



Kate Brown, Governor



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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: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Approval of Receipt of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Funding

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board proactively approve receipt of up to \$2,999,997 in federal funds from the BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects distributed across the state over three years.

II. Background

The Oregon/Washington BLM is responsible for management of more than 16 million acres of public lands scattered across the State of Oregon. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. To accomplish this, the BLM frequently works with partners, such as state agencies, through cooperative agreements.

An opportunity exists for development of a cooperative agreement between BLM and OWEB, using the Good Neighbor Authority. This partnership would serve to further the respective missions of both agencies, gain efficiencies, and ultimately benefit both fish and aquatic wildlife resources throughout the state. The primary objective of this partnership would be to work together to facilitate aquatic restoration projects with local partners, in areas of mutual interest over a three-year period. The focus of the work would be on design and implementation of instream restoration projects that increase habitat complexity and resiliency, as well as the removal of passage barriers to fish and other aquatic species.

III. BLM Funding

Funds from BLM at an amount of up to \$2,999,997 over three years (i.e., \$999,999 for each of three geographies) currently are available via a federal solicitation for the state of Oregon. OWEB has proposed development of a cooperative agreement for administering these funds, which would support aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects distributed across the state. Projects are expected to be identified and implemented in phases, as funding becomes available. BLM staff will develop projects, in coordination with

local partners, and use existing BLM review and prioritization processes to determine which projects would be proposed to OWEB and funded under this agreement. The specific details about each project phase will be agreed upon by the BLM and OWEB annually. Phase 1 projects, listed in Table 1, are currently ready to for implementation and have already been reviewed and prioritized by BLM staff. BLM expects to have projects identified for Phase 2 by August/September.

Table 1. Phase 1 projects.

| BLM District | OWEB Region | Project | Fund Amount (\$) |
|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| NW | 1 | Boulder Creek Project | \$30,000 |
| Medford | 2 | Walker Creek Culverts | \$150,000 |
| Coos | 2 | Woodward Creek Culverts | \$193,000 |
| Vale | 5 | Willow Creek Stream Restoration | \$163,000 |
| Vale | 5 | Sheep Creek Stream Restoration | \$22,000 |
| | | PHASE 1 TOTAL | \$558,000 |

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board proactively approve receipt of up to \$2,999,997 from the BLM for aquatic restoration and technical assistance projects over the next three years, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an effective date of July 1, 2020.