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

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

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	<u>In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (actions)</u> - 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.	<u>So That: (outputs)</u> - 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.	<u>To Make This Difference: (outcomes)</u> - 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.	<u>Near-term measure:</u> - 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019). <u>Potential impact measure:</u> - Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians - Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners - 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

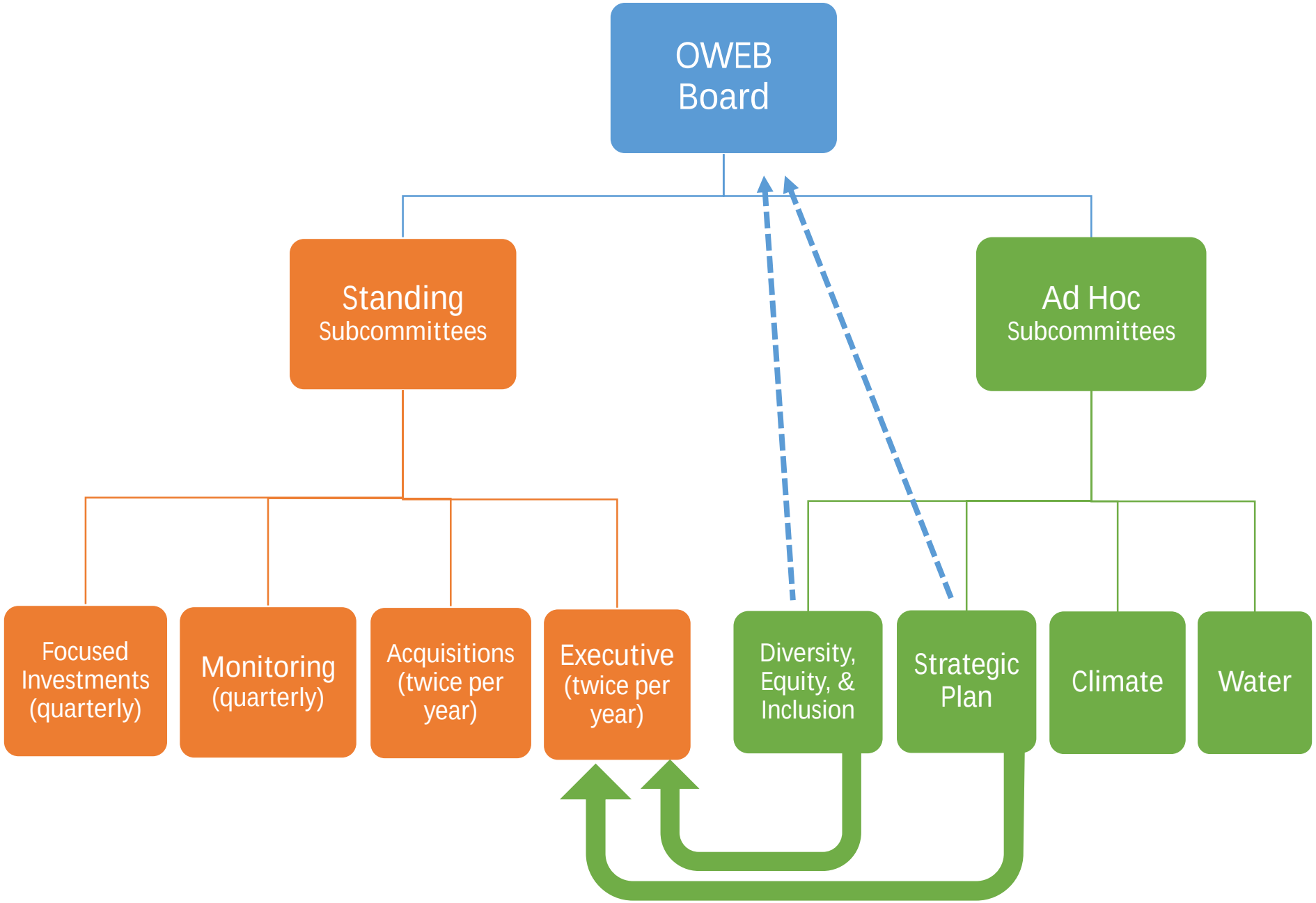
On December 10th, board members interested in the topic of climate change convened with staff to discuss how climate change may be elevated at the board level. Board members discussed the following as potential topics of interest around the theme of climate change:

- 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

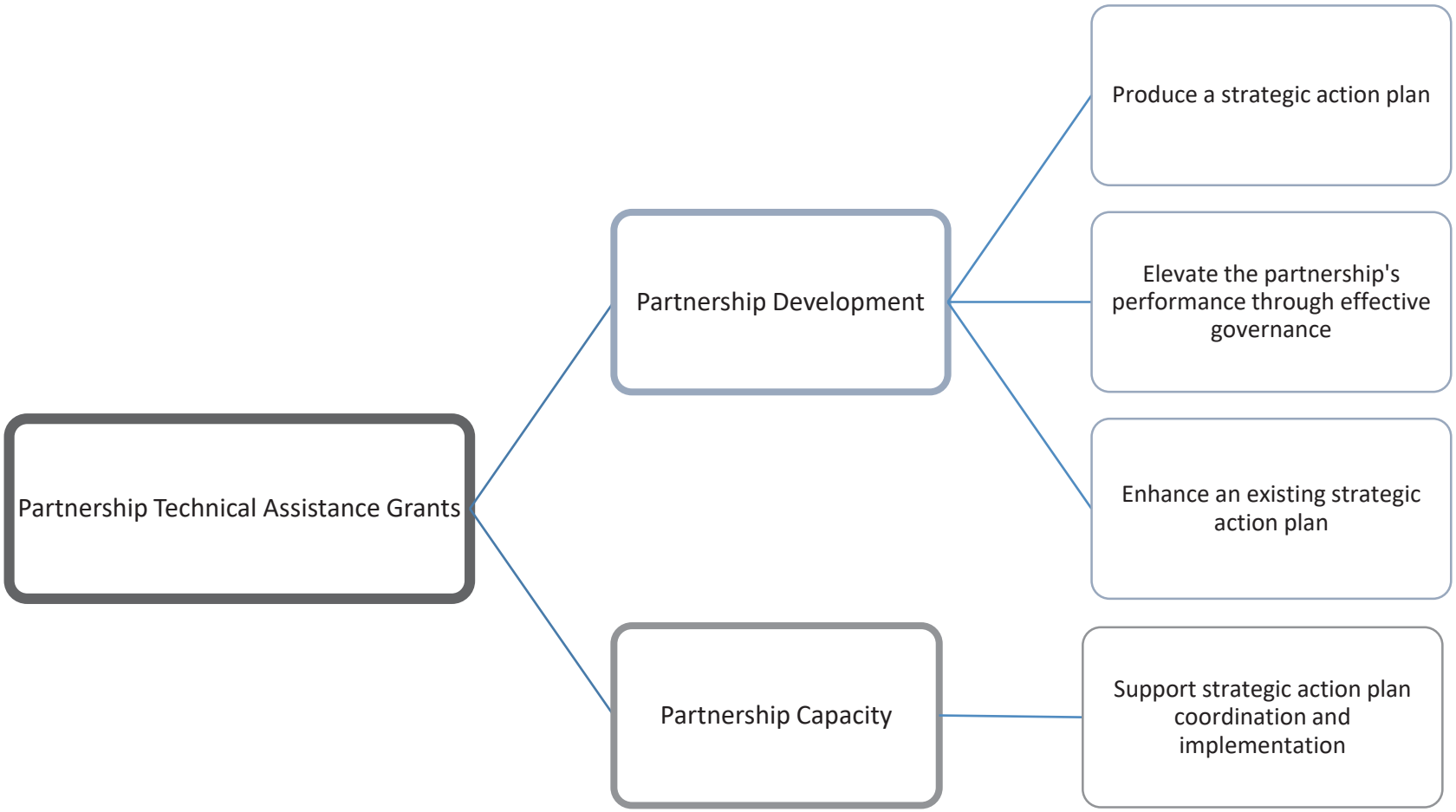
Staff Funding Recommendation
2019 Partnership Technical Assistance

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

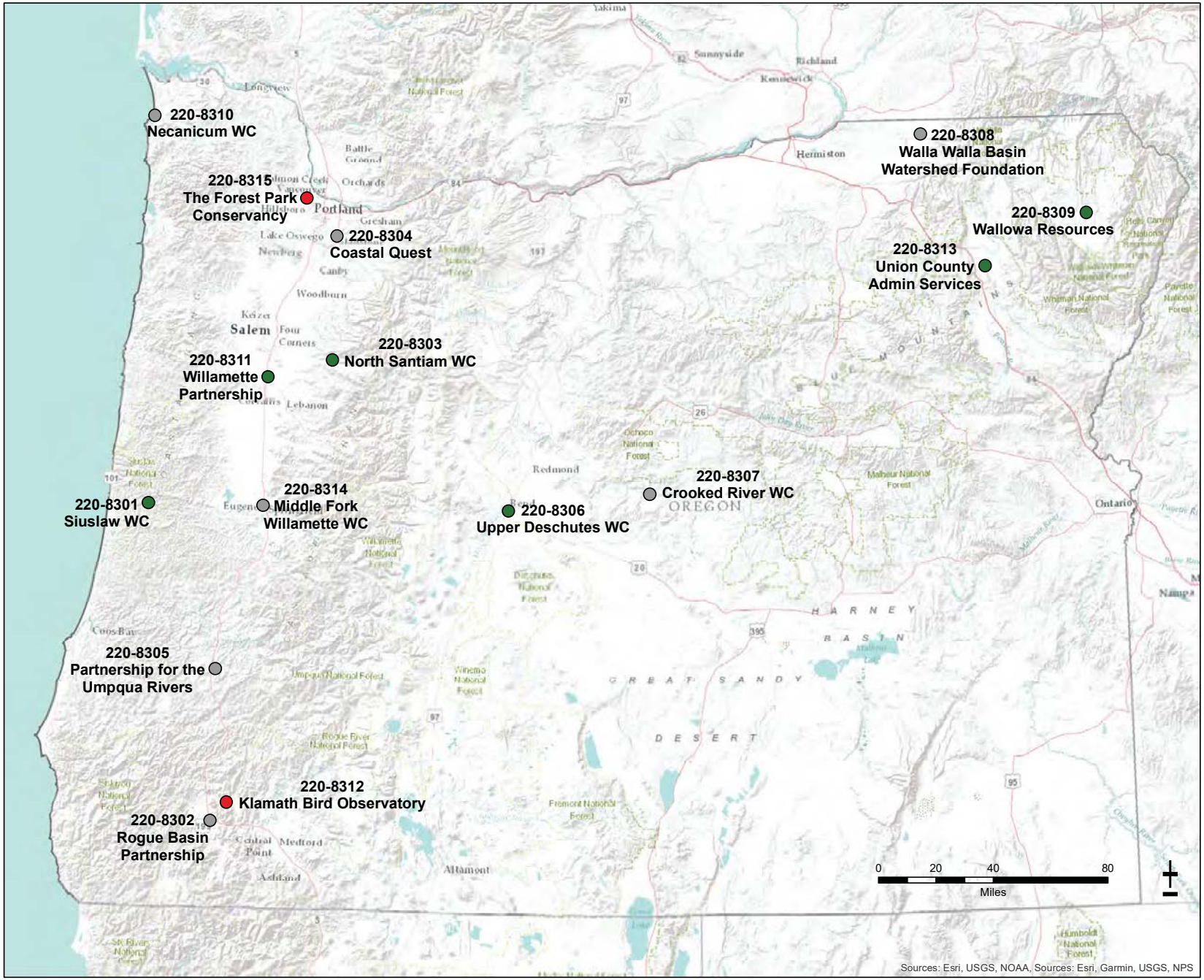
Partnership TA Projects Not Recommended for Funding by TRT				
Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	Project Type	OWEB Request
220-8302	Rogue Basin Partnership	RBP: the next 3 years...	Capacity	$ 147,840
220-8304	Coastal Quest	10-Year Strategic Action Plan Development for Clackamas River Water Providers	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



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

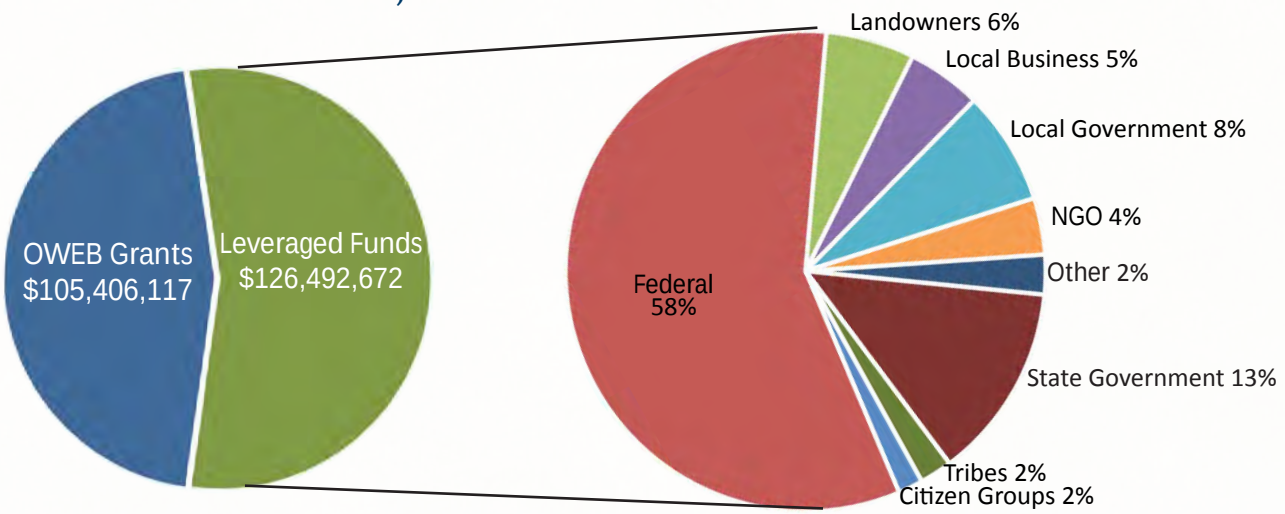
2017-2019 Biennial Report Executive Summary

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
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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.

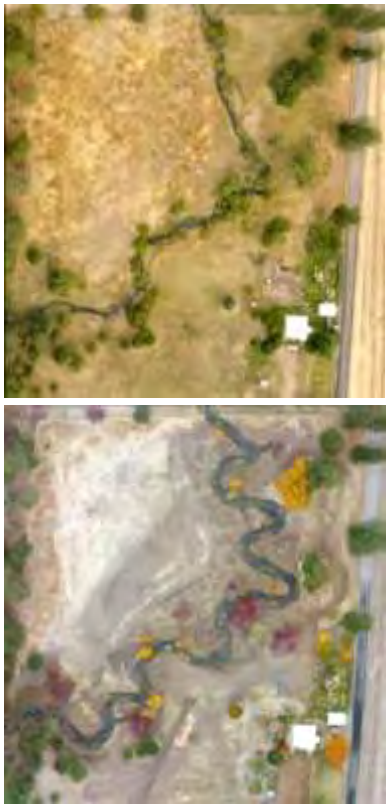

Photo 3. Before (top) and after aerial photos of stream restoration actions in Dry Creek, tributary to the Grande Ronde River

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

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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

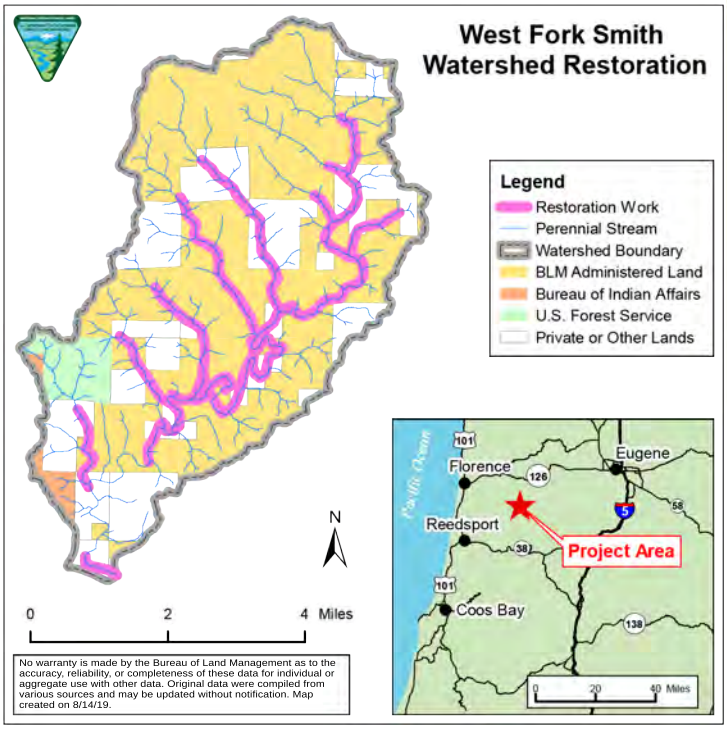
Douglas County, Oregon

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

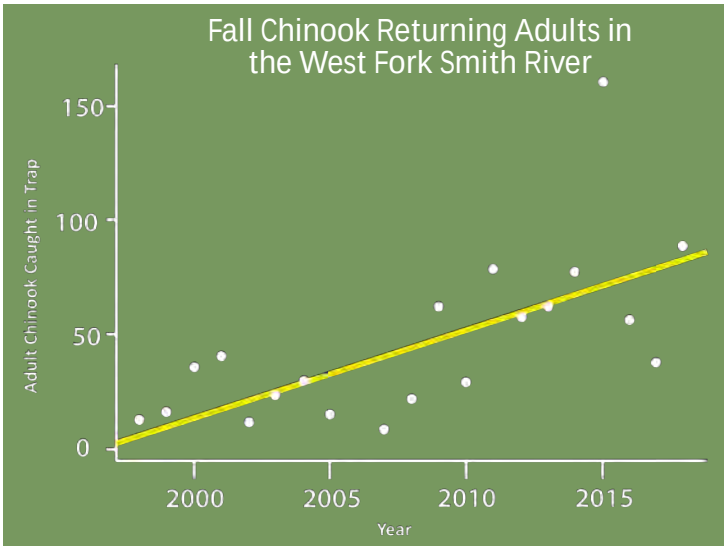
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) has monitored salmon in Beaver Creek, a tributary to the West Fork, since 1958. It is one of the longest running annual Coho Salmon surveys in the state. Data collected shows that Coho Salmon have increased by 1,780% in Beaver Creek from 1970's spawning levels.

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.

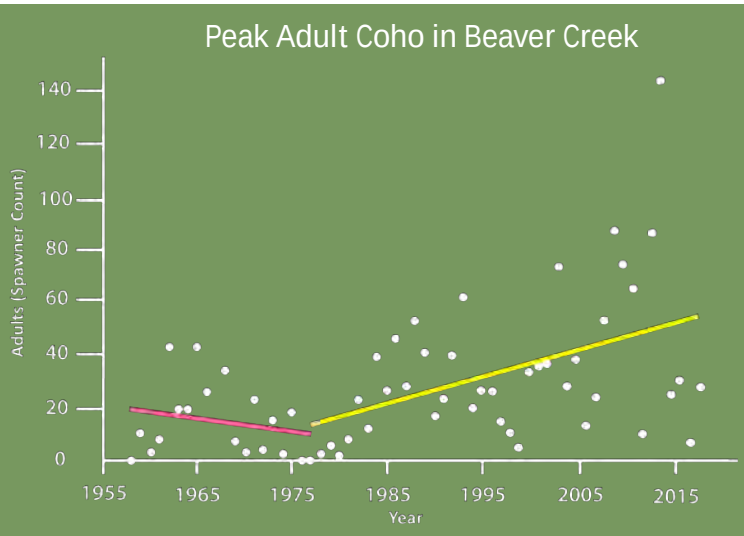
Promising Rebounds in Native Fish

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.



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



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 A Forest Products Company · ODFW · Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers · Smith River Watershed Council · 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

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FOREST SERVICE
US
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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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.

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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

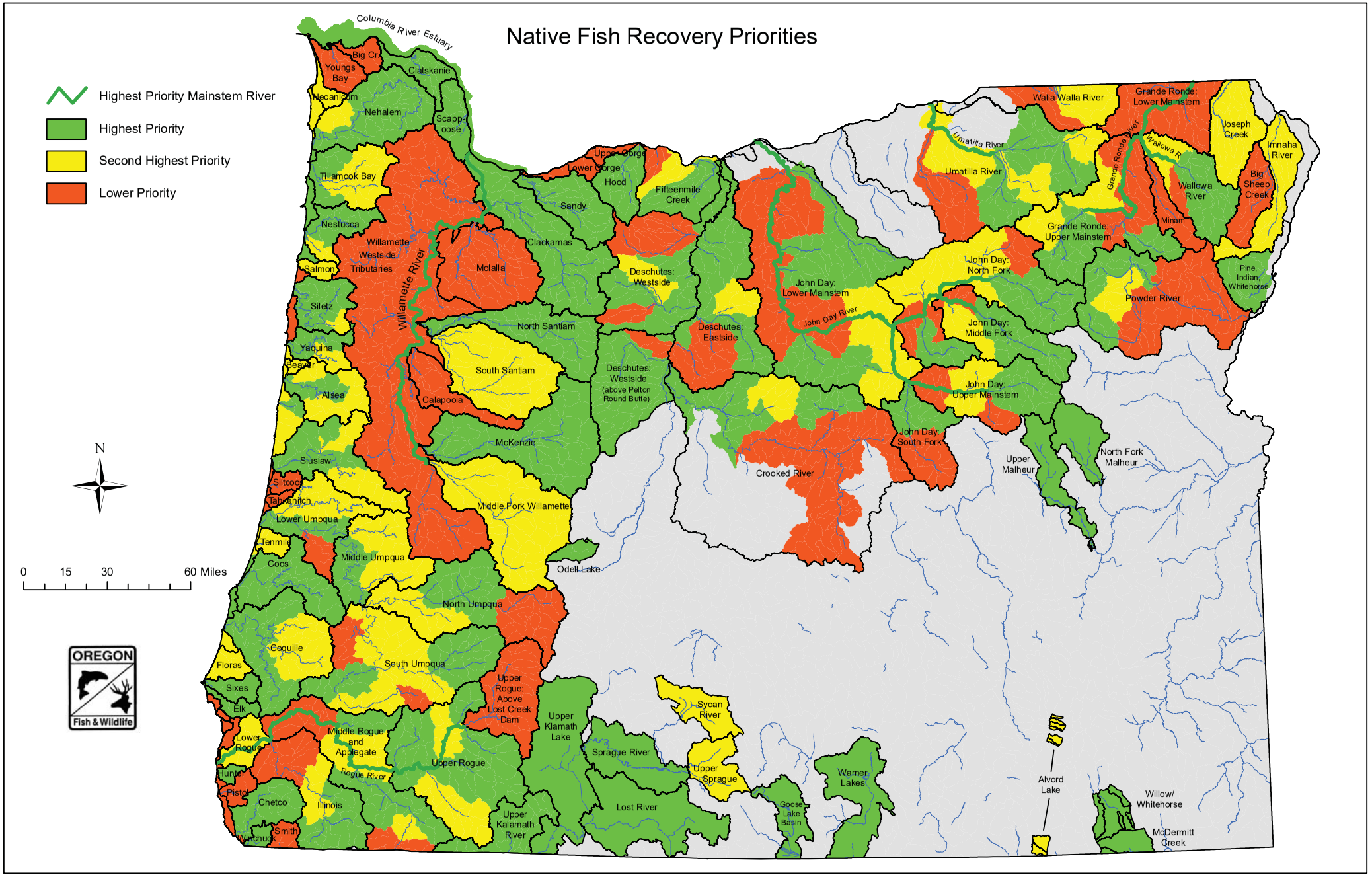

Table 1. Conservation and Recovery Plans for Native Fish Species
USFWS = U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
NMFS = NOAA Fisheries
ODFW = Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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.

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

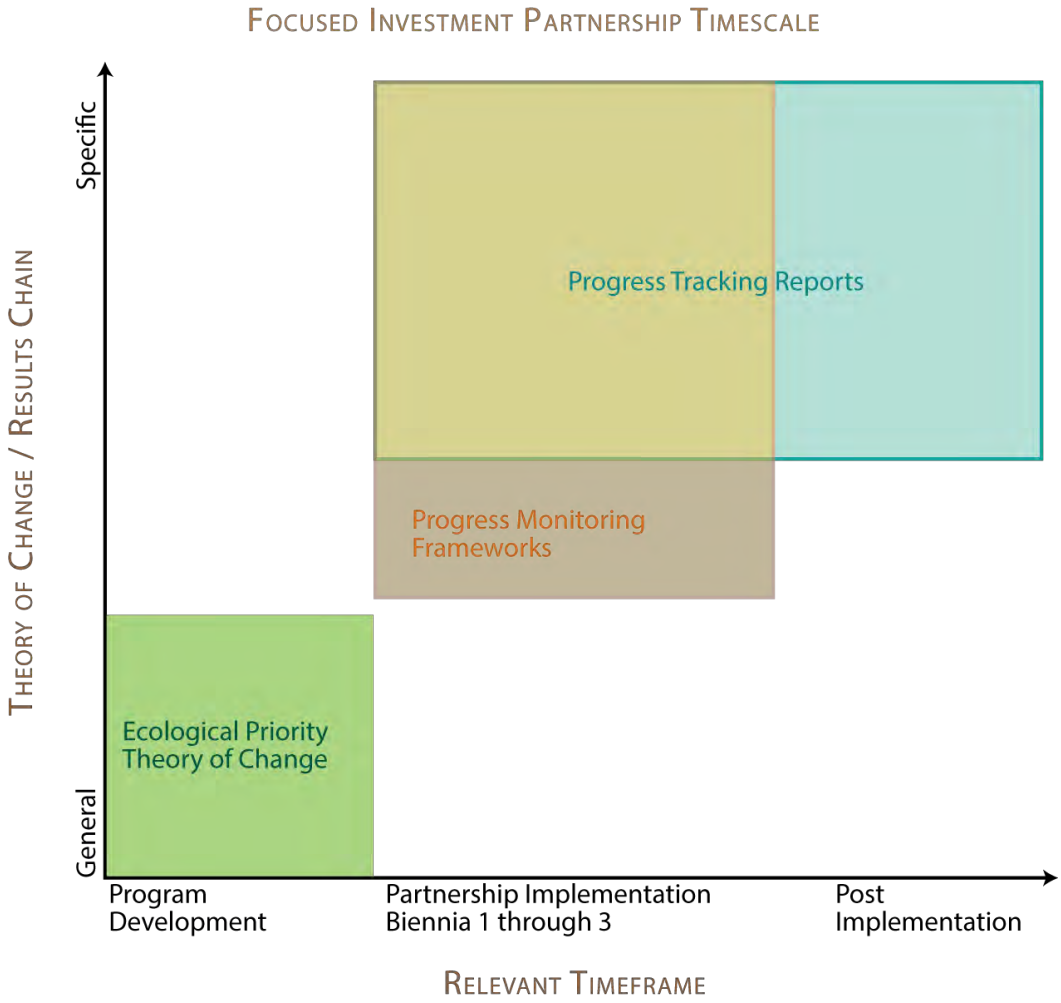
This is an informational item only.

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

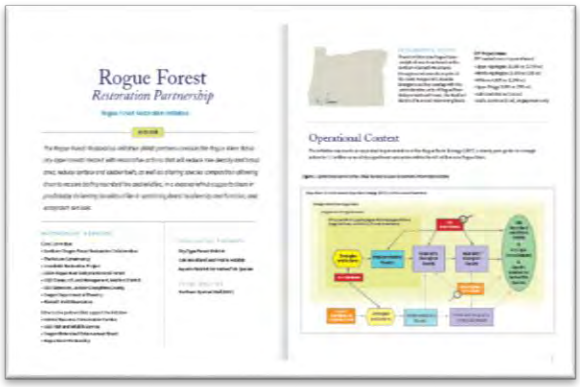
Attachment A



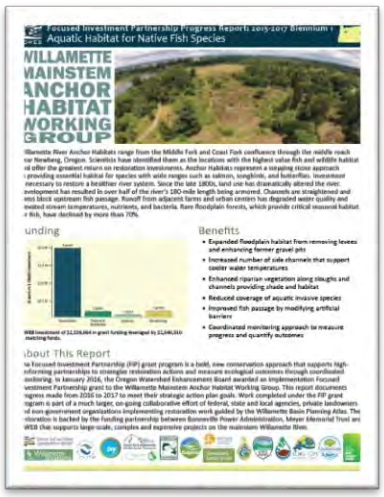
Example thumbnails for each tool:

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

20+ YEARS

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

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

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

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

STRATEGIES

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

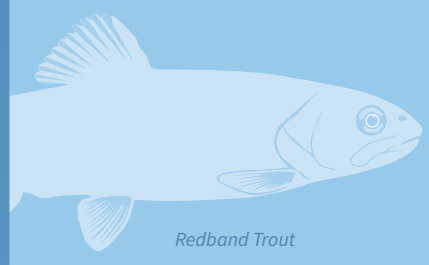
Community leader and stakeholder engagement increases

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

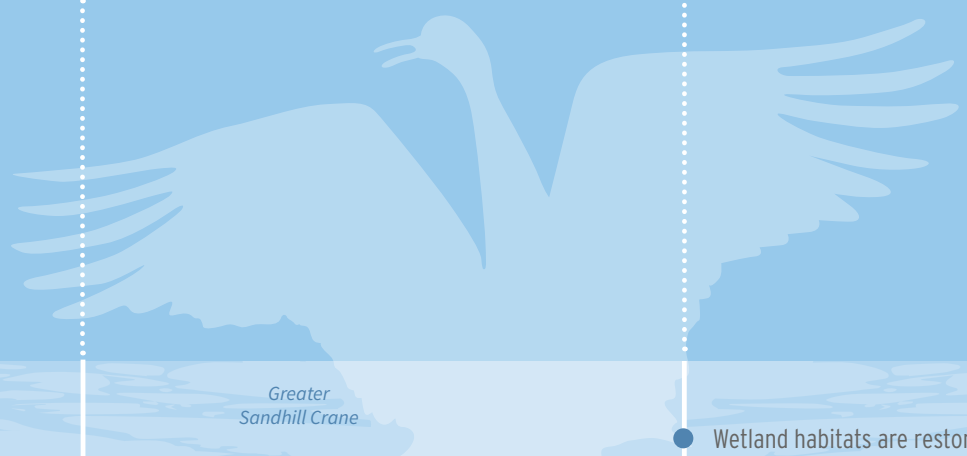
Extent of invasive plant populations is reduced

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

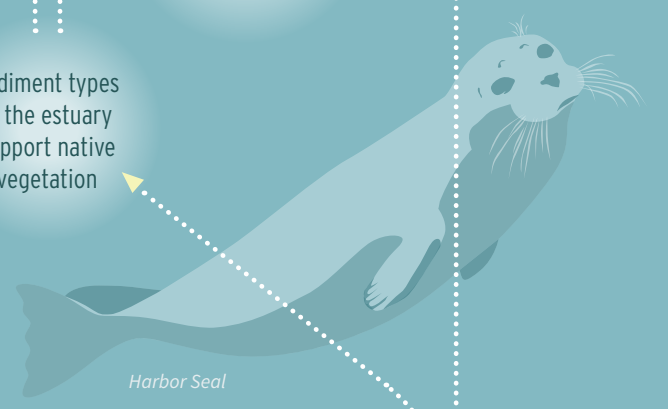
Habitat for forage fish is increased

Emergent wetland vegetation communities are restored

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

Shoreline habitat structure and productivity is improved

Sediment types in the estuary support native vegetation



Harbor Seal

NEAR-TERM OUTCOMES

Tidal wetland habitat connectivity is restored

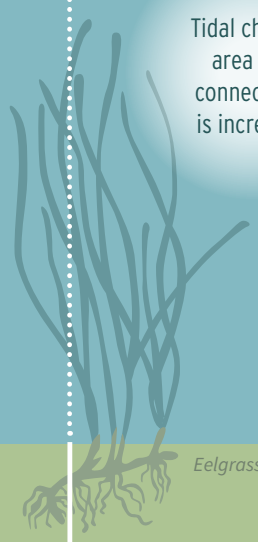
Estuary sediment and nutrient transport and tidal flow dynamics and patterns are restored

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

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

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS

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

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

3 Actions that remove or breach dikes and levees are implemented

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

5 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**

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

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

Aquatic habitat diversity, quantity, and stability increases

Productivity of freshwater systems 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

Flow in stream channels and natural floodplain increases

Stream temperature is reduced and dissolved oxygen levels increase

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 shading increases

Streambank channel stability improves

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

Stream flow is sufficient to meet the needs of salmon

Water storage in riparian areas increases

Extent of riparian areas increases and composition improves

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 restoring 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

1 **Protect Existing Complex Forest**

2 **Strategic Thinning**

3 **Prescribed Fire**

4 **Promote Native Understory Vegetation**

STRATEGIES

Outreach & Engagement 5

- 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

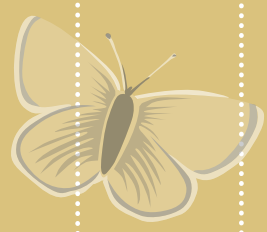
Density of invasive species (prairies), understory trees, and encroaching conifers (oak woodlands) is reduced

Existing dense growth of small shrubby oaks is reduced

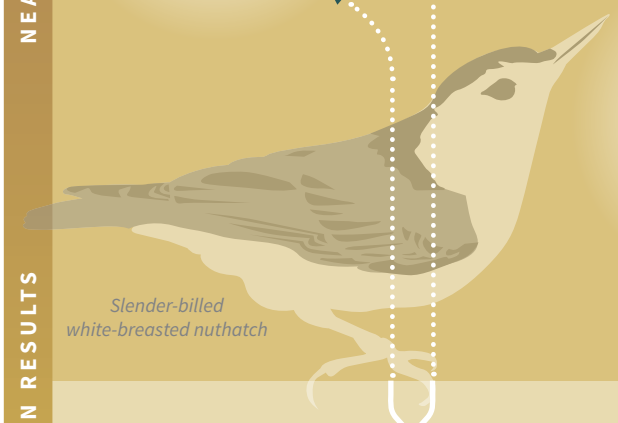
Recruitment and abundance of native, fire-resistant and fire-dependent species is increased

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

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

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.

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

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:

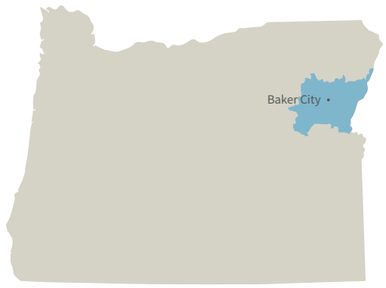
- OSU Extension
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Other LIT members

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Sagebrush / Sage-steppe Habitat

FOCAL SPECIES

Greater sage-grouse



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

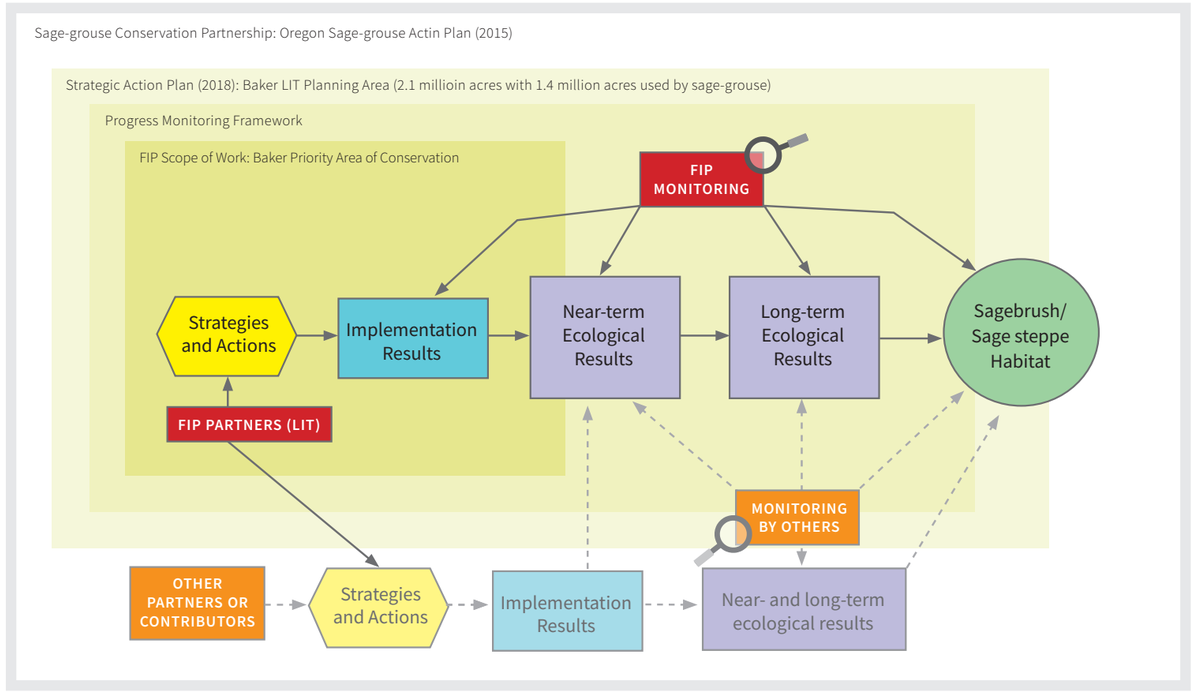
The overall geography of the Initiative is the 2.1 million acres of the Baker Local Implementation Team (LIT) Planning Area (owned by a mix of private, BLM, and USFS). The USFS portion is typically avoided by sage-grouse, bringing the total area of primary interest of the LIT to 1.4 million acres, 73%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

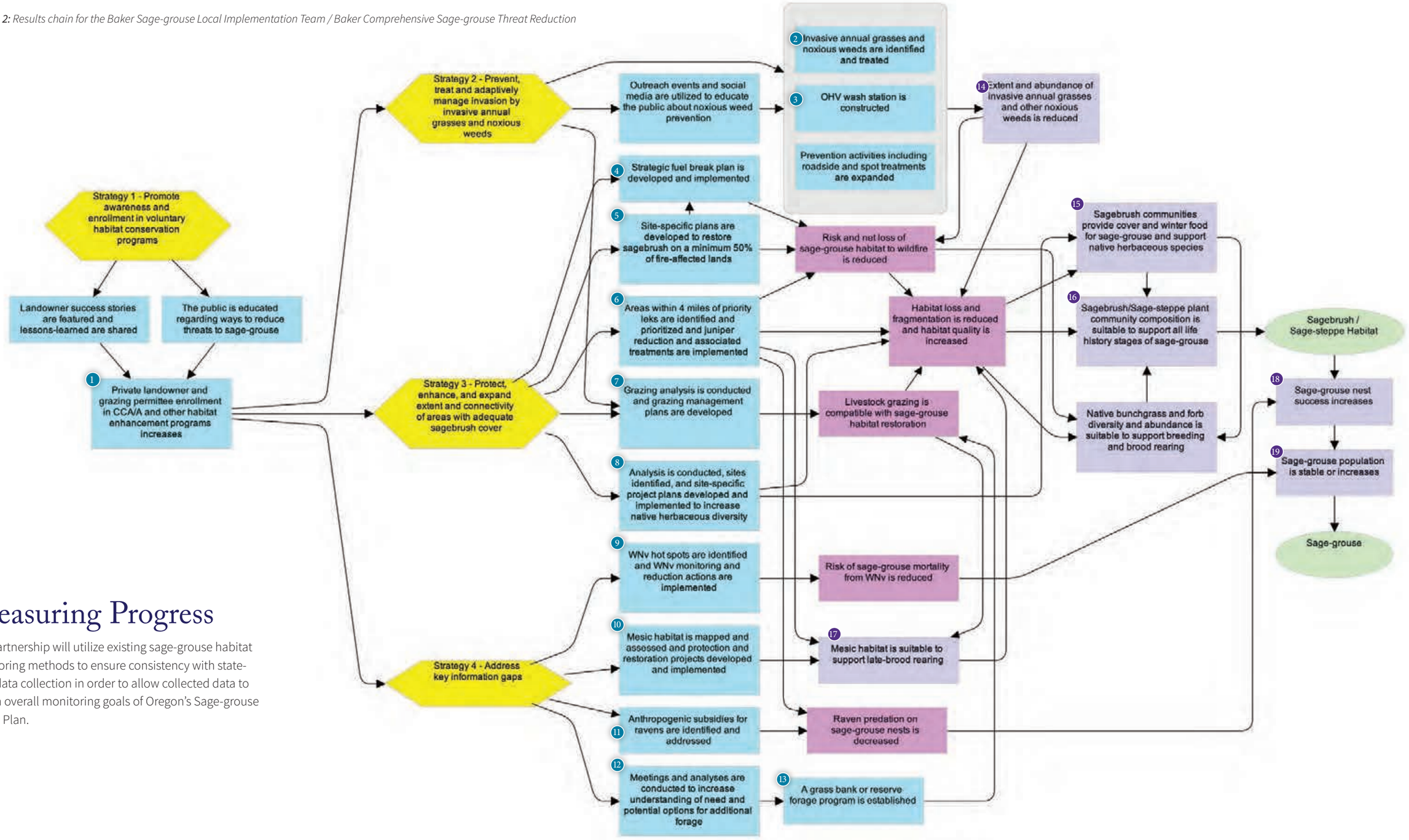
Superscript numbers [1-19] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

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

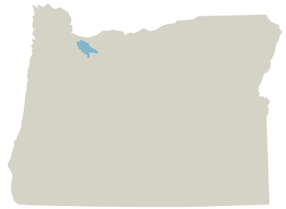
Fall Chinook salmon

Spring Chinook salmon

Steelhead

Bull trout

Pacific lamprey



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

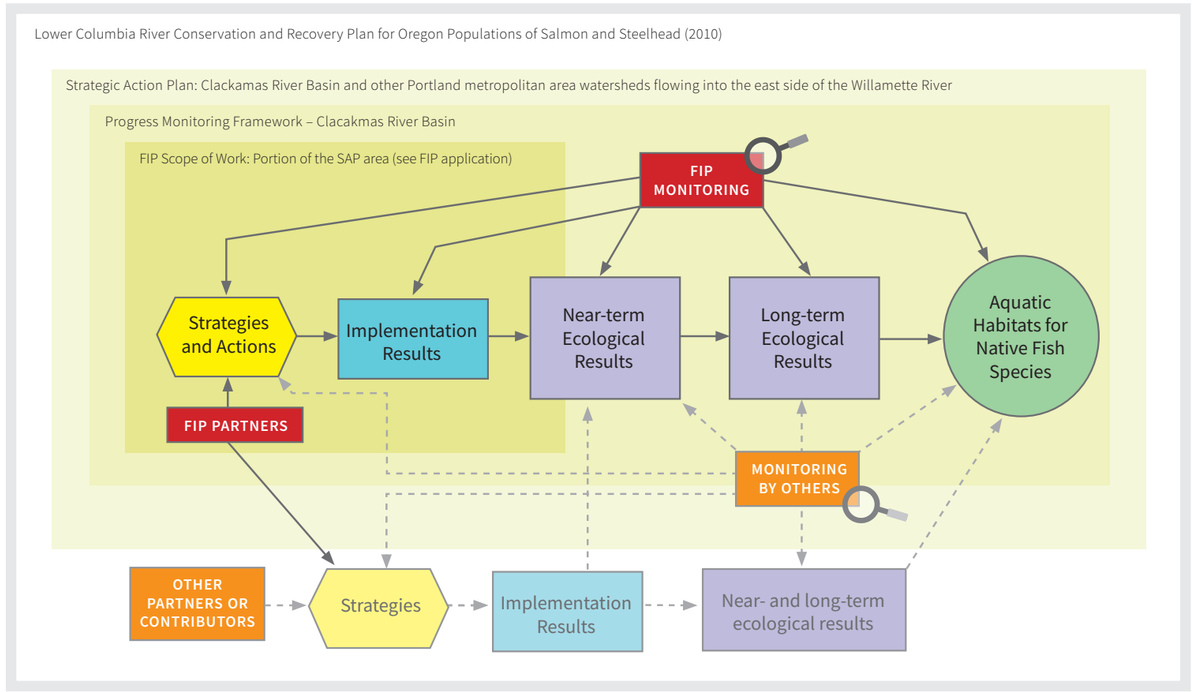
The Clackamas Partnership's FIP Initiative's geography, or Geographic Area, covers a portion the Partnership's Strategic Plan Area. The Geographic Area encompasses the Willamette and Clackamas River reaches; lower Clackamas River tributaries (e.g., Clear, Deep, and Eagle Creek Watersheds); and Willamette 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.

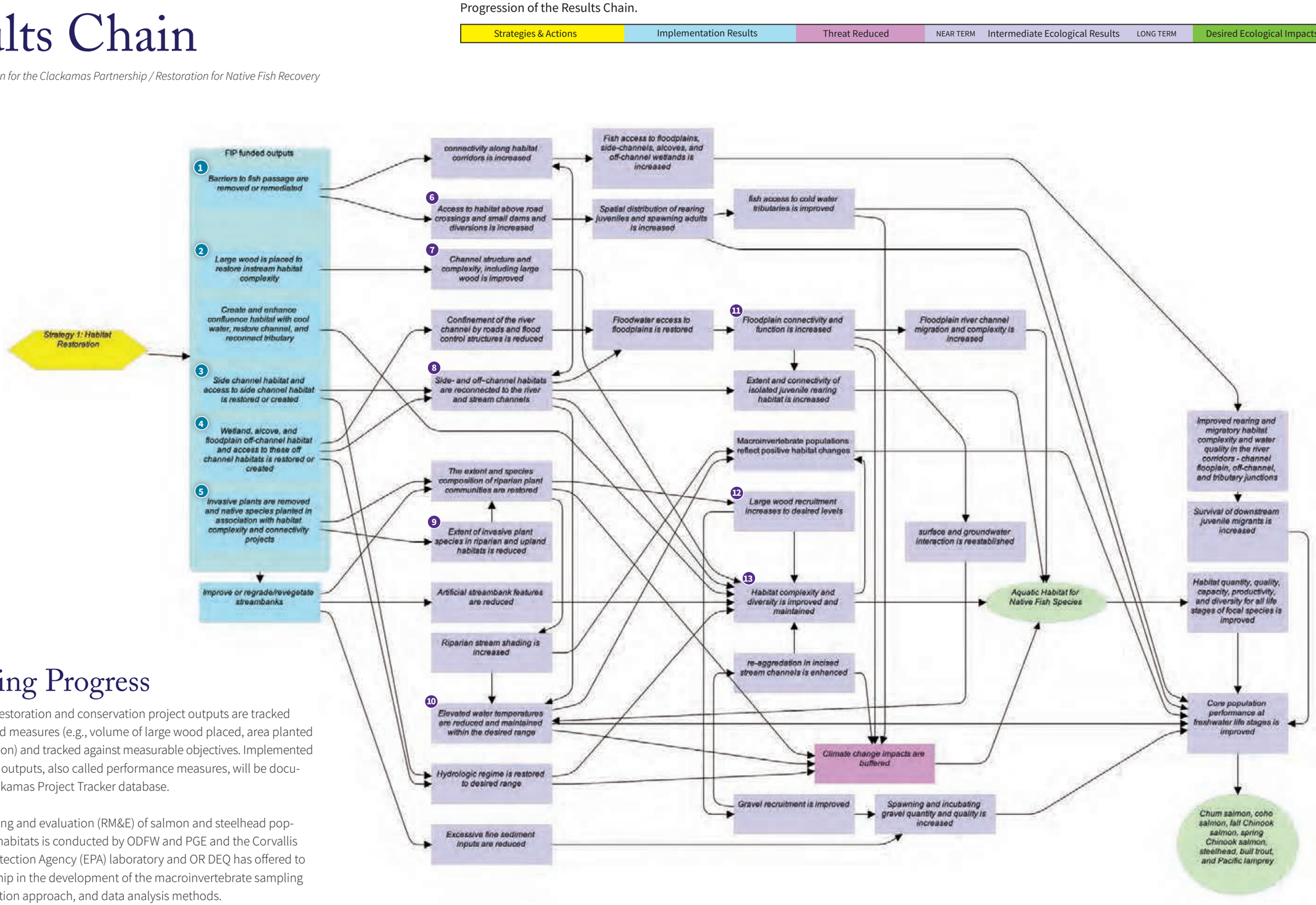
Removal of invasive plans and reestablishment of native riparian vegetation[5] increases stream shade, keeping water temperatures cool.

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.

IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS (OUTPUT)	OBJECTIVES	OUTPUTS/ PERFORMANCE METRICS
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

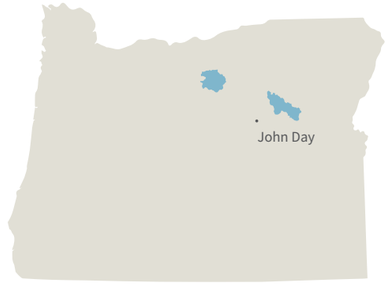
Middle Columbia River spring Chinook salmon

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.

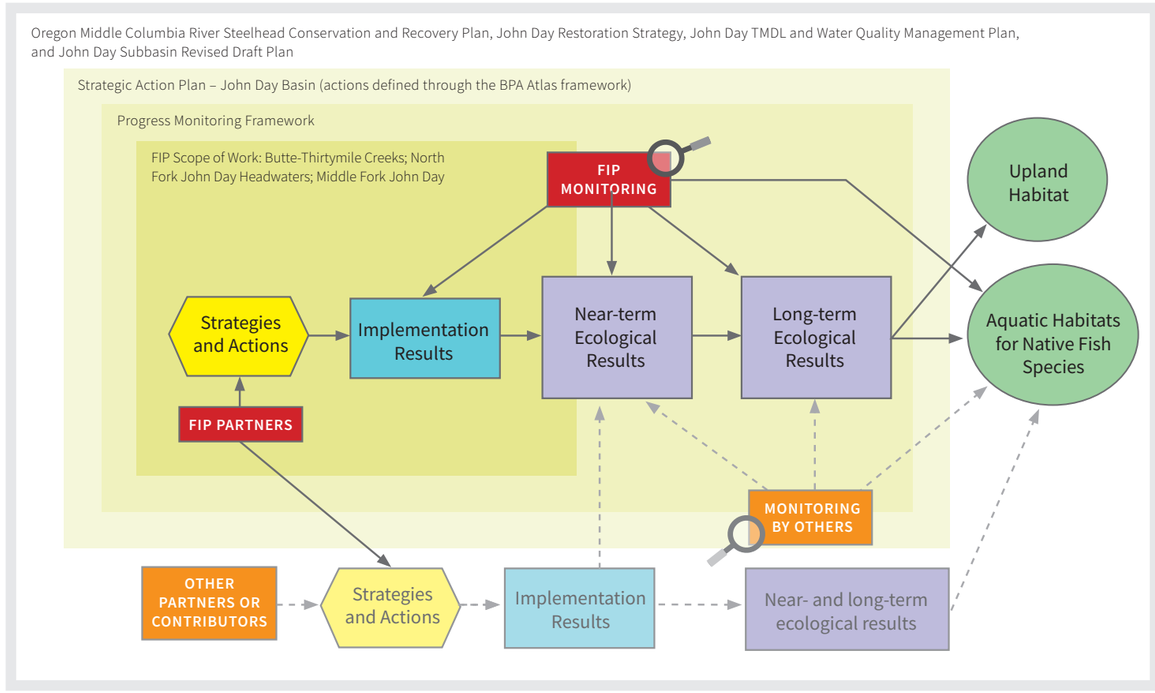
The Partnership's Initiative Geography includes ***three priority focus areas*** (Initiative watersheds) within the basin:

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.

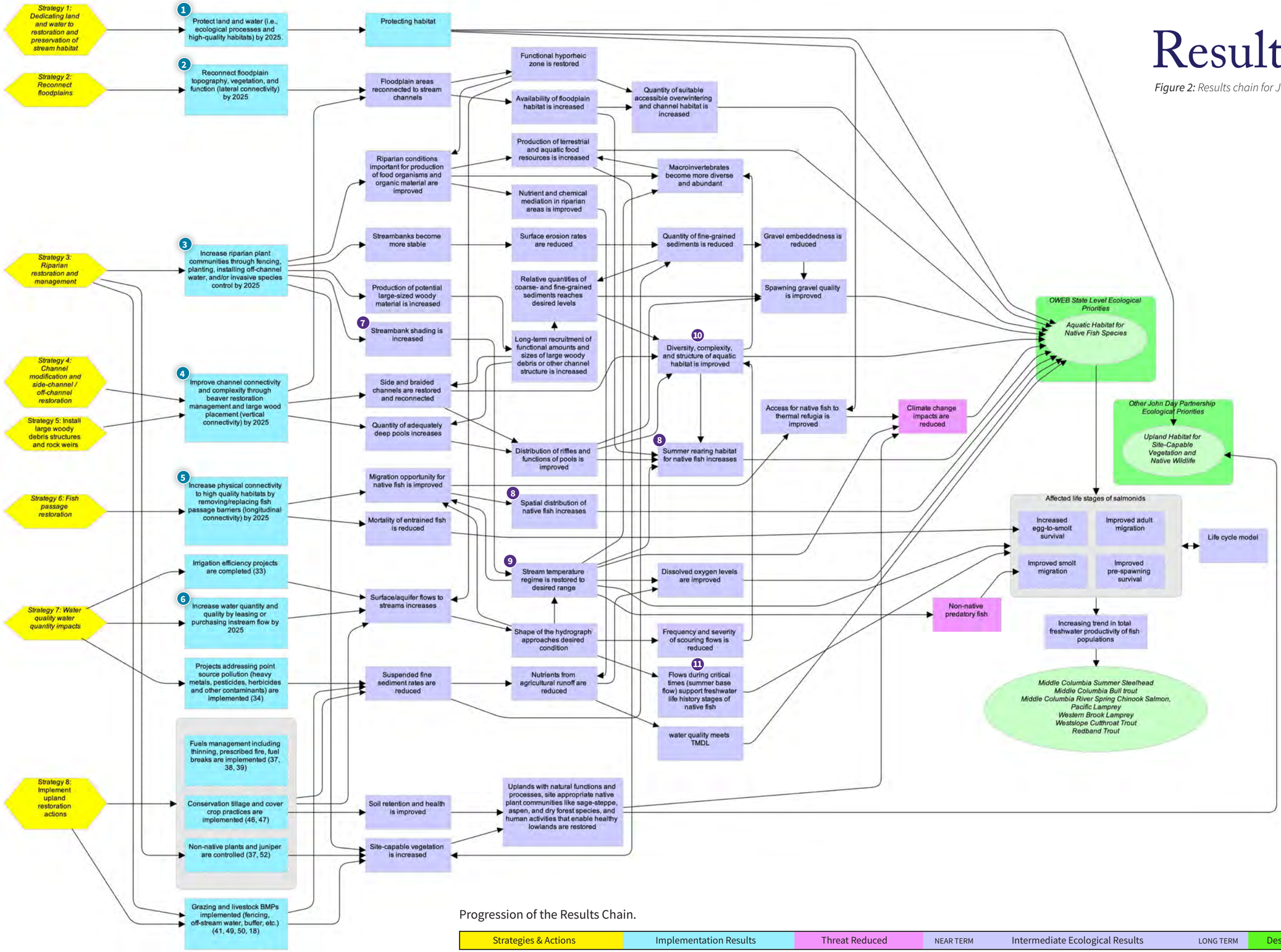
Conservation tillage and cover crop practices improve soil retention and health; controlling non-native plants and juniper allows diverse native plant communities (site-capable vegetation) to become re-established; and grazing and livestock BMPs protect and promote site-capable vegetation. Healthy, intact 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

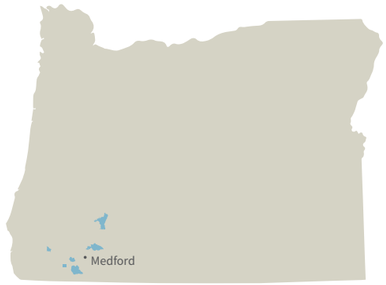
Dry-Type Forest Habitat

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.

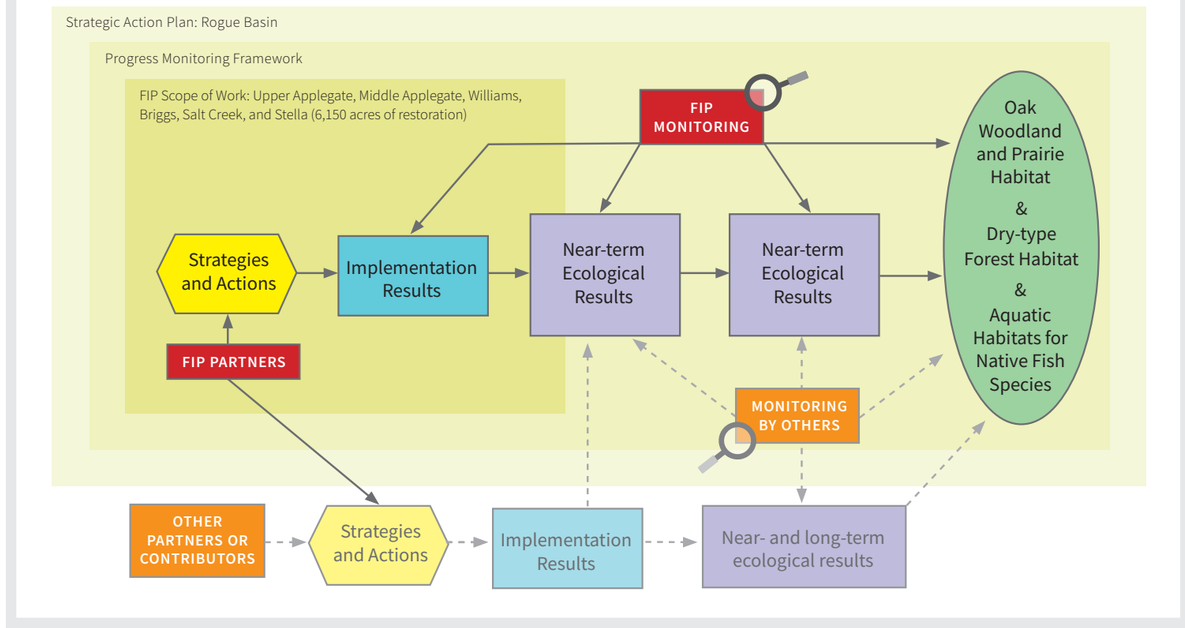
FIP Project Areas
(FIP treated areas in parentheses):

- 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

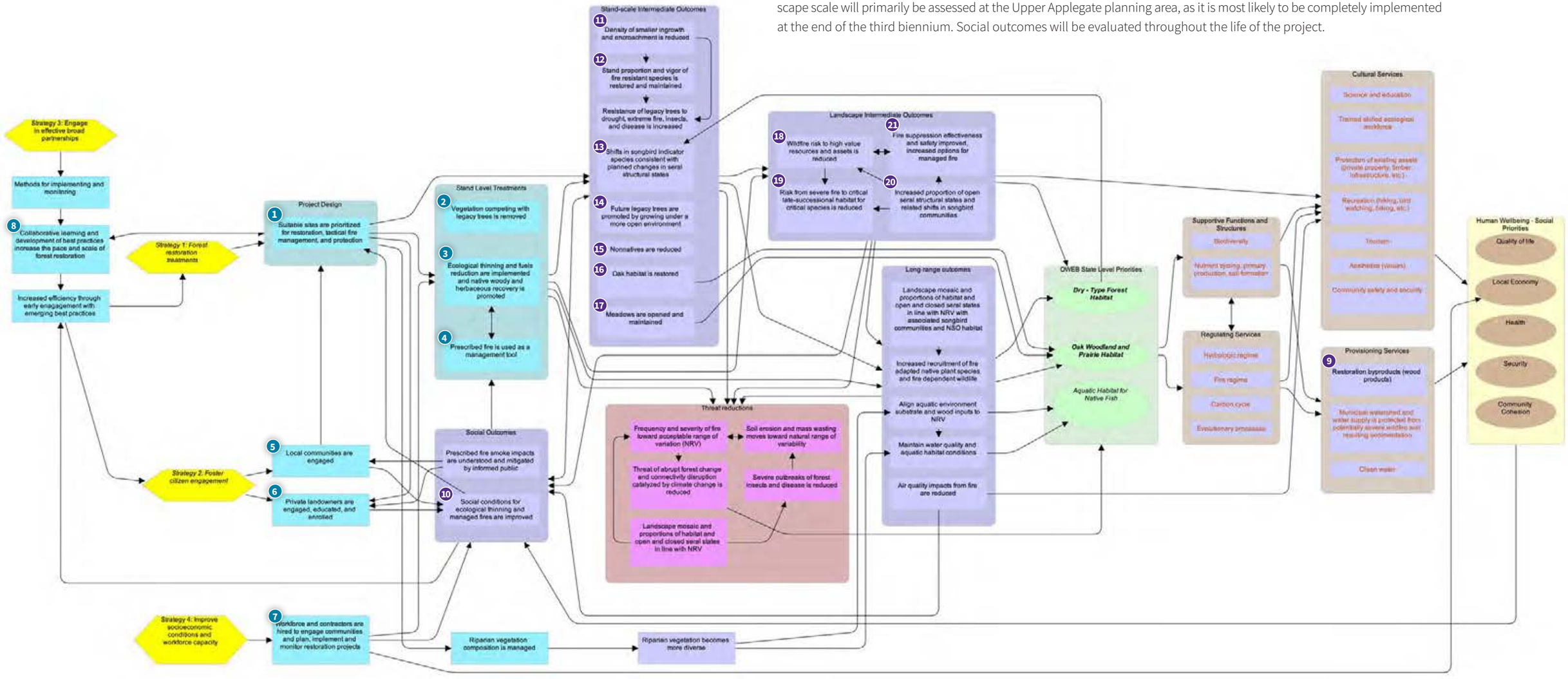
RFRI partners will hire and supervise a workforce and contractors to complete community engagement, restoration project planning, layout, implementation, monitoring, and reporting[7].

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:

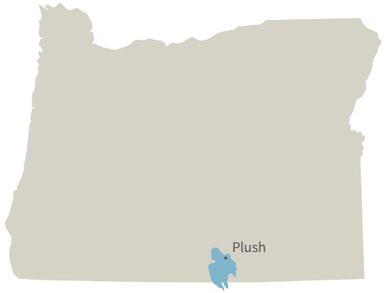
- Honey Creek Irrigators
- Adel Water Improvement District

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

- Warner sucker
- Warner redband trout



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

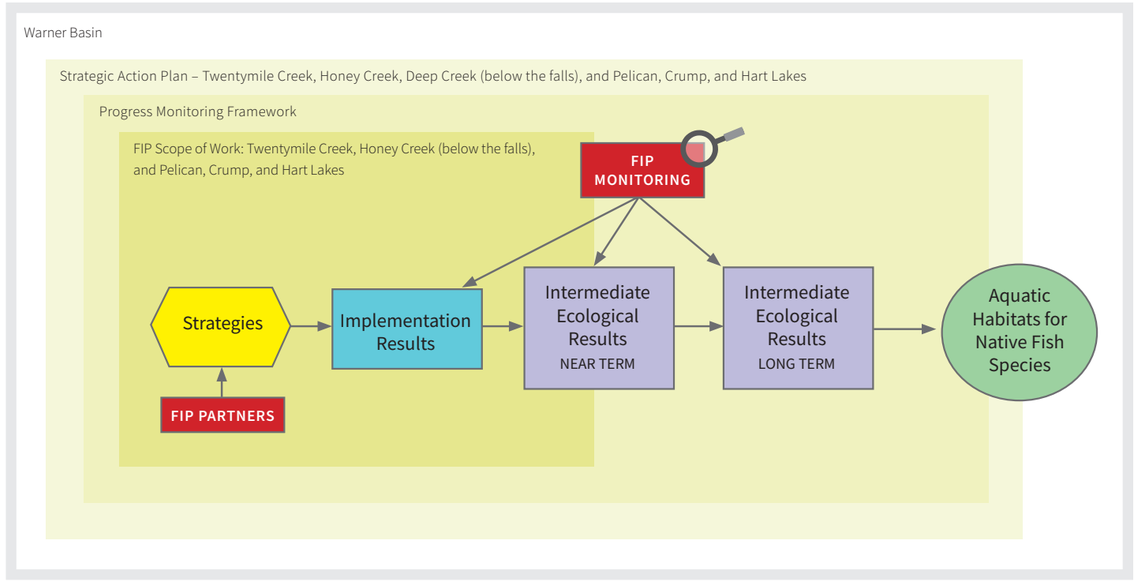
The WBAHP FIP Initiative is focused on the three main tributaries (Twentymile Creek, Deep Creek, and Honey Creek) that support Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout, as well as Pelican, Crump, and Hart Lakes. The three tributaries represent over 45 miles of Warner sucker designated critical habitat 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].

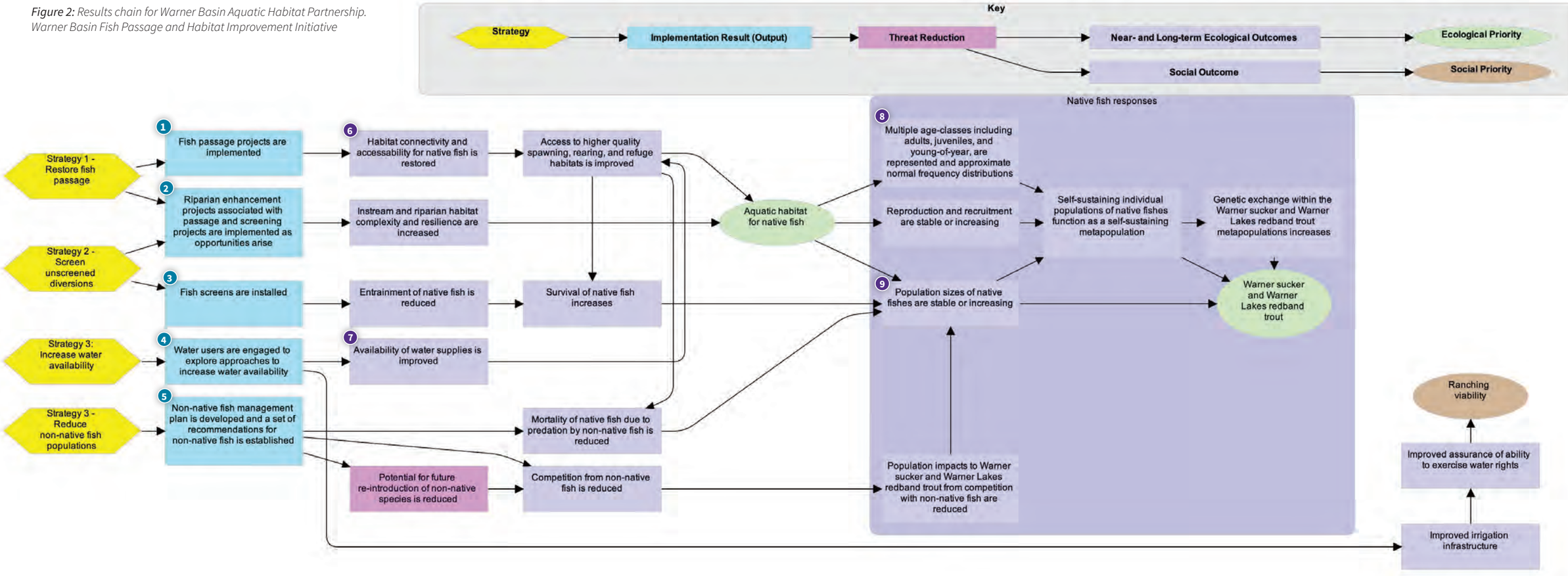
Theory of Change.
Public outreach and education efforts make information explaining the impacts of non-native fish on native fish populations available and therefore increases public understanding and interest in avoiding actions that lead to the introduction or expansion of non-native fish beyond their 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, Starveout 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

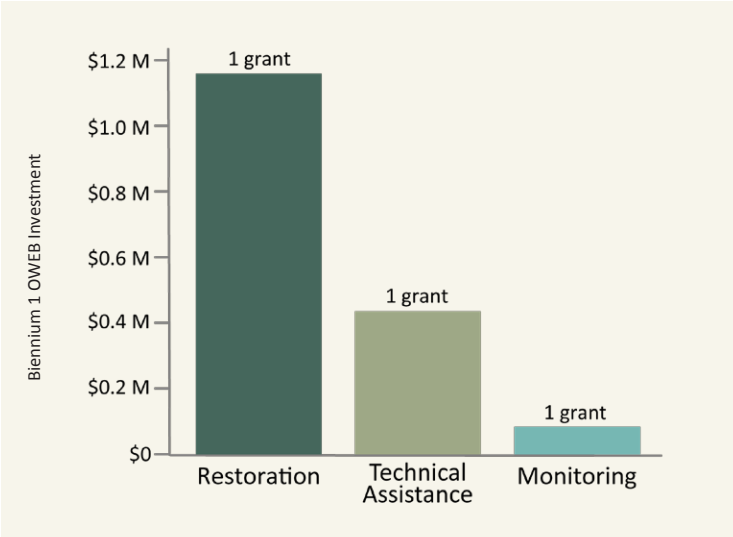
Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their 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

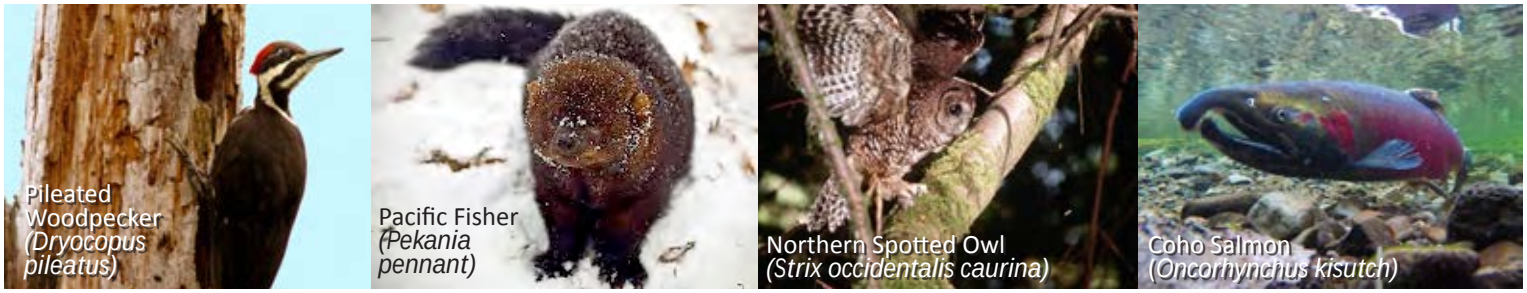
- Small tree density and fuel loads reduced, predicted fired behavior is less intense
- Prescribed fire is increasingly used as a management tool

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



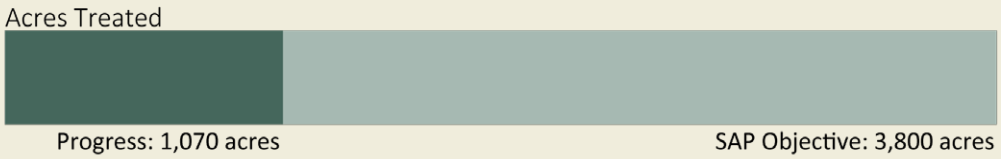
Dry-forest supports over 800 species. Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative Partnership's work provides important habitat for species at risk. *Photos courtesy of U.S Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey.*

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.

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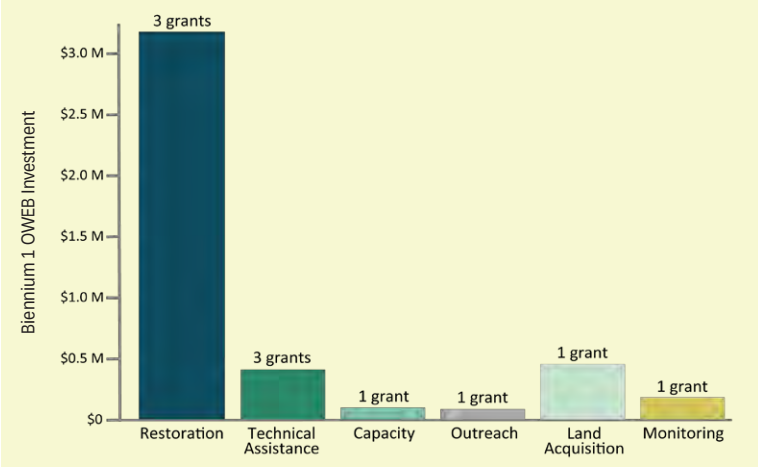
HABITAT RESTORATION for RESIDENT and ANADROMOUS FISH in the DESCHUTES

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)

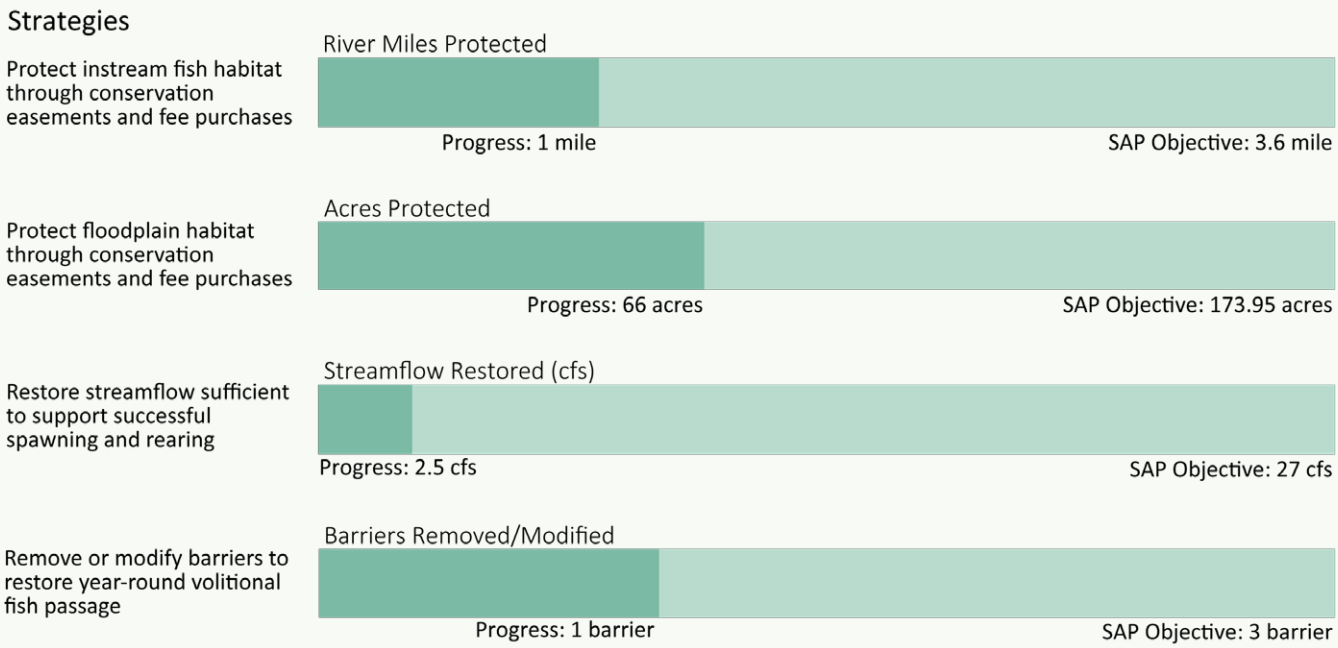
- Increased access to aquatic habitats
- Floodplain is reconnected to stream system
- Riparian vegetation improved
- Increased instream complexity
- Sediment is reduced, improving water quality
- Increased streamflow

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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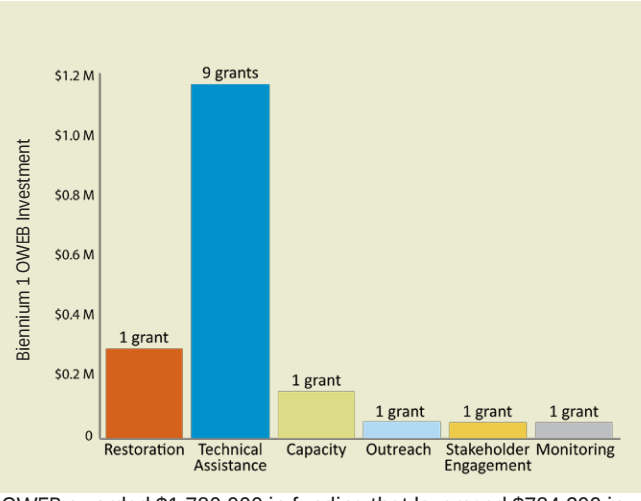
HARNEY BASIN WETLANDS INITIATIVE

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

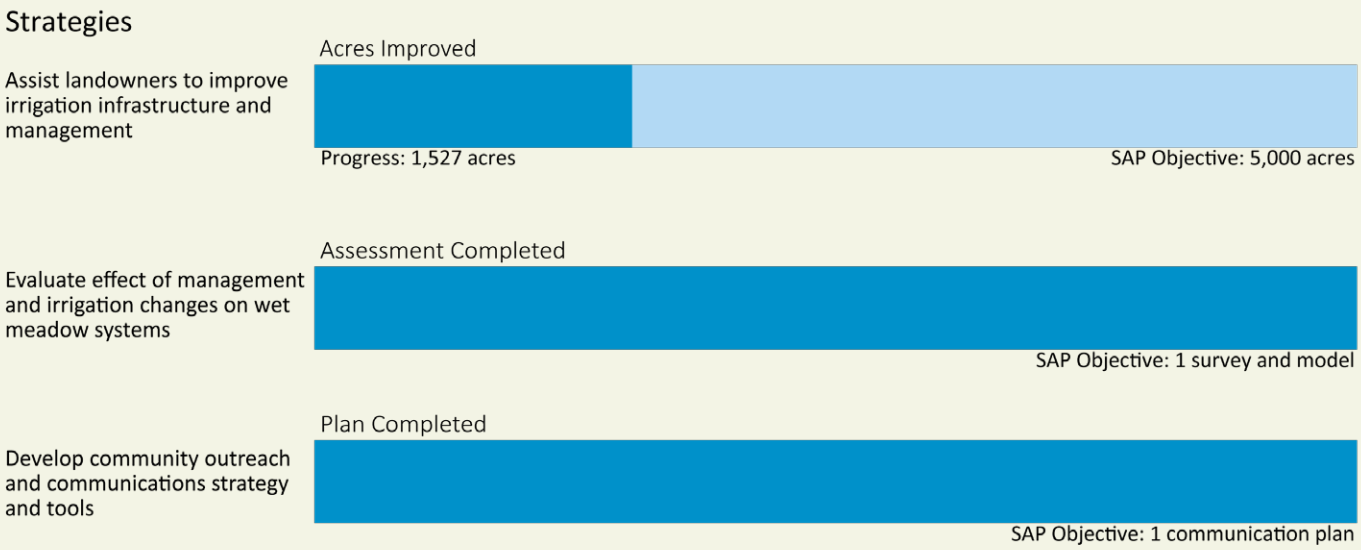
Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- 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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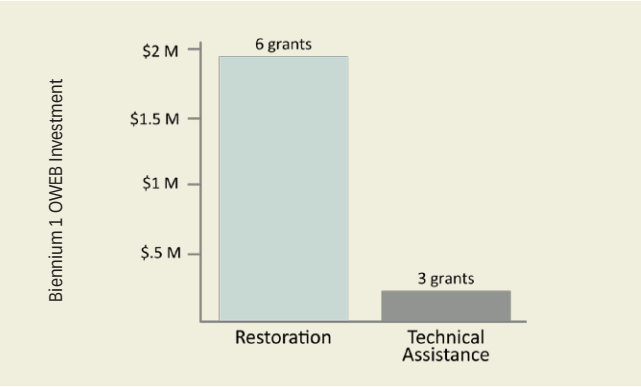
OREGON MODEL TO PROTECT SAGE-GROUSE, ALL COUNTIES

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

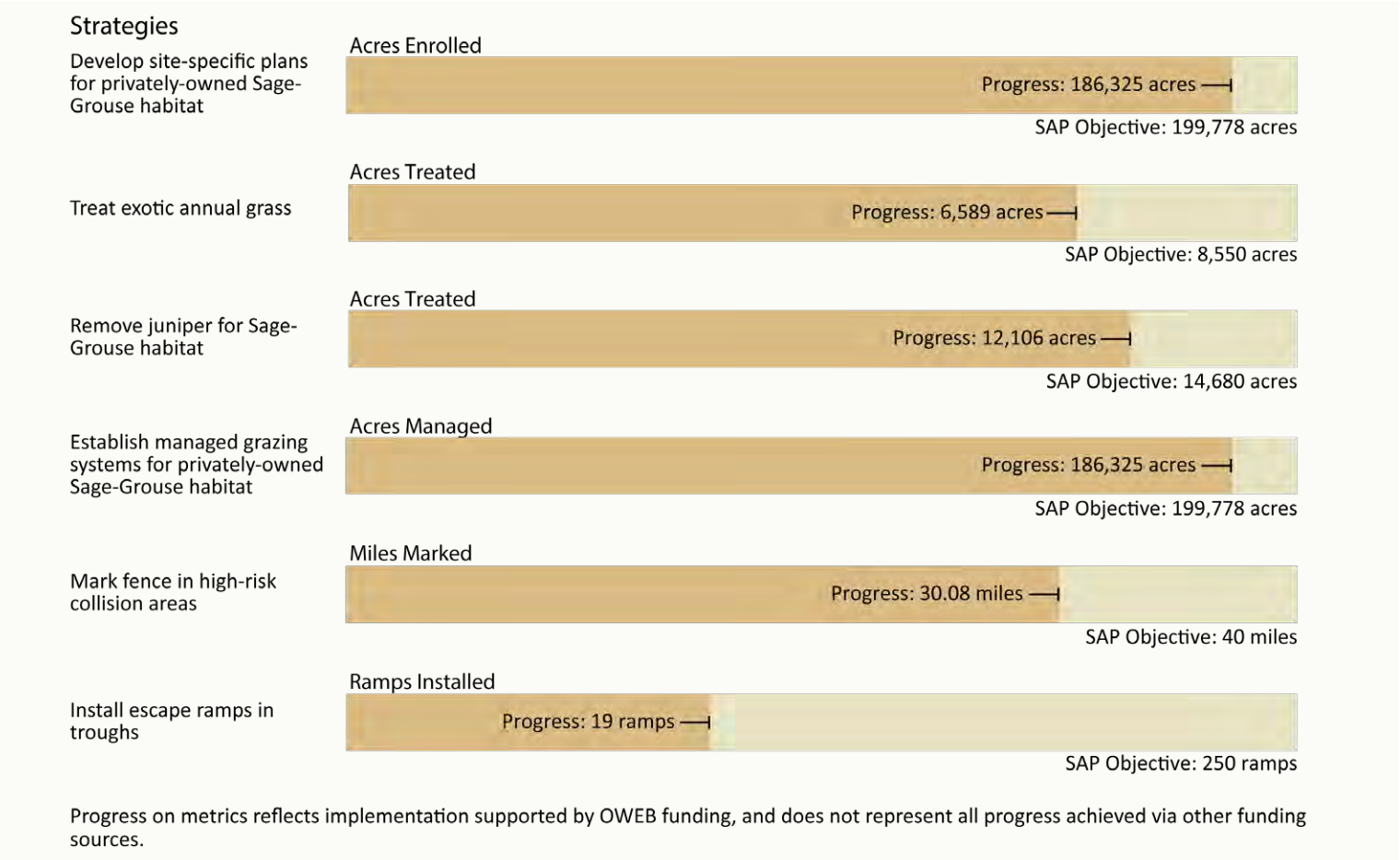
Intermediate-Term Outcomes (5-20+ Years)

- 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.

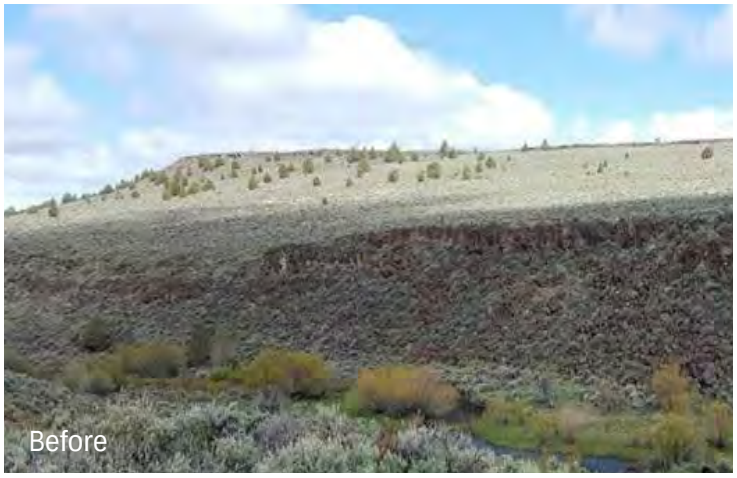
Monitoring Approach

- 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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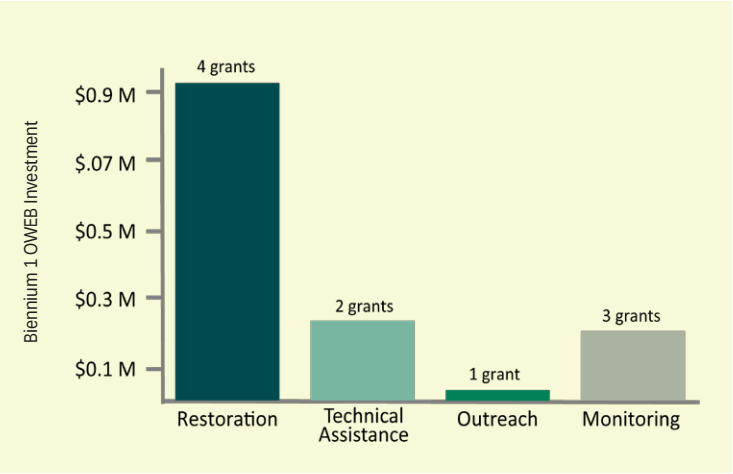
Focused Investment Partnership Progress Report: 2015-2017 Biennium 1
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

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

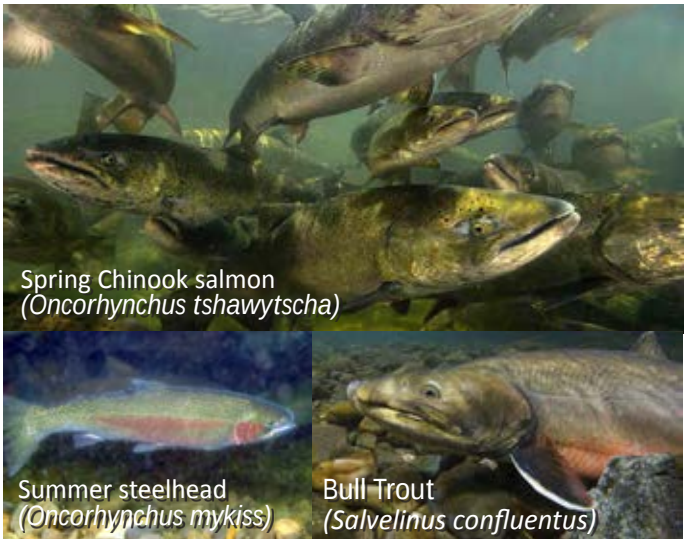
22 PRESENTATIONS
to provide technical assistance and training to increase awareness

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

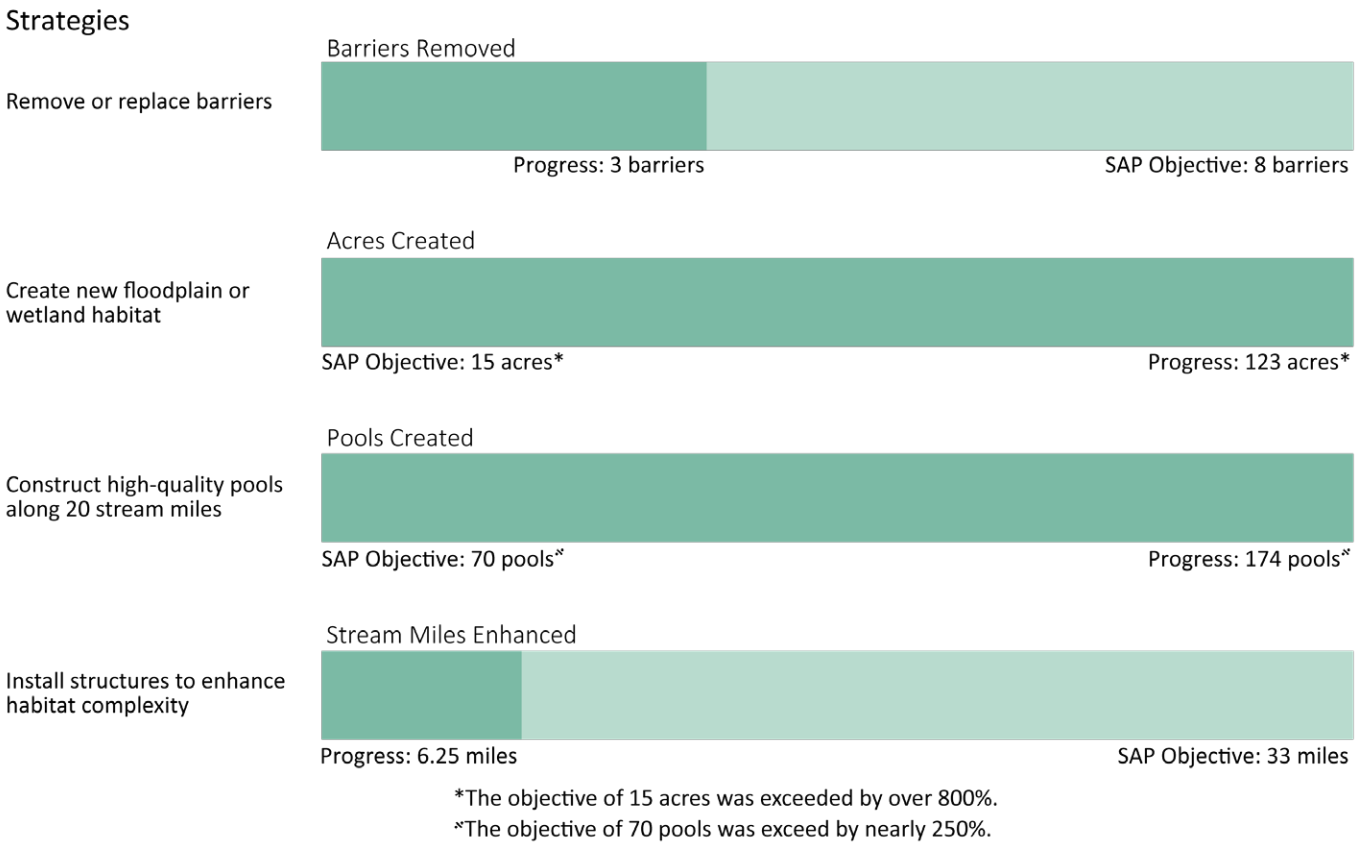
Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- 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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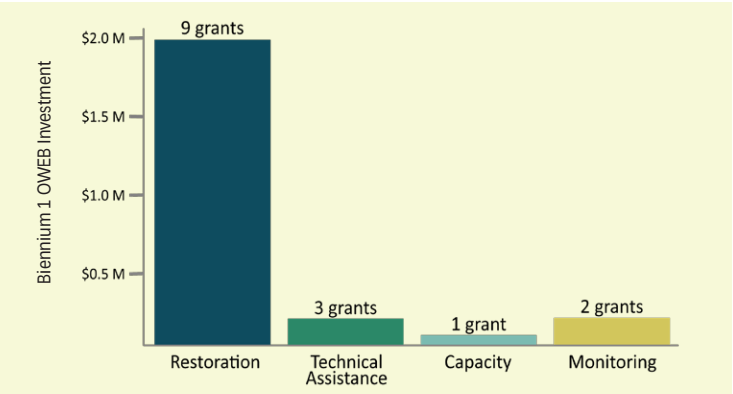
www.grmw.org
www.oregon.gov/oweb

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

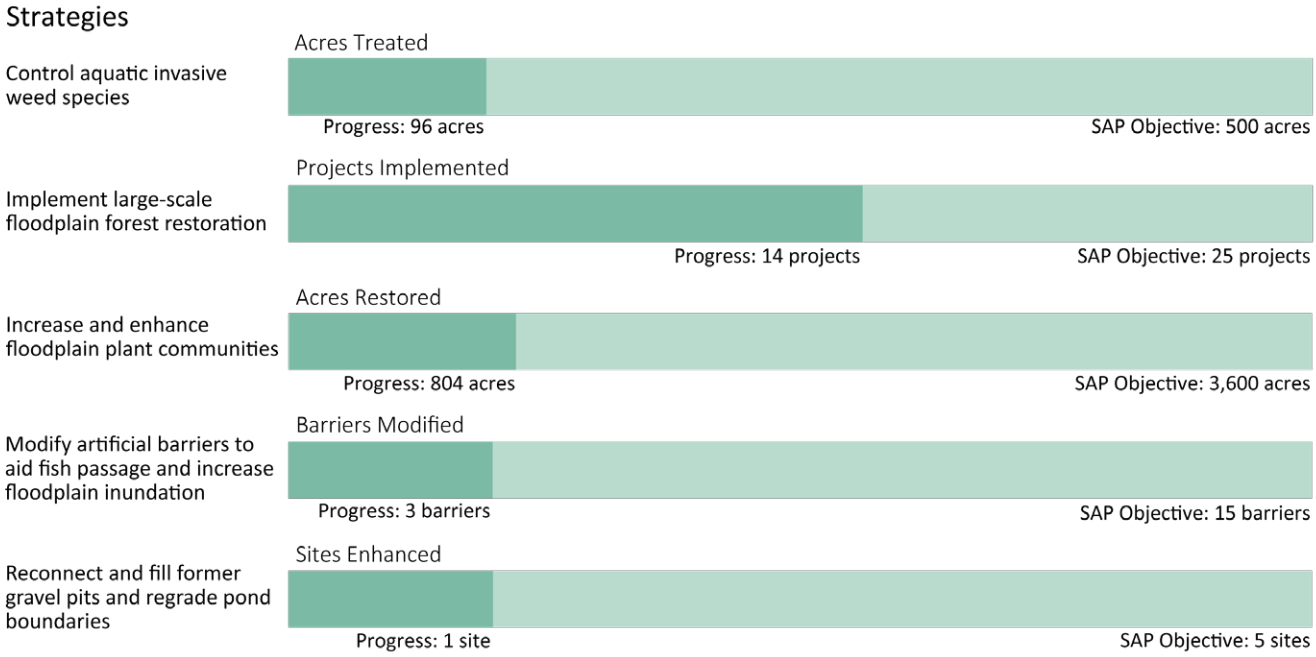
Long-Term Outcomes (20+ Years)

- 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

Pacific Lamprey
(Entosphenus tridentatus)

Winter steelhead
(Oncorhynchus mykiss)

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


Oregon Chub
(Oregonichthys crameri)

Spring Chinook salmon
(Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)


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

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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

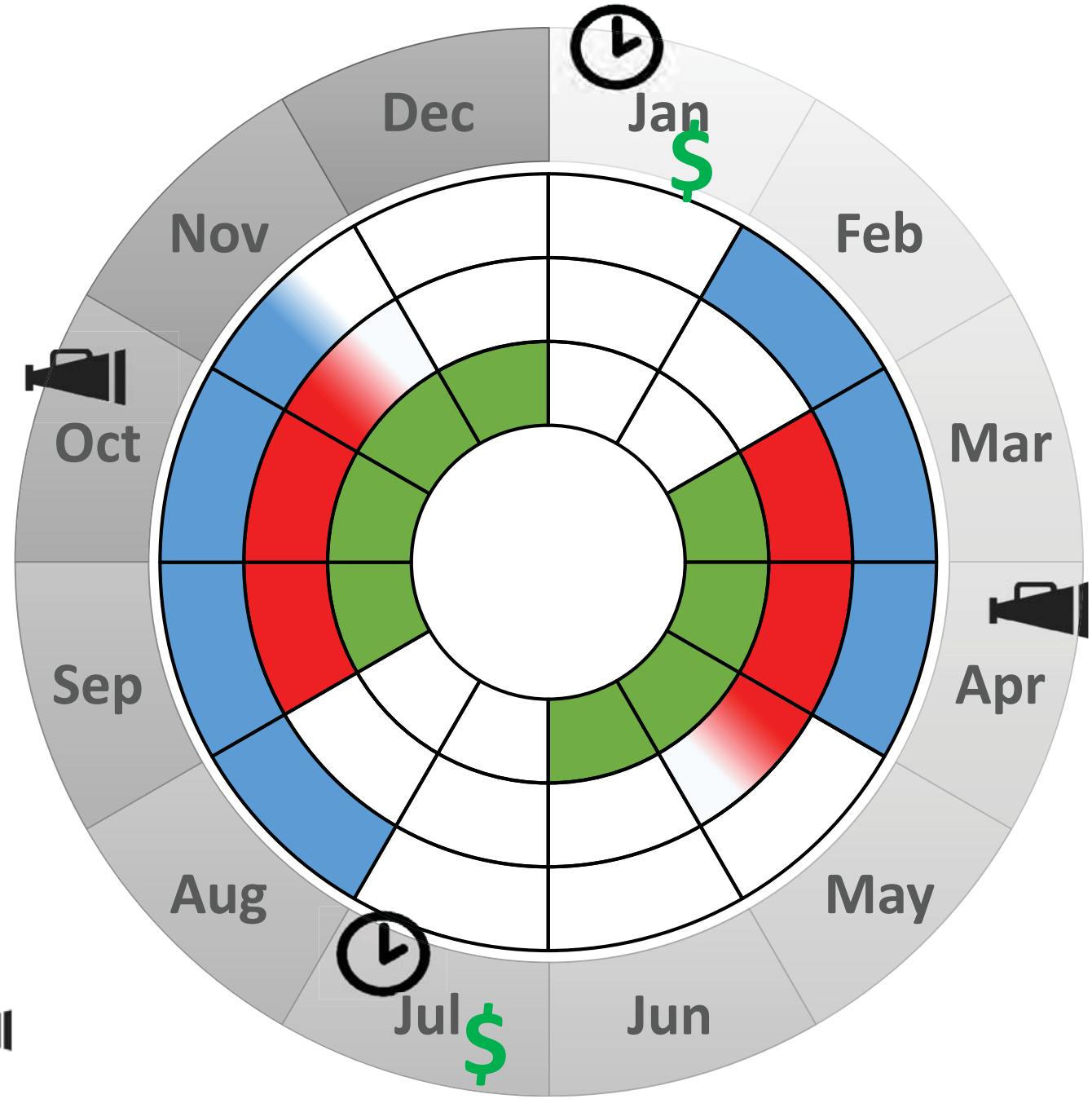
ATTACHMENT A

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)