governing body in order to engage a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed pursuant to ORS 541.910(2).
2. **A policy that the council operates as an open and inclusive organization.** The policy shall include at a minimum the following elements:

Inviting the public to council meetings, and

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

3. **A policy that the council, or its fiscal sponsor, uses Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).**
4. **A policy that the council does not rely on litigation** to compel regulatory enforcement as a means to implement the council's mission.

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

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

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

Chapter 4: OWEB Eligibility Review

Eligibility Review

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

Appeal Process

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

- Appeal by the Deadline: April 1, 2021.

- Appeal Materials: The council's appeal letter and any attachments shall be sent to OWEB by delivery service that provides documentation of receipt (e.g., email that includes receipt of delivery confirmation, or registered or certified letter). To be considered, the letter shall be received by OWEB by the appeal deadline. Letters of support will not be reviewed and should not be submitted.
- Appeal Review and Decision: OWEB's Executive Director will review the council's letter and any attached information. A council's appeal shall be granted only where the Executive Director determines the council provided clear and convincing evidence that the council meets all the eligibility criteria described in OAR 695-040-0030.

Future Eligibility Review Requests Allowed

Councils determined to be ineligible for a particular Council Capacity Grant offering may request eligibility review during future Council Capacity Grant offerings.

Chapter 5: Merit Criteria and Evaluation

Goals of OWEB's Merit Evaluation

- Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
- Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils' organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and stakeholder engagement activities; and
- Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in their 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).

Information Considered in Merit Review

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

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

Merit Criteria

Merit Criterion #1: Effective Governance and Management

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

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

Evidence of Effective Governance and Management

CRITERIA o-r are new for the 2021-2023 biennium.

a. The council holds elections according to its bylaws or charter.
b. The council holds governing body meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and its governing body meets at least four times a year.
c. The council operates as an open and inclusive organization according to its policies and procedures, including inviting the public to council meetings by publishing its meeting schedule in advance of meetings in a manner that provides adequate notice to the general public.
d. The council, upon request, provides the public with records of its meetings and decisions.
e. The council completes a self-evaluation or other assessment of its governing body at least once every two years.
f. The council adopts an annual budget and regularly reviews that budget.
g. The board regularly examines the nonprofit financial statements and discusses questions, concerns, issues, i.e. the board takes responsibility for the financial health of the nonprofit.
h. The council has defined roles and responsibilities for its governing body and officers and follows them.
i. The council has on file a current position description or set of deliverables for the council's executive director or coordinator.
j. The council has personnel policies and follows them.
k. The council coordinator or executive director is annually evaluated by the council.
l. If the council is a membership organization,
m. The council holds membership meetings according to its bylaws or charter, and
n. The council membership meetings include agendas, attendance records, and records of decisions, and the council keeps this information on file and makes it available to the public upon request.

Merit Criterion #2: Progress in Planning

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

Evidence of Progress in Planning

a. The council's 2-year work plan is reviewed and adopted by the council's governing body.
b. Work plan projects are linked to the council's action plan and/or strategic plan.
c. Council work plans are developed with consideration of the council's staffing and organizational resources.
d. The council capacity grant application demonstrates the council is working with a mix of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize work to address current needs and is not operating in a manner that would alienate stakeholders. Example: working with a technical team, or a council project committee, to review and update the council's action plan(s). Regularly attending meetings of or otherwise engaging with stakeholders that do not typically participate in council activities.
e. The council has a succession plan for board members and the executive director/coordinator.
f. The council regularly engages in monitoring, assessments, or other actions that support using data and other watershed information to inform future restoration actions.

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

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

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

a. The application demonstrates the council's actions resulted in progress toward completing priority on-the-ground restoration projects.
b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear niche related to on-the-ground restoration within the broader watershed community.
c. The council's on-the-ground watershed restoration activities are linked to the council's action plan, strategic plan or a partnership strategic action plan.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in Stakeholder Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

The council's actions result in progress in achieving specific stakeholder engagement objectives.

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

a. The application demonstrates the council's actions resulted in progress toward completing stakeholder engagement activities for restoration purposes.
b. The application demonstrates the council has a clear niche related to stakeholder engagement within the broader watershed community.
c. The council's stakeholder engagement activities are linked to the council's action plan, strategic plan, a partnership strategic action plan or other stakeholder engagement plan.

d. The application demonstrates the council is working to engage a broad mix of geographic areas and community interests within their watershed and not taking direct or indirect actions to alienate stakeholders.

Merit Evaluation

The merit evaluation will occur in two parts. The initial review will be completed by OWEB staff. The secondary review will include both OWEB staff and external reviewers.

Initial Review

Application materials will be initially reviewed by OWEB staff, including but not limited to:

- The Capacity Programs Coordinator;
- Regional Program staff;
- The Small Grant Program Coordinator.

OWEB staff will meet to evaluate merit by considering:

- The Council Capacity Grant application;
- OWEB staff's knowledge of the council, including but not limited to the council's history of performance on project and Council Capacity Grants.

Councils will receive a summary of the initial review and any requests for additional information by April 9, 2021.

Secondary Review

All applicants will participate in the secondary review. The secondary review will include OWEB staff and external reviewers.

The secondary review will be a virtual interview with the review panel and the council coordinator/executive director and board officers.

The virtual interview will occur the week of May 3, 2021 and last 1 hour. OWEB staff will contact the council coordinator/executive director the week of April 12, 2021 to schedule the interviews.

OWEB will send the following materials to external reviewers prior to the interview:

- Council Capacity Grant application.
- Additional information and documents provided by the council at OWEB's request.
- OWEB memo summarizing the initial merit evaluation, questions and concerns, and topic areas to be covered in the interview.

Notification of OWEB Merit Evaluation and Funding Recommendation

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

Chapter 6: Board Action

Funding recommendations and Board awards

Staff funding recommendations will be based

- The merit evaluation,
- Available funding, and
- Merger Funding Policy (see attachment B).

Staff funding recommendations and Board awards

1. Full base award for councils that meet all merit criteria.

   Councils meeting all merit criteria shall be placed in the highest merit category and be recommended for the same level of award.

2. Reduced base funding for councils that do not meet all merit criteria.

   Councils that do not meet all merit criteria shall be placed in the reduced funding merit category and recommended for the same level of award. The reduced funding base award will be 80% of the full base award. For example, if the full base award is $100,000, the reduced base award will be $80,000.

3. Merger Funding for 2 or more councils that have merged.

   If two of more councils successfully complete a merger, they may receive merger funding in addition to the base capacity grant award. The details of this policy and implementation process can be found in attachment B.

4. Discretion to rank Do Not Fund (inadequate performance).

   OWEB has the discretion to place a council in the "do not fund" merit category. Factors OWEB will consider in this placement include:

   - The council does not meet all merit criteria.
   - The council's history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.
   - The council's history of performance over a period of years has resulted in little or no progress toward implementation and completion of stakeholder engagement activities.
   - The council's history of organizational performance over a period of years has shown lack of board officer leadership, weak organizational structure, and/or poor organizational management.
   - The council has made little or no progress toward implementation and completion of organizational development and management activities.

Chapter 7: Use of Funds

Council Capacity Grants help fund staff, contractors and other costs of watershed councils. All eligible costs described within OWEB's Budget Categories Definitions and Policy document are eligible under Council Capacity Grants. If a council chooses to use council capacity grants funds for any aspect of a restoration project, it is the grantees responsibility to ensure they secure and provide to OWEB the

appropriate landowner agreements, land use forms and/or permits in advance of implementing on-the-ground work.

Outreach Activities

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

Chapter 8: Grant Agreement Conditions

Grant agreement conditions for all Council Capacity Grants

Send all watershed council meeting announcements to the OWEB Project Manager.

Upload the Summary Chart generated at completion of the assessment with the Council Capacity grant project completion report.

Submit a progress report to OWEB by June 30, 2022. The progress report must include:

- Documentation that the council submitted an annual report to all local government entities that designated the council. Documentation can include a meeting agenda if the report was presented in person or a copy of a sent email if the report was submitted electronically.
- The annual report that was submitted.

All councils that are placed in the reduced funding merit category will be required to submit a progress report every six months.

Other Conditions

Grant agreements may include additional conditions to support increased communication between OWEB Project Managers and the grantees when appropriate. Possible conditions include:

- Regular progress reports linked to requests for funds.
- Annual meetings between OWEB staff and the council staff and board officers to discuss progress.

Oregon Watershed Councils

North Coast Watershed Association

*a. Ecola Creek WC
*b. Nicolai-Wickiup WC
*c. Skipanon WC
*d. Youngs Bay WC

e. Columbia Slough WC
f. Greater Oregon City WC
g. Johnson Creek WC
*h. Lake Oswego WC
*i. N. Clackamas Urban WC
*j. Tryon Creek WC

Salem Keizer Area Watershed Councils

*k. Claggett Creek WC
†The North Santiam Watershed Council is also locally recognized in the Mill Creek and Pringle watersheds.

*l. Spring Valley WC
*m. Rickreall WC
*n. Glenn-Gibson WC

**The MidCoast Watersheds Council is also locally recognized in the Alsea Basin and Salmon Drift.

Wasco County Watershed Councils

*Bakeoven WC
*Fifteenmile WC
*Mosier WC
*The Dalles WC
*White River WC

South Coast Watershed Council

*Floras Cr./New River WC
*Elk/Sixes River WC
*Port Orford WC
*Euchre Creek WC
*Hunter Cr./Pistol River WC
*Chetco River WC
*Winchuck River WC

Necanicum WC
Lower Columbia WC
Upper Nehalem WC
Lower Nehalem WC
Scappoose Bay WC
Tillamook Bay WC
Tualatin River WC
Hood River WG
Sandy River WC
Sherman County WC
Gilliam-East John Day WC
Nestucca/ Neskowin WC
Greater Yamhill WC
*Salmon Drift WC
Pudding River WC
Molalla River Watch
Clackamas River WC
Wasco County WCs
Luckiamute WC
**MidCoast WC
†North Santiam WC
Marys River WC
Calapooia WC
South Santiam WC
*Alsea Basin WC
Middle Deschutes WC
Mid John Day / Bridge Creek WC
North Fork John Day WC
Walla Walla WC
Umatilla Basin WC
Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Powder Basin WC
Siuslaw WC
Long Tom WC
McKenzie River WC
Upper Deschutes WC
Crooked River WC
South Fork John Day WC
*Lower Willow Creek Working Group
*Bully Creek Watershed Coalition
Malheur WC
Smith River WC
Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership
Elk Creek WC
Coast Fork Willamette WC
Middle Fork Willamette WC
Coos Watershed Assoc.
Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Coquille Watershed Association
Lake County WCs
*Silver Lake WC
*Upper Sycan WC
*Upper Chewaucan WC
Harney County WC
Owyhee WC
Lower Rogue WC
Rogue River WC
Seven Basins WC
Rogue River WC
Klamath Watershed Partnership
Illinois Valley WC
Applegate River WC
*Williams Creek WC

Area with no watershed council

*** Indicates locally recognized watershed councils that have never received their own individual Council Support Grant and are not eligible for a Council Capacity Grant.**

For Purposes of OAR 695-040-0030(2)(a) Geographic Eligibility Criteria: Boundaries of Councils which received a Watershed Council Support Grant Before July 1, 2013.

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775 Summer St. NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

Updated by Paula Wills August 2017 using ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83 SRID 2992

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, NRCAN, METI, iPC, TomTom
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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

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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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: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) Grants
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and requests funding for one SIA, which is ready for implementation.

II. Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program leads the SIA program, under which select areas around the state receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring funding 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 issues, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

The pause on grant funding implemented by the board in June included nine pending 2020 SIA grants. At the September board meeting staff shared with the board a plan for OWEB and ODA to work together to refine the funding approach and bring requests for SIA funding to the board as local partners are ready to begin implementation.

III. Current Status

In September OWEB and ODA staff met with the nine 2020 SIAs and discussed the revised funding approach and next steps. Most of the local partners expressed interest in more time to work with ODA and local partners before applying for SIA funding and beginning implementation. One SIA, Lower Deschutes, led by Sherman SWCD, was prepared to move forward with the application and is ready to begin implementation. The SWCD submitted an application for stakeholder engagement and technical assistance funding at the end of October and OWEB and ODA have been working together with the district on next steps. The district will apply for monitoring funding at a later date.

IV. Next Steps

There are eight remaining SIA's that will apply for funding in early 2021. OWEB and ODA staff are working with the remaining SIA leads to determine when is the appropriate time

to apply for the technical assistance and monitoring funding and staff will likely bring an additional SIA funding request to the board in March 2021.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board award $99,951 of SIA funds and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2020.

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Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: Working Lands.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Appointments
December 16-17, 2020 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 a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission.

II. Commission Reappointments

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 Woody Wolfe of Wallowa represents farmer/rancher interests on the commission and Commissioner Lois Loop of Salem represents agricultural water quality interests. Both commissioners' terms expire in January 2021. Both are interested in serving a new four-year term on the commission, and both have been recommended by the Board of Agriculture.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St NE
Salem, OR 97301-2532

September 23, 2020

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

At the quarterly State Board of Agriculture meeting held today, the board discussed the recommendations for commissioner appointments to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC).

It is our understanding the first term for the farmer/rancher representative position currently held by Mr. Woody Wolfe from Wallowa and the agricultural water quality representative position currently held by Ms. Lois Loop from Salem will expire January 1, 2021.

The State Board of Agriculture voted to recommend the re-appointment of Mr. Wolfe and Ms. Loop for a second term.

If you have any questions, please contact me or our staff at the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hallock

Stephanie Hallock, Chair
State Board of Agriculture

cc: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, OWEB
Alexis Taylor, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Diverse and Stable Funding Portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Background

Part of OWEB's constitutional mandate is to fund land acquisition projects that permanently protect native fish and wildlife habitat. For the past 20 years, OWEB has invested in projects resulting in a portfolio of over 100 parcels. OWEB has conservation easements on properties where grantees acquired fee simple title, and third-party rights of enforcement on properties where grantees acquired conservation easements. This staff report is in response to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded.

II. Deschutes Land Trust Presentation

Recently celebrating 25 years of land conservation, Deschutes Land Trust has protected more than 17,500 acres of land in central Oregon, including 12 properties with OWEB investment. Most recently, the board awarded funds in June 2020 for the Trout Creek Preserve, which added another 5,680 acres to DLT's portfolio.

At the December board meeting, Brad Nye, Conservation Director at DLT will give a presentation on land trust project selection and management and easement stewardship and be available for dialogue with the board.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item M 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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Cohort 2 FIP Biennial Progress Reporting
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium, including:

- Baker Sage-Grouse LIT – Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative
- Clackamas Partnership – Restoration for Native Fish Recovery Initiative
- John Day Basin Partnership – John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative
- Rogue Forest Partners – Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
- Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership – Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

Staff will introduce the biennial reporting and Cohort 2 partnerships, and partners will report on FIP initiative progress and answer questions from board members.

II. Background

In January 2019, the board selected five partnerships for FIP funding beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium. They comprise OWEB's second cohort of FIP initiatives.

FIP administrative rules require that partnerships report to the board on the progress of their initiatives at the end of each biennium (OAR 695-047-0130). For reference, Table 1 below outlines current FIP funding for each Cohort 2 initiative, and a map of FIP geographies is provided in Attachment A.

Table 1: FIP Cohort 2 Biennial Funding.
(Does not include Requested Amount for the 2023-2025 biennium.)

Cohort 2 FIPs	2019-2021 Award Amount	2021-2023 Requested Amount
Baker Sage-Grouse LIT	$1,714,566	$2,062,724
Clackamas Partnership	$3,454,580	$2,980,500
John Day Basin Partnership	$4,000,000	$4,000,000
Rogue Forest Partners	$1,500,000	$2,700,000
Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership	$2,000,000	$2,006,000
Total	**$12,669,146**	**$13,749,224**

III. Implementation

In order to implement their FIP initiatives, each partnership submits project grant applications for any of the following project types: partnership capacity, stakeholder engagement, land/water acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration. Proposals are reviewed by technical review teams (TRT). 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; b) collaborate with OWEB and the partners to ensure that each project is technically sound, including optimal design and actions needed for successful implementation; and c) ensure that each proposal accurately and thoroughly reflects the project scope of services. Attachment B provides an accounting of each partnership's FIP projects to date, including projects not yet submitted to OWEB that will use any balance of funding remaining for the biennium.

In previous reporting periods, staff have provided written reports in addition to in-person reporting with partners. Staff intend to provide Cohort 2 FIP written reports for the 2019-2021 biennium in the form of Progress Tracking Reports at the March 2021 board meeting. Progress Tracking Reports for Cohort 1 FIPs were shared with the board at the January 2020 meeting. Following the Cohort 2 FIP reporting in December, staff will recommend biennial funding requests for each of the Cohort 2 FIPs at the March 2021 board meeting.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. FIP Initiatives Map 2020
B. Cohort 2 FIP Project Accounting

Attachment A

FIP Initiatives Map 2020

OWEB

Clackamas - Restoration for Native Fish Recovery

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

John Day Basin Native FIsh Habitat Initiative

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes

The Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration

Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

The Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse

N

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Miles

Implementation FIPs Priority

- Native Fish
- Dry-Type Forest Habitat
- Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe
- Closed Lakes/Wetlands

Cohorts

Cohort 1 - Blue Label

Cohort 2 - Black Label

Document Path: C:\Users\PAULA\GIS C Drive\GIS_Files_on_Z_Drive\Projects\FIPs\FIPsBoardReportMap_20201118.mxd

Cohort 2 FIP Project Accounting

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Baker County	Baker Sage-grouse LIT: Implementation FIP Capacity Funding	220-8206-17225	Partnership Technical Assistance	$149,085	$27,948	Active	
Baker County	Baker Sage-grouse LIT: Stakeholder Engagement	220-8206-17237	Stakeholder Engagement	$279,746	$229,770	Active	
Baker County	Lawrence/Sardine Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration	220-8206-17361	Restoration	$62,180	$84,000	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Love Reservoir Sage-grouse Habitat Enhancement Phase I	220-8206-17607	Restoration	$254,055	$531,742	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Medical Springs Whitetop Control	220-8206-17609	Restoration	$48,097	$414,296	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Unity Whitetop Containment & Control Phase I	220-8206-17610	Restoration	$82,112	$300,469	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Keating Sage-grouse Broadleaf Weed Control Phase I	220-8206-17608	Restoration	$92,294	$121,264	Active	
Power Basin WC	CCAA Coordinator	220-8206-18736	Stakeholder Engagement	$127,680	$36,500	Active	
Tri-County CWMA	Glasgow Butte Habitat Restoration	220-8206-18734	Restoration	$149,657	$133,475	Active	
Baker County	Harrell and Flack	220-8206-18710	Restoration	$47,509	$101,200	Active	
Baker County	Lookout Mountain Restoration	TBD	Restoration	$115,817	$92,740	To Be Submitted	To be submitted in Fall 2020 grant cycle. Technical review scheduled for Dec. 10, 2020
Baker County	Keating Powder River Restoration Project 2021	TBD	Restoration	$96,685	$64,100	To Be Submitted	To be submitted in Fall 2020 grant cycle. Technical review scheduled for Dec. 10, 2020
Baker County	Maiden Gulch	TBD	Restoration	$89,500	TBD	To Be Submitted	This project is anticipated for the Spring (April) 2021 application cycle.
Tri-County CWMA	Forb Islands	TBD	Restoration	$30,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	This project is anticipated for the Spring (April) 2021 application cycle.
Tri-County CWMA	Keating Yellow Starthistle	TBD	Restoration	$90,000	TBD	To Be Submitted	This project is anticipated for the Spring (April) 2021 application cycle.
			TOTAL	**$1,714,417**	**$2,137,504**		
			19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD	**$1,715,000**			
			BALANCE	**$583**			

Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team (LIT)
Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative

Biennium 2019-2021

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership Initiative Capacity	220-8207 - 17215	Partnership Technical Assistance	$155,000	$40,249	Active	Completed 2 online application cycles and OWEB TRT reviews. Ongoing partnership coordination for restoration, stakeholder engagement, data and monitoring.
North Clackamas Watershed Council	Watershed Assessment, Action Plan & Project Prioritiztaion	220-8207 - 17280	Technical Assistance	$29,988	$56,040	Active	First phase complete, project designs partially complete, selecting contractor now for next phase. Leveraged funders; PGE Salmon Habitat Support Fund, NCPRD, Clackamas WES.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Cazadero North Stream Restoration Project	220-8207 - 17281	Restoration	$160,182	$186,472	Active	Site visit 10/29/19. Instream restoration construction completed 2020. Site prep to manage invasives completed fall 2020; planting planned winter 2020-21 with maintenance following for 3 years to reach *free-to-grow* plant establishment.
Johnson Creek WC	Kelley Creek Fish Passage Restoration	220-8207 - 17282	Restoration	$109,052	$85,125	Active	Dam removal completed in August of 2020, livestock exclusion fence installed October of 2020, riparian revegetation to begin this winter! Funds leveraged by partnerships with East Multnomah SWCD and American Rivers/Paul Allen Foundation.
Clackamas River Basin Council	"J" (Johnson) Creek Confluence Side Channel Project	220-8207 - 17283	Restoration	$548,550	$263,619	Active	Progress ongoing for future permitting and construction; Tour conducted with landowners May 2020.
Johnson Creek WC	Lower Johnson Creek Habitat Enhancement	220-8207 - 17284	Restoration	$117,779	$21,880	Active	Site visit 10/29/19. Restoration work completed early August, 2020 with the placement of 7 log complexes and creation of 5 pools. This site will also be revegetated this winter. Funds leveraged from our partners to be determined, as some funding may not be eligible as match.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Kingfisher Side Channel Restoration	220-8207 - 17285	Restoration	$590,464	$415,861	Active	Design and permitting in progress
Clackamas River Basin Council	Eagle Creek Confluence Restoration Project	220-8207 - 17286	Restoration	$343,405	$303,400	Active	Completed in-water restoration construction Aug 2020; preparing for planting in 2021, followed by maintenance spring 2021-23
Johnson Creek WC	Clackamas FIP fish habitat and macroinvertebrate monitoring	220-8207 - 17287	Monitoring	$201,113	$6,877	Active	Agreements in place; Pre-project monitoring initiated for fish habitat and macroinvertebrate baselines.

Clackamas River Basin Council	Lower Clackamas River Habitat Assessment & Project Prioritization	220-8207 - 17288	Technical Assistance	$74,998	$2,320	Active	TRT had no revisions. Habitat assessment, followed by project identification and prioritization is completed. Feasibility designs will be developed for a subset of projects January through March 2021.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership Stakeholder Engagement	220-8207 - 17289	Stakeholder Engagement	$23,000	$7,383	Active	Progress ongoing; Landowner communication tools developed. Broad stakeholder engagement for biennium 2 projects is underway. In-house video production underway to display types of restoration projects within geographic scope of the Clackamas Partnership OWEB FIP for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species focus for future stakeholder engagement.
Clackamas River Basin Council	Upper Clackamas River Habitat Restoration	220-8207 - 18717	Restoration	$171,848	$188,203	Active	USFS engaged Enterprise Team to further designs for permit authorizations and implementation. Partner meetings held. Anticipated instream restoration construction in 2021 or 2022 dependent on extent of Riverside Fire impact and potential delay (fire assessments still underway; site is not accessible at this time)
Greater Oregon City WC	North Newell Creek Stream Restoration Project	220-8207 - 18722	Restoration	$176,079	$114,966	Active	Progress ongoing; Project planning underway for permit applications and implementation.
Greater Oregon City WC	Strategic Restoration Action Plan for the Abernethy Creek Watershed	220-8207 - 18723	Technical Assistance	$29,975	$2,000	Active	Projects identified and prioritized based on ecological benefit for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. Landowner contacts initiated for future stakeholder engagement.
Johnson Creek WC	Johnson Creek Watershed Stormwater BMP Prioritization and Outreach	220-8207 - 18724	Technical Assistance	$50,000	$4,319	Active	Progress ongoing and on target; Initiated involvement with partners
Clackamas River Basin Council	Sieben Creek Confluence Restoration	220-8207 - 18727	Restoration	$571,749	$677,640	Active	In process of hiring consultants for design and permitting support winter 2020/2021.
			TOTAL	**$3,353,182**	**$2,376,354**		
			19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD	**$3,454,580**			
			BALANCE	**$101,398**			

Note: The remaining balance of funding will be used in the next round of proposals to be submitted in Spring 2021.

John Day Basin Partnership

John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative

2019-2021 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
South Fork John Day Watershed Council	John Day Basin Partnership FIP Capacity	220-8208-17219	Partnership Technical Assistance	$389,957	$37,800	Active	
Trout Unlimited	Desolation Meadows Restoration Project	220-8208-17290	Technical Assistance	$125,386	$12,545	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	Anderson - East Fork Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Design	220-8208-17304	Technical Assistance	$23,518	$1,760	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	Sniption Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration Design	220-8208-17305	Technical Assistance	$23,136	$1,760	Active	
Wheeler SWCD	Butte Creek BDA Designs	220-8208-17308	Technical Assistance	$33,458	$9,020	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Upper John Day LiDAR Project	220-8208-17312	Technical Assistance	$165,008	$1,265,099	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Vinegar to Vincent Fish Habitat Improvement	220-8208-17296	Restoration	$166,746	$1,848,428	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Middle Fork Planting and Fencing	220-8208-17313	Restoration	$155,163	$395,029	Active	
Grant SWCD	Junkens Creek Riparian Improvements	220-8208-17302	Restoration	$29,235	$19,310	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	Wilson Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration	220-8208-17303	Restoration	$151,151	$60,715	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Camp Creek Planting FIP	220-8208-17298	Restoration	$244,357	$319,416	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Junken's Creek Bridge	220-8208-17299	Restoration	$52,074	$82,200	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Butte, Ruby, Beaver Creek Restoration	220-8208-17300	Restoration	$263,214	$315,765	Active	
Trout Unlimited	North Fork John Day Resilience Project	220-8208-17291	Restoration	$44,389	$36,757	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	John Day Basin Partnership Stakeholder Engagement Campaign FIP	220-8208-17309	Stakeholder Engagement	$51,835	$8,845	Active	
Blue Mountain Land Trust	JDBP Focal Geography Targeted Outreach	220-8208-17317	Stakeholder Engagement	$40,658	$1,564	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Bull Trout Status and Trend Monitoring	220-8208-17314	Monitoring	$140,523	$2,328	Active	
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	North Fork Monitoring	220-8208-17301	Monitoring	$267,238	$65,390	Active	

Gilliam SWCD	Butte/Thirtymile Monitoring	220-8208-17307	Monitoring	$82,395	$4,999	Active	
Gilliam SWCD	John Day Basin Partnership UAV Implementation and Effectiveness Monitoring Program	220-8208-17316	Monitoring	$150,000	$13,087	Active	
Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation	Granite Creek RM 7.5 Implementation	220-8208-17315	Restoration	$600,000	$676,429	Active	
Grant SWCD	No.10 Road Relocation Project, Ph.1	220-8208-17306	Restoration	$58,295	$24,000	Active	
Trout Unlimited	NFJD Resilience Project, Treatment 2	220-8208-19237	Restoration	$ 56,097.00	$ 73,237.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Grant SWCD	Little Indian Creek Riparian Fence Project	220-8208-19242	Restoration	$ 27,164.00	$ 42,290.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Vinegar to Vincent Fish Habitat Improvement, Ph.2	220-8208-19245	Restoration	$ 202,455.00	$ 500,000.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Gilliam SWCD	Thirtymile Floodplain Analysis and Prioritization	220-8208-19240	Technical Assistance	$ 62,909.00	$ 172,509.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Hidaway Creek, Ph.1	220-8208-19243	Restoration	$ 126,765.00	$ 137,025.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
North Fork John Day Watershed Council	Cultural TA MFJD Tribs	220-8208-19241	Technical Assistance	$ 39,087.00	$ 945.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Wheeler SWCD	Butte Creek Riverscape Restoration	220-8208-19238	Restoration	$ 174,036.00	$ 199,315.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Wheeler SWCD	Kinzua Culvert Designs	220-8208-19239	Technical Assistance	$ 30,752.00	$ 39,252.00	Pending	Application submitted Oct. 30, 2020; in technical review process Dec. 2020.
Gilliam SWCD	Butte/Thirtymile Monitoring	220-8208-17307	Monitoring	$ 22,999.00	$ -	Pending	Monetary amendment to increase funding for 220-8208-17307. Leverage funding accounted for with original application.
			TOTAL	**$4,000,000**	**$6,366,819**		
			19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD	**$4,000,000**			
			BALANCE	**$0**			

Rogue Forest Partners

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

2019-2021 Biennium

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Southern Oregon Forest Collaborative	RFRP Capacity/RFRI Initiative	220-8213-17214	Partnership Technical Assistance	$92,169	$23,042	Active	On schedule; still assessing potential software platforms to assist partnership
Southern Oregon Forest Collaborative	RFRI Stakeholder Engagement	220-8213-17217	Stakeholder Engagement	$133,648	$37,000	Active	On schedule except for some delays due to difficulty in conducting engagement during COVID 19. Private landowner targets met.
The Nature Conservancy	Monitoring RFRI BN1	220-8213-17222	Monitoring	$82,831	$14,884	Active	On schedule for BN1 completion, but internal timelines have been modified, including monitoring plan finalization in Q1 2021 and songbird monitoring to be completed in spring 2021.
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative-Restoration	220-8213-17221	Restoration	$975,735	$685,000	Active	On schedule for contractual portions but actual on the ground implementation may be delayed due to late signing of EA decision notice and COVID-19 impacts. Some match may come in the form of retained receipts from Stewardship Agreements.
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative-TA	220-8213-17220	Technical Assistance	$215,615	$210,000	Active	On Schedule, meeting timelines.
			TOTAL	**$1,499,998**	**$969,926**		
			19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD	**$1,500,000**			
			BALANCE	**$2**			

Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat improvement Initiative

Biennium 2019-2021

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Project Type	OWEB Grant Award	Leverage Funds	Status	Notes
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Warner FIP Partnership Technical Assistance	220-8215-17227	Technical Assistance	$ 19,976	$ 5,000	Active	
Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District	Honey Creek Town Diversion - Fish Passage	220-8215-18642	Restoration	$ 969,307	$ 301,174	Active	
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Deep Creek Starveout Diversion Fish Passage	220-8215-18643	Restoration	$ 429,165	$ 159,500	Active	
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Deep Creek Relict Weir Fish Passage	220-8215-18644	Restoration	$ 267,598	$ 81,999	Active	
Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Warner Sucker Passage Effectiveness Monitoring	220-8215-18645	Monitoring	$ 26,723	$ 8,999	Active	
			TOTAL	$1,712,769	$556,672		
			19-21 BIENNIAL AWARD	$2,000,000			
			BALANCE	$287,231			

Note: The remaining balance of funding will be used in the next round of proposals to be submitted in Jan. 2021.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item N 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: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Approval of Receipt of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Funding

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board retroactively approve receipt of up to $500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs.

II. Background

The NRCS works collaboratively with local partners to implement conservation programs under the federal Farm Bill. Over the last few years there has been an increase in landowner interest in these programs. Collaborating with local partners enables NRCS to meet the demand and support the capacity of local organizations.

III. NRCS Funding

In August of 2018 OWEB received $1 million from NRCS, which was distributed via grants to watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts across the state, to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. All the initial $1 million has been distributed to local partners and many of the local partners are close to closing out the grants. Local partners, working collaboratively with NRCS, have been able to address local needs, but there continues to be more demand. To address this continued demand, NRCS has made an additional $500,000 available to OWEB to be distributed to local partners via grants. If the board approves receipt of this funding, OWEB will work with NRCS to solicit for grants early in 2021 using the process and application materials developed for the initial offering in 2019.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve receipt of $500,000 from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020.

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Agenda Item O supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Kristi Primley, Administrative Support
Katie Duzik, Region 1 Program Representative
Sue Greer, Region 6 Program Representative
Miriam Forney, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Results of OWEB's DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews. This report also references the DEI committee report, providing recommendations for next steps for the board's consideration.

II. Background

In June 2018 the board adopted its strategic plan and one of the seven priorities focuses on OWEB's DEI journey, Priority 2: Leaders at all level of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians. The first strategy under this priority is to listen, learn, and gather information about diverse populations. After board adoption of the strategic plan, OWEB convened a staff team to lead the agency's internal and external DEI efforts. The first task of this group was to develop a short and simple survey of OWEB grantees to learn about the demographic make-up of their organizations and the stakeholders they serve, and the organizations' DEI efforts. After the online survey, staff interviewed a subset of the respondents to ask more detailed questions about their DEI efforts.

III. Grantee Survey Results

The survey was sent to all of OWEB's active grantees in Spring 2019 and was open for six weeks. Of the 292 unique grantees that received the survey link 75, or 26%, completed the survey. A variety of OWEB's grantees responded including watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, other nonprofits, counties, and tribal governments. Generally, the survey results affirmed OWEB staff experience with grantees,

showing that grantee board members are predominately older, white males, and staff are a mix of male and female, but predominately white. All survey respondents reported that the nine federally recognized tribes are being engaged at some level. Finally, respondents expressed a high level of interest in learning more about how to engage in DEI work, from training to strategic planning and data collection.

IV. Grantee Interview Qualitative Findings

OWEB staff used tools and methods from a 2017 Project Impact Training to develop interview questions and complete a post-interview data analysis. Questions were developed to better understand our grantees' efforts to engage under-represented communities and the challenges they face. This one-on-one communication was key to provide a deeper understanding of what our grantees are experiencing that we could not have learned through an online survey alone. Eleven grantees were interviewed using the same set of questions and their responses were analyzed using a qualitative analysis to identify common themes and insights. Six findings emerged from the analysis and are described in detail in Attachment A. Each finding also describes the significance to OWEB and how we can incorporate this into meaningful action.

V. Next Steps for Board Consideration

As referenced in the DEI ad hoc committee staff report (Agenda Item D), staff and the committee are recommending a survey for all board members to complete. Details are provided in the committee report.

In addition, the DEI committee recommends the board consider two additional steps. First, the committee would like to continue in its ad hoc role until the survey is completed and strategic next steps determined. Second, the committee recommends that both the board and the coordinating committee include a standing agenda item for diversity, equity, and inclusion in each meeting.

VI. Action

The DEI committee recommends the board take the following actions: 1) commit that all board members will complete a DEI survey, 2) continue the DEI ad hoc committee to analyze survey results and determine strategic next steps, and 3) include DEI as a standing agenda item for all board and coordinating committee meetings.

Attachments

Attachment A. Interview Qualitative Findings

OWEB's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Interview

Qualitative Findings

Introduction

In 2019 OWEB sent a short online survey to all grantees. The purpose of the survey was to learn about the demographic make-up of their organizations, the stakeholders they serve, and the organization's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts. Of the 292 unique grantees that received the survey 75 or 26% completed the survey during the six weeks it was available. We received responses from watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, other nonprofits, counties and tribal governments. Highlights of the results include:

- The board members of our grantees organizations are predominately older white males.
- The staff of the organizations are a mix of male and female, but predominately white.
- Among the 75 survey respondents all the federally recognized tribes are being engaged with at some level.
- There is a lot of interest among our grantees to learn more about how to engage in DEI work, from training to strategic planning and data collection.

After the online survey was complete OWEB staff interviewed eleven of the survey respondents to ask more detailed questions to learn more about their DEI efforts. The six findings described in the following pages of this report are the result of those interviews. The information contained in the findings is not specifically tied to OWEB's funding, but reflect the actual accomplishments and struggles of our grantees in their local diversity, equity, and inclusion work. The findings provide information that OWEB can use as we seek out other partners, including other funders, to advance Priority 2 of OWEB's strategic plan.

Finding #1: DEI work flows from within the culture of the organization and the community

Description

Our interviews demonstrated that our grantees are at many different places when it comes to individual and organizational diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) work. This includes incorporating DEI into planning efforts and actively using tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. Our grantees are striving to increase involvement of under-represented communities in their restoration and stakeholder engagement efforts. Many people see DEI work as both an individual and organizational journey, with the individual work coming first, and sometime easier to achieve. Making the transition from personal to organizational can be challenging without leadership.

> *"It is hard to translate personal trainings to an organizational level." – interview participant*

Interviewees talked about how the mission of the organization can impact its culture and the amount of focus it is willing to put into DEI work. Some organizations have broad mission statements, enabling them to implement projects that align with OWEB's Constitutional requirements to address protection and restoration of native fish and wildlife habitat or water quality improvement and broader conservation and DEI efforts. Other organizations have more narrow missions and may be limited on board membership and allowable actions. Without leadership some members of these organizations do not see value in DEI work.

> *"Before this kind of work can take place, we really need to take the time to learn the history of why we are where we are today. Everyone at the table needs to take the time to understand this, and that takes time, effort and training." – interview participant*

Interviewees also talked about how the demographics, culture and history of the community impacts the organization's DEI efforts. Our grantees are working to serve the communities in which they are located. They seek board members and staff from the communities they serve, develop and implement projects and seek financial support. They recognize the demographics of Oregon are changing, and this includes land ownership, but they are also facing historical racism in many communities, which makes change hard.

> *"Within the watershed is a pretty rural, white male, over 50 that owns land demographic. But the people who use the water, who we also want to value the water, are more diverse with large LatinX, Russian, and deaf/hard of hearing populations." – interview participant*

Significance

There is a strong desire to begin organizational DEI work among some of our grantees. They recognize this will be challenging work, especially in some communities. They recognize that

landownership, though shifting, is still predominantly older, white male. However, there is recognition that there is a broader, more diverse population that also has interest in and benefits from native fish and wildlife species and habitat and natural watershed functions. It is also important to note that some of our grantees do not see the nexus between DEI work and conservation work and this view is often directly linked to the culture of the community they serve.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
    - 2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations

Findings #2: A diversity of barriers exist and we need the entire tool box to break them down

Description

As our grantees begin to consider working on DEI issues they are faced with a wide variety of challenges. Our interviews revealed many barriers to performing DEI work. While they mentioned it was relatively easy to identify who the under-represented communities in their areas are they often identified significant barriers that they need to overcome before they can begin to engage with them in a meaningful way. Engaging with the communities is the first step to eventually develop shared goals and objectives. One of the barriers that exists is the lack of training to gain the skills to understand the unique culture and language of the under-represented communities in their areas. Learning how to serve one community does not necessarily work for another community. For example, engaging with veterans is very different than engaging with the LatinX community. Our grantees also mentioned multiple times that the lack of childcare is a barrier to get diverse stakeholders to attend their meetings and events. In addition, there is a need for translators and interpreters to perform outreach and then understand the feedback they receive. However, after the communities are engaged we heard about other barriers that soon emerge.

Under-represented communities often have different concerns than those that are focused on watershed restoration. Under-represented communities' top priority may not be improving fish habitat in a stream and may be more focused on accessing green space near their homes for recreation or access to rivers for food resources. There is a need for our grantees to communicate the commonalities amongst the goal to improve fish habitat and access to green space or fishing opportunities. One of the major barriers that emerges after the communities provide feedback is that our grantees don't have the human capital to take action. Some communities are interested in activities that don't align well with OWEB funding priorities, such as environmental education for their children and work related experiences for high school students. Some of our grantees' organizations are smaller and don't have the staff on hand to focus on these type of outreach events and education opportunities. If they had additional staff they might be able to focus more on these efforts. Our grantees that receive a majority of their funding from OWEB for planning and implementing on the ground restoration actions could jeopardize their funding streams by focusing on other activities that OWEB typically is not interested in funding.

> *"A big barrier is the need for a long-term investment to develop relationships without a particular project in mind. We need to go into the community to listen and build trust and be open to new types of projects that might not be our priorities." – interview participant*

There are also additional barriers that exist within their own organizations that prevent them from working on DEI issues due to a lack of understanding why this matters and how that fits

into a rural community's needs. We heard that there is apprehension amongst staff about diving into changing an organization's strategic plan or policy directions when their board may not share their same view that there is a need to engage in DEI efforts. One of the reflections that we heard was SWCDs may not have the broader mission statement to engage under-represented communities because they are focused on assisting agricultural producers. This could be a barrier to engaging those communities but as the demographics of agricultural producers change there could be an opportunity to engage a more diverse audience to assist them. If the grantee's board members and the landowners within the community are predominantly white there may not be a desire to engage with a diverse audience based on their historic way of doing business in an exclusive manner.

Significance

As we reflect on the many barriers that exist we need to acknowledge that Oregon's racist history impacts our grantees ability to engage under-represented communities and recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. OWEB can help our grantees overcome barriers to engage a broader audience to understand what is needed to enhance the health of our watersheds. Potentially, there are ways we can help our grantees leverage the operational capacity funding we provide to overcome some of the barriers that exist. By encouraging our grantees to engage under-represented communities today it will help our funding be applied in a manner that benefits a broader audience in the future.

> *"Eventually, if we get the foundation right, it could be that we could really align this work with specific projects that could be funded by OWEB –but there is a huge investment in capacity first." – interview participant*

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
    - Strategy 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

Finding #3: Capacity is needed to launch and sustain DEI efforts

Description

Organizational capacity is at the foundation of many of the constraints our grantees experience when delving into DEI work within their communities. Many watershed organizations are small non-profits with limited staff. It takes time to develop and maintain partnerships and relationships, especially with communities that haven't been a part of the conversation before. Resources are lacking in which to engage new stakeholders; staff are already busy with normal day-to-day tasks of running the organization and implementing projects.

While funding certainly is part of the capacity discussion, even organizations that had received grants for hiring DEI trainers and beginning the diversity-focused strategic planning work struggled to find time to begin. Planning trainings for staff and board and engaging stakeholders takes time outside of the daily operations of an organization. In addition, we heard that Covid-19 had further limited the ability of organizers to execute planned training events.

> *"It's a question of capacity. We need staff time to build relationships with culturally-specific and low income communities. It is very labor intensive to build community relationships, and this is not funded by OWEB grants." – interview participant*

Engaging in this work and broadening community relationships also requires both staff and board to be literate in the language of DEI work. This literacy is built with training and an accumulated understanding of the history behind the issues we face today. Some grantees felt it is important to get everyone in their organizations educated first before beginning down this path- both staff and board. The time to do the work in an already overstretched small non-profit with a primarily environmental mission was hard to find, especially with the limited capacity of volunteer Board members.

> *"It takes the right language to even begin this work, we are working on building up that capacity. We need to take the time to learn the history of where we are today. Everyone at the table needs to take the time to learn this." – interview participant*

Significance

OWEB's grantees and partners recognize that engaging with under-represented communities and recruiting a greater diversity of staff, board members, and volunteers is important. Many organizations seem to have been inspired by the inclusion of community capacity and diversity within our strategic plan. OWEB wants to support our grantees to explore being more intentional about diversity, equity, and inclusion. However, watershed organizations are primarily smaller non-profits that struggle with finding staff time for day-to-day activities. The lack of capacity was identified by our grantees as a constraint on several levels, both time and knowledge. When a small staff is already committed to other aspects of an organization's mission the time to plan DEI trainings for staff and board and thoughtfully engage new stakeholders is very restricted. The lack of knowledge and language capacity among staff and

board was also identified as a constraint. Building up this type of “know how” capacity among our grantees will provide them with the confidence necessary to tackle this sometimes daunting subject.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
    - 2.1 Listen, learn, and gather information about diverse populations
    - 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
    - 3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational community and partnership capacity

Finding #4: Organizational training is needed to embark upon a DEI journey

Description

Our interviews clearly revealed that our grantees are enthusiastic to listen and learn more to best address diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in their community. There is a lot to learn about this topic and there is a significant need for more knowledge to engage properly within the community. While some staff in an organization might have some literacy around this topic it is necessary that everyone in their organization have a consistent level of understanding to fully engage on this topic. Several interviews identified the need for training in order for everyone in their organization to gain the knowledge necessary to develop a strategy to engage with their community. This training is not only needed across the staff but also for their board members. It is believed that with additional training everyone within the organization can begin to get excited about DEI efforts.

> *"It's way deeper than race, economics, and gender. So, without having a good understanding of the scope and what should happen at the organization level, it's hard to dig into it." – interview participant*

Part of the challenge that is closely linked to training is access to funding for their staff and board to obtain this training. There is an interest and awareness that OWEB is making this a priority (by including in board strategic plan), but without funding they cannot learn what to do next. We heard repeatedly that part of the challenge to dig into DEI work is the need for specific training on how to link it to their organization's mission. The large events such as conferences that discuss diversity, equity, and inclusion are important but don't have the same level of impact to help move an organization forward. Specific training can help them overcome challenges they described around lack of understanding of the importance of engaging with under-represented communities and the benefit of recruiting a greater diversity of staff, board members, and volunteers. Once their organization gains this knowledge and collective understanding, they can work together to overcome other barriers and find opportunities.

Significance

Our grantee's need for training is important to OWEB because financial resources are necessary to obtain instructors to work closely to figure out how to apply theories of practice to their organization. Unfortunately, due to constitutional requirements and statute we are unable to provide funding for our grantees to obtain desired DEI training to gain the necessary knowledge to fully engage within their organization and broader community. This is a challenge for OWEB since we are a funder and are typically able to use our funding to support our grantees need to learn more. However, we heard from several organizations that they have pursued funding from other funders such as the Meyer Memorial Trust to obtain training for their staff and board members. Their funding has been extremely helpful to further their organization's DEI work. In addition, many of the grantees we spoke with expressed a willingness to work with others and OWEB to develop a DEI Community of Practice for natural resources professionals.

We cannot solve this issue alone and will need our fellow funders and grantees to build partnerships and avenues for success.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
    - Strategy 2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations
    - Strategy 2.3 Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion

Finding #5: Funding is a key ingredient to initiate DEI work within an organization

Description

Funding is a main driver for organizations that depend on grants to keep their doors open and staff paid. Finding funders that focus on initiating DEI work is challenging, even to those in a more urban setting. For rural grantees, getting buy-in from the rural and conservative community at large and from their board of directors, that a DEI focus is important is challenging. DEI work is both time consuming and difficult to communicate an engaging message without trained staff. Obtaining funding to focus on DEI work is difficult for those in areas where demographics are mostly white.

Balancing an organization's environment or ecological mission and expanding into under-represented communities takes time, trained staff and resources to engage. This cannot happen without dedicated funds to build relationships.

"A big barrier is there needs to be a long-term investment to develop relationships without a particular project in mind." – interview participant

Situations both here in Oregon and on a national level have helped bring this conversation to the forefront. This brings both opportunities and challenges – opinions can be strong and it is crucial to develop a communication skill set that encourages people to see this as an opportunity rather than a polarized/political viewpoint.

"One potential obstacle is that boards, depending on how conservative, could feel that that this is something that is mandated and might make people defensive." – interview participant

Funding for training is just the first, yet critical step in the move toward DEI engagement. Many groups will then need funding to help develop the message based on the group(s) they are working to engage with, then hiring translators, developing and providing materials in several languages, and hiring staff with the necessary skills to achieve the DEI goals of the organization.

"We have had camps and "walks" with interpreters/translators, and it is difficult and expensive to hire interpreters/translators who can translate science. In the future, we would like to be able to include those costs into grant budgets." – interview participant

Significance

As a lead funder in Oregon's restoration community, it is important for OWEB to understand how our grantees are thinking about incorporating DEI into their work, and the challenges they face in achieving those goals. At the same time, figuring out how to leverage resources from different funders, when missions are disparate is an issue but also serves as an opportunity. For instance, OWEB funding is dedicated to improving fish and wildlife habitat and watershed

function, which often requires engaging stakeholders to pave a path toward restoration. At the same time there are funders that focus solely on engaging under-represented communities and training organizations on how to do this. Developing funding models to represent DEI principles is identified as an objective in OWEB's 2018 strategic plan and is truly needed to help our grantees make significant progress in the future.

> *"It takes whole communities and every demographic held within, to restore function and balance in our natural systems. It takes healthy functioning natural systems to support happy, healthy communities." – interview participant*

OWEB needs to think about how our own programs can embrace, encourage and result in engaging under-represented communities and recruitment of greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers. Guided by Oregon's Constitution and Statute, making progress towards meeting the DEI priority in OWEB's 2018 Strategic Plan will require some expansion of how we think about doing business.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 1: Broad awareness of the relationships between people and watersheds
  - Strategy 1.2 Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches
- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.
  - Strategy 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Priority 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio
  - Strategy 4.2 Align common investment areas with private foundations

Finding #6: Partnerships create opportunities for DEI success

Description

Interest is growing among our grantees to connect diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) work to natural resource work and individual desire to connect with a broader audience. We heard from several interviews that our grantees are very interested in this topic at the staff level and is more of a mixed response when the Board's level of engagement or interest is considered. OWEB's grantees described being involved in partnerships that are working on collective DEI training and engaging under-represented communities. Some grantees have been able to leverage their collaborative work to secure funding, mostly from Meyer Memorial Trust, for both organizational and partnership DEI work. Forming a new partnership with under-represented communities can be challenging. There are cultural and language barriers, but is worth the effort to connect with under-represented communities and expand outreach opportunities.

Connecting with nontraditional partners takes time and organizations don't always have the time, capacity, and funding to build partnerships without a specific project as the end goal. Grantees are beginning to identify groups, including contractors, their crews and migrant farmers to engage in new ways.

> *"Just recently we began targeting the contractor community, not only as a contractor, but as a stakeholder, so they can understand the importance of the work that they are doing; it isn't only a paycheck." – interview participant*

A gap in this work is the lack of funding to develop relationships to serve cross-sector populations. Partnering with other organizations to provide natural resource related outreach and education allows our grantees to meet community needs without having to do all the work and they can focus on their core mission.

> *"We are in the community, we are asking questions and the community is telling us the needs of different groups in the community. Sometimes the needs overlap with our mission and sometimes not. "– interview participant*

Significance

OWEB's grantees are looking for opportunities to expand their DEI work by forming partnerships with underserved communities. Some of these efforts have been paused because of COVID-19, related funding and capacity challenges. There are limited funders supporting DEI focused partnership development. There is not always a clear nexus with OWEB funding because projects must have a clear link to OWEB's Constitutional requirements to address protection and restoration of native fish and wildlife habitat or water quality improvement. Stakeholder engagement and partnership technical assistance grants can be used to build partnerships and engage new communities, but there must be a clear link to current or future restoration and/or acquisition actions.

Our Response

Strategic Plan priority connections:

- Priority 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians
    - Strategy 2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations
    - Strategy 2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table
- Priority 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds
    - Strategy 3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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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: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Kathy Leopold, Small Grant Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Wildfire Update
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about OWEB's recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening with the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Environmental Quality at the request of the Governor's Office.

II. Background

Wildfires of historic proportion ravaged our region this year, spreading to over a million acres in Oregon alone. The impacts from the fires pose great risk to the health of Oregon watersheds.

Since mid-September, OWEB staff have been meeting with state and federal agencies to better understand each agency's role, ways to increase coordination, and funding needs and gaps. In addition, at its October meeting, the OWEB board provided up to $1 million in funding for wildfire response grants to address near-term needs of impacted watersheds.

III. Wildfire Response Grants

OWEB's wildfire response grants have two objectives: 1) invest in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and 2) fill short-term gaps that aren't available through other funding sources while meeting OWEB's constitutional mandate. Grants will be awarded to one lead entity that works in cooperation with area partners in each of the 13 fire areas. Grant are available for up to $75,000 per fire to fund short-term, high priority needs for a limited set of implementation, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement activities.

OWEB developed a streamlined online application to facilitate quick-response efforts by local partners. Key elements of the application include confirming partnership conversations have occurred via the upload of letters from appropriate local partners in the fire area, and documenting eligible actions through checkboxes and narrative responses.

To accommodate the varying stages of local partner readiness and federal assessment status in fire areas, the offering was opened November 5, 2020, with applications accepted through May 25, 2021. Technical review of each application will be initiated as each proposal is submitted. OWEB technical reviewers will confirm eligibility and compliance with OWEB rule and offering requirements. To date, OWEB has approved the one grant that has been submitted, with a number of other partners working through details to submit a grant application.

Recommended applications then will move quickly through the internal OWEB processes to execute grant agreements. Conditions of the agreement will include reporting requirements to document the implementation of project activities, along with information on grantees' efforts to engage tribal and minority owned contractors. Funds awarded through this offering must be spent by June 30, 2021.

IV. Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force

Interagency and intergovernmental coordination on fire recovery is occurring through the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF), convened by the Oregon Department of Forestry and Department of Environmental Quality, along with OWEB. The group provides coordination and implementation for the State's recovery response to catastrophic wildfires in September 2020. The NCRRTF also serves as the coordination and implementation mechanism for State Recovery Function (SRF) 7 from the March 2018 Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan: "to integrate state assets and capabilities to help local governments, tribal governments, and impacted communities address long-term environmental and cultural resource recovery needs after large-scale and catastrophic incidents." The NCRRTF was convened by the Governor's Natural Resources Office, and natural resources agency directors in coordination with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The task force is focusing on near and long-term post-fire recovery needs, serving as the staff-level coordination and implementing entity for the recovery work in the coming months and years.

Because of the broad scope of the NCRRTF, representation includes state and federal natural resources agencies, in addition, the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) is engaged, and tribes have been invited to participate in the process. Early coordination and communication focuses on natural and cultural resources assessments, alignment of funding programs to support on-the-ground stabilization and restoration, and public information needs, while continuing to plan for long-term natural resources recovery in the coming years. The task force is coordinating with other SRF related groups, such as the Debris Management Task Force, and the Oregon Office of Outdoor Recreation.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Kate Brown, Governor

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Agenda Item Q 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: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – Oregon Department of Forestry Funding to Support Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
December 16-17, 2020 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report requests the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants.

II. Background

Oregon CREP 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 along 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.

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. ODF is one of multiple agencies that works with local CREP technicians to provide technical review and development of planting plans when needed.

III. Available Funding

ODF has indicated it will have up to $140,000 in funding available for use in CREP TA grants. These funds are available for general support of CREP TA grants such as work by CREP technicians to recruit landowners and complete the necessary review process to successfully enroll them in the program. In addition, the funds may be used for monitoring and tracking of CREP contracts, including work by CREP technicians to track performance of

CREP practices over time and help ensure landowners are achieving maintenance and performance requirements of their CREP contracts.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board approve receipt of up to $140,000 from ODF in support of the CREP Technical Assistance grants, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020.

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
December 16 & 17, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting
(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT
Alvarado, Ron
Henson, Paul

OTHER
Bey, Marko
Brandt, Troy
Brick, Jim
Cupples, Jacqueline
Defrees, Dallas Hall
Fairbanks, Terry
Ferrell, Justin
McGinnis, Cheryl
Neider, Brandi
Nye, Brad
Tattam, Ian
Walz, Kristen

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:36)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided 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 (Audio = 0:54:18)

The minutes of the September 9, 2020 and October 30, 2020 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the September 9 and October 30, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:55:36)

Executive Director, Jan Lee, from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts addressed the role that DEQ is taking in land conservation and the work they are doing to build a coalition that would support the benefits of working in natural lands to help affect climate mitigation and adaptation. DEQ will review how offset programs (Alternative Compliance Instruments (ACI)) may be used to provide offsets from working lands that could comprise an ACI.

Four written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing agenda item G, Spending Plan:

- Luckiamute Watershed Council (and agenda item H)
- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (and agenda item H)
- Western Invasive Species Network
- West Multnomah SWCD

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:02:01)

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

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:28:19)

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

F. Budget and Legislative Updates (Audio = 2:15:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the current biennium's revenues and staffing and the 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget. *Information item*.

G. Spending Plan Discussion (Audio = 2:37:50)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and requested the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. *Information item*.

H. 21-23 Council Capacity/Application Process (Audio = 3:15:42)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and sought board approval of changes to the guidance. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant program and guidance documents, as described in Attachments A through C of the December 2020 staff report. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Funding (Audio = 3:06:35)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and requested funding for one SIA grant that is ready for implementation. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board award $99,951 of funding for SIA grants and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHC) Appointments (Audio = 4:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission. *Action item*.

Jason Robison moved the board reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, for four-year terms ending in January 2025. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship (Audio = 4:12:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Brad Nye, Conservation Director at Deschutes Land Trust, responded to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Thursday, December 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

L. Public Comment

None provided.

M. FIP Cohort 2-Board Presentations (Audio = 0:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and FIP partners provided an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

N. NRCS Funding to Support Local Delivery of Farm Bill Programs (Audio = 3:24:18)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested the board retroactively approve receipt of up to $500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. *Action item.*

Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of $500,000 from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. DEI Activity – Results of OWEB's DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps (Audio = 3:28:56)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Sue Greer, Miriam Forney and Ken Fetcho provided an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews and discussed next steps for the board. *Action item.*

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board take the following actions: 1) commit that all board members will complete a DEI survey, 2) continue the DEI ad hoc committee to analyze survey results and determine strategic next steps, and 3) include DEI as a standing agenda item for all board and coordinating committee meetings. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

P. 2020 Fire Update (Audio = 4:32:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Small Grant Coordinator Kathy Leopold provided an update about OWEB's recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening at the request of the Governor's Office to support post-wildfire recovery. *Information item.*

Q. Additional Funding for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants (Audio = 4:48:05)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants*. Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board approve receipt of up to $140,000 from Oregon Department of Forestry in support of the CREP Technical Assistance grants, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.