

2021-2023 FIP Proposals Overview

Name of Partnership	Initiative	Proposal #	FIP Priority	B1 Request	B2 Request	B3 Request	Total Request	Overall Rating
Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	Little Butte Oak Initiative	223-8217	Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat	\$1,373,266	\$2,714,735	\$2,959,837	\$7,047,838	High (-)
Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative	Improving Aquatic Health in the Harney Basin	223-8219	Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitat	\$3,923,080	\$3,856,280	\$3,972,180	\$11,751,540	Medium (+)
East Cascades Oak Partnership	Oak and Fire: Restoring Resilience in the East Cascades	223-8221	Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat	\$2,544,000	\$2,433,000	\$2,177,000	\$7,154,000	High (-)
Siuslaw Coho Partnership	Habitat Restoration for Oregon Coast Coho Recovery in the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Basins	223-8222	Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$12,000,000	High (-)
Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative	Restoring Resilience in Two Estuaries	223-8223	Coastal Estuaries in Oregon	\$1,523,000	\$3,921,700	\$2,390,250	\$7,834,950	High (-)
Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee	Oregon Model to Project Sage Grouse, All Counties Phase II	223-8224	Sagebrush/Sage-steppe	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$12,000,000	Medium (+)

Salmon Superhighway Partnership	Salmon SuperHwy Native Fish Habitat Reconnection	223-8225	Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$3,000,000	\$3,153,000	\$3,153,000	\$9,306,000	Medium (+)
Tenmile Lakes Steering Committee	Tenmile Lakes Native Fisheries and Water Quality Restoration Plan	223-8216	Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast	\$743,421	\$1,149,490	\$1,736,620	\$3,629,531	Medium
Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership	Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative	223-8218	Dry-Type Forest Habitat	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$12,000,000	Medium (+)
Coos Basin Coho Partnership	Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan Implementation	223-8220	Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast	\$3,469,614	\$3,858,971	\$3,747,408	\$11,075,993	High (-)
Hood River Basin Partnership	Hood River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Initiative	223-8206	Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species	\$2,103,000	\$2,243,000	\$2,168,000	\$6,514,000	High (-)
Total				\$30,679,381	\$35,330,176	\$34,304,295	\$100,313,852	

Focused Investment Partnership Implementation proposals shall be evaluated on the criteria listed in a-g below. These criteria directly reflect the evaluation criteria outlined in FIP administrative rules (695-047-0060). In evaluating the proposals, the intent is to assign a value that best represents how well the application addressed each criterion.

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority

(Application: Section 4 questions 8-10 & 12)

Because this criterion is linked to Board-identified priorities and materials, it will be evaluated by Board members with assistance from OWEB staff. However, you are welcome to provide your qualitative assessment. Please refer to the [priority memo\(s\)](#) describing the relevant Board-adopted habitat/species ecological priority.

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography

(Application: Section 3 questions 1, 3, 5, 6; Section 4 question 14; Section 7)

HIGH:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership has an identified leader or leaders and has allocated sufficient staff and financial resources to ensure timely communication, coordination and decision-making among partners.
- The partnership has a clear, thoughtful plan for communicating with and engaging a broad range of stakeholders within the community throughout the life of the initiative and has allocated sufficient staff and financial resources to implement the plan.
- The partnership has a specific process for catalyzing additional investments and demonstrates the investments have a high likelihood of being secured for the duration of the FIP investment.

MEDIUM:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership has allocated staff and financial resources for management of the partnership, but may lack either clear leadership or sufficient resources to ensure timely communication, coordination and decision-making across partners.
- The partnership has an adequate plan for informing but perhaps not fully engaging the broader community throughout the life of the initiative and has allocated sufficient staff and financial resources to meet some but not all of the plan's actions. The plan may reach some audiences better than others.
- The partnership has a conceptual plan for catalyzing additional investments that may lack detail but has identified potential sources of match funding that have a reasonable chance of being secured for the duration of the FIP investment.

LOW:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership has allocated insufficient staff and financial resources for the care and management of the partnership, raising concerns that there could be miscommunications, poor coordination and ineffective decision-making that could limit project and partnership success.
- The partnership has a vague or no plan for engaging the broader community throughout the life of the initiative and/or has allocated few to no staff and financial resources so a plan appears unlikely to be implemented.
- The partnership has an informal or no plan for catalyzing additional investments and has identified either no potential sources of match funding or sources that have a low likelihood of being secured beyond the first biennium of the FIP investment.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership

(Application: Section 3 questions 1- 4 & 7; attached partnership governance documents)

HIGH:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership members have developed a productive, resilient partnership consisting of committed partners with a successful history of working collaboratively on both planning and implementing conservation actions.
- The partnership has a formal decision-making process which has been effectively used to support the partnership's organizational and project implementation efforts. Decisions are shared and documented for use throughout the life of the partnership.
- The composition of the partnership fully supports the proposed ecological outcomes of the FIP Initiative, including the necessary stakeholder engagement, project implementation, monitoring, and partnership coordination expertise to achieve those outcomes. The right partners are involved given the proposal's ecological objectives.
- *For partnerships that have previously received OWEB Implementation FIP funding*, the partnership has demonstrated regular internal and external communication pathways and strong, clear and fair processes that have allowed them to make decisions that are supported and implemented, prioritize projects and successfully execute work plans, and sustain partner involvement in and local support for the initiative.

MEDIUM:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership members have developed an emerging partnership consisting of committed partners, some of whom have a successful history of working collaboratively on implementing conservation actions.
- The partnership has an informal or loosely described decision-making process which supports the partnership's organizational and project implementation efforts but could be more structured, efficient or better documented.
- The composition of the partnership mostly supports the proposed ecological outcomes of the FIP Initiative, including some but not all of the necessary stakeholder engagement, project implementation, monitoring, and partnership coordination expertise to achieve those outcomes. The critical partners are involved, but the partnership may benefit from additional partners to meet the ecological objectives.
- *For partnerships that have previously received OWEB Implementation FIP funding*, the partnership has established either internal or external communication pathways and clear and fair processes, but could have implemented projects and executed work plans better if they had better supported and unequivocal decisions or better sustained partner involvement in and local support for the initiative.

LOW:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership members have developed a loosely organized partnership consisting of partners with a limited history of working collaboratively on implementing conservation actions.
- The partnership lacks a clear decision-making process and does not describe how the process supports the partnership's organizational and project implementation efforts.
- The partnership is missing key people, partners or expertise to support the intended purpose and desired ecological outcomes described in the FIP proposal.
- *For partnerships that have previously received OWEB Implementation FIP funding*, the partnership's ability to complete timely and successful projects was hampered by irregular or poor internal and

external communication, unclear or ineffective processes, unsupported decisions or diminished partner involvement and local support over time.

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes

(Application: throughout Section 4, particularly questions 9, 10, 13, 15, & 17; Section 6)

HIGH:

- The partnership demonstrates a thorough understanding of the historic and present habitat conditions, future habitat needs, limiting factors, social context, potential barriers and appropriate conservation actions. As a result, the proposal describes a strong restoration trajectory with a high likelihood for achieving and sustaining the proposed ecological outcomes beyond the completion of the initiative within a regionally significant geography.
- The initiative work plan (Section 6) outlines a robust approach to achieving conservation outputs that support the proposed ecological outcomes. In particular, the proposal clearly describes thoughtful consideration of logical timing and sequence of conservation actions that makes ecological sense and scaffold (i.e., projects build upon each other) towards meeting outcomes, particularly in the first biennium.
- *For partnerships that have previously received OWEB Implementation FIP funding*, the partnership placed their accomplishments within the context of the FIP initiative results chain and progress monitoring framework to demonstrate significant progress towards the intended outcomes of the previous 6-year FIP initiative. The proposal justifies further investment by describing what conservation actions are still needed, how the actions will build upon previous work, and how the actions will achieve more ambitious or long-lasting ecological outcomes in the same or new geography.

MEDIUM:

- The partnership understands the nature and extent of restoration needs but may lack details on historical or social context, limiting factors, or potential barriers. As a result, the proposal describes a restoration trajectory that may be sufficient for achieving and sustaining the proposed ecological outcomes of the initiative in the near-term and demonstrates a fair likelihood of success within a locally significant geography.
- The initiative work plan (Section 6) sufficiently outlines an approach to achieving conservation outputs that support the proposed ecological outcomes. In particular, the proposal describes some consideration of the timing and sequence of conservation actions, but lacks either detail or a logical step-wise approach.
- *For partnerships that have previously received OWEB implementation FIP funding*, the partnership has demonstrated positive progress towards the intended outcomes of the previous 6-year FIP initiative. However, because the proposal does not clearly place the accomplishments within the context of the FIP initiative results chain and/or progress monitoring framework, it is difficult to ascertain if the progress is significant. The proposal describes what conservation actions are still needed but does not describe how the actions will achieve more ambitious or long-lasting ecological outcomes; the proposal could better justify why further investments in the same or new geography would be valuable.

LOW:

- The partnership lacks understanding of the nature and extent of restoration needs, including the historical or social context, limiting factors, or potential barriers. The proposal describes a restoration trajectory that is not adequate to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes of the initiative within the geography of the ecological priority.

- The initiative work plan (Section 6) outlines an approach to conservation actions that suggests it will not be successful in attaining the proposed ecological outputs. The proposal lacks consideration of the timing and sequence of conservation actions for implementing the proposed FIP initiative.
- *For partnerships that have previously received OWEB Implementation FIP funding*, the partnership has not implemented enough successful conservation actions to demonstrate progress towards the intended outcomes of the previous 6-year FIP initiative. The proposed additional conservation actions are not likely to achieve previously-identified or new ecological outcomes so do not justify further investments in the same or new geography.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes

(Application: Section 4 questions 16, 18, 19, 20)

HIGH:

- The proposal clearly describes measurable outcomes and a rigorous yet realistic approach to monitoring for the purpose of tracking proposed conservation outputs and ecological outcomes over time. The monitoring approach is designed to measure programmatic effectiveness across multiple project sites as opposed to implementation metrics or individual project success. This approach uses baseline conditions and baseline monitoring data, which provide a clear point of comparison for measuring progress. Proposed monitoring parameters, design and methods are tied to conservation actions and ecological outcomes and will appropriately track change over time. The proposal clearly explains appropriate long-term data management and use for informing adaptive management at strategically determined intervals of time.

MEDIUM:

- The proposal describes measurable outcomes. While the proposal outlines an adequate approach to monitoring for the purpose of tracking proposed conservation outputs and ecological outcomes over time, it may lack details in referencing baseline conditions and data, may not be designed to measure programmatic effectiveness, may not have fully developed parameters and methods, or may not fully describe how data will be managed and used for adaptive management.

LOW:

- The proposal lacks measurable outcomes and/or describes an approach to monitoring that is inadequate for tracking proposed conservation outputs and ecological outcomes over time. The approach is limited to implementation metrics and is not designed to measure programmatic effectiveness. This approach provides limited discussion of baseline conditions and baseline monitoring data and/or proposes parameters or methods that are not adequate to measure conservation actions or ecological outcomes. The proposal does not demonstrate appropriate management of data or clear pathway for adaptive management.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

(Application: throughout Section 4, particularly questions 9-11, 14, 15, 16)

HIGH:

- The proposal strongly demonstrates that the initiative and the prioritization of actions are based on, and integrating, principles of sound science and the use of effective planning tools, including but not limited to Miradi, Atlas, and Project Tracker. Proposed restoration methods reflect an understanding of current, effective approaches and may include innovative methods informed by scientific principles.
- The initiative will clearly implement elements of the appropriate recovery conservation, tribal and/or other key plans.

MEDIUM:

- The proposal adequately demonstrates that the initiative is based on, and integrating principles of sound science and effective planning tools; however, the ecological reasons for some conservation actions may not be clearly described or the prioritization of restoration actions may not be fully supported by sound science or planning tools. Restoration methods reflect an understanding of current, effective approaches but may not include innovative approaches.
- The proposed actions are linked to but don't explicitly implement elements of the appropriate recovery, conservation, tribal or other key plans.

LOW:

- The proposal poorly demonstrates that the initiative and prioritization of conservation actions are based on, and integrating principles of sound science and use of effective planning tools. The proposed conservation actions include outdated or ineffective methods which will likely limit success. The lack of effective planning tools may make project prioritization and implementation difficult.
- The initiative does not appear to implement or reference key elements of the appropriate recovery, conservation, tribal or other key plans.

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

(Application: Section 6 Initiative Work Plan; Section 7 Budget)

HIGH:

- The proposal includes a diversity of potential grant types (e.g., partnership capacity, stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, restoration, land acquisition, water acquisition, monitoring) or other funding sources necessary to support the variety of actions needed to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes. Allocation of potential funding across different action types is carefully considered and justified.

MEDIUM:

- The proposal supports a diversity of grant types (e.g., partnership capacity, stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, restoration, land acquisition, water acquisition, monitoring) or other funding sources, however it has not identified potential grant types or funding sources necessary to achieve one or more of the proposed ecological outcomes. Funding is generally allocated appropriately across different action types but may be skewed in a way that could limit success (e.g., the proposal has insufficient stakeholder engagement for the large suite of projects planned on private land or the proposal includes complex restoration projects but does not include a plan to gain the technical assistance needed to design the projects).

LOW:

- The proposal lacks a diversity of grant types (e.g., partnership capacity, stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, restoration, land acquisition, water acquisition, monitoring) or funding sources to the extent that most of the ecological outcomes are unlikely to be achieved. Allocation of funding across different funding types is not described, unclear, or unlikely to lead to success.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Little Butte Oak Initiative
2. **Name of Partnership:** Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network
3. **Application Number:** 223-8217-20121
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

5. Initiative Abstract (from the application)

Oak-prairie ecosystems have experienced dramatic loss and degradation. Restoration action is essential, climate-smart, and will benefit wildlife and people. Guided by the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network Strategic Conservation Action Plan, the Little Butte Oak Initiative will reduce the two highest ranked threats - fire exclusion and conifer encroachment - through restoration actions and strengthen partnerships to support future work.

This project will:

- Catalyze tribal, federal, and private landowner collaboration, support, and capacity for oak restoration through implementation of a communication strategy, and community and tribal engagement.
- Restore 2,480 acres of oak habitat within the Initiative geography using prescribed fire, reduced encroachment, noxious weed abatement, and native understory.

Toward the following ecological outcomes:

- Stable populations of oak-prairie-dependent wildlife species sustained by habitat structure and native plant species composition.
- Oak-prairie ecosystems resilient to habitat loss and degradation from climate, extreme fire, insects, and disease.

Core partners include Klamath Bird Observatory, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative, The Nature Conservancy, Understory Initiative, Bureau of Land Management Medford District, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and US Forest Service Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$1,373,266	\$959,420
Biennium 2	\$2,714,735	\$1,044,376
Biennium 3	\$2,959,837	\$819,272
Total	\$7,047,838	\$2,823,068

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	Medium
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	High (-)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- With only two partners set to receive FIP funding if awarded— both involved in other FIPs—how will the partnership achieve its goals if capacity issues arise at one or both organizations?
- How does the partnership determine if oak woodland or oak savanna is the appropriate ecosystem target for an individual site?
- How will conservation gains be maintained in the long term when working on private lands?
- How much outreach has occurred to private landowners in the proposed FIP geography, and how willing are they to engage in oak conservation efforts on their land?
- What are the barriers to the use of prescribed fire in the proposed FIP geography, and does the partnership intend to overcome these barriers?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

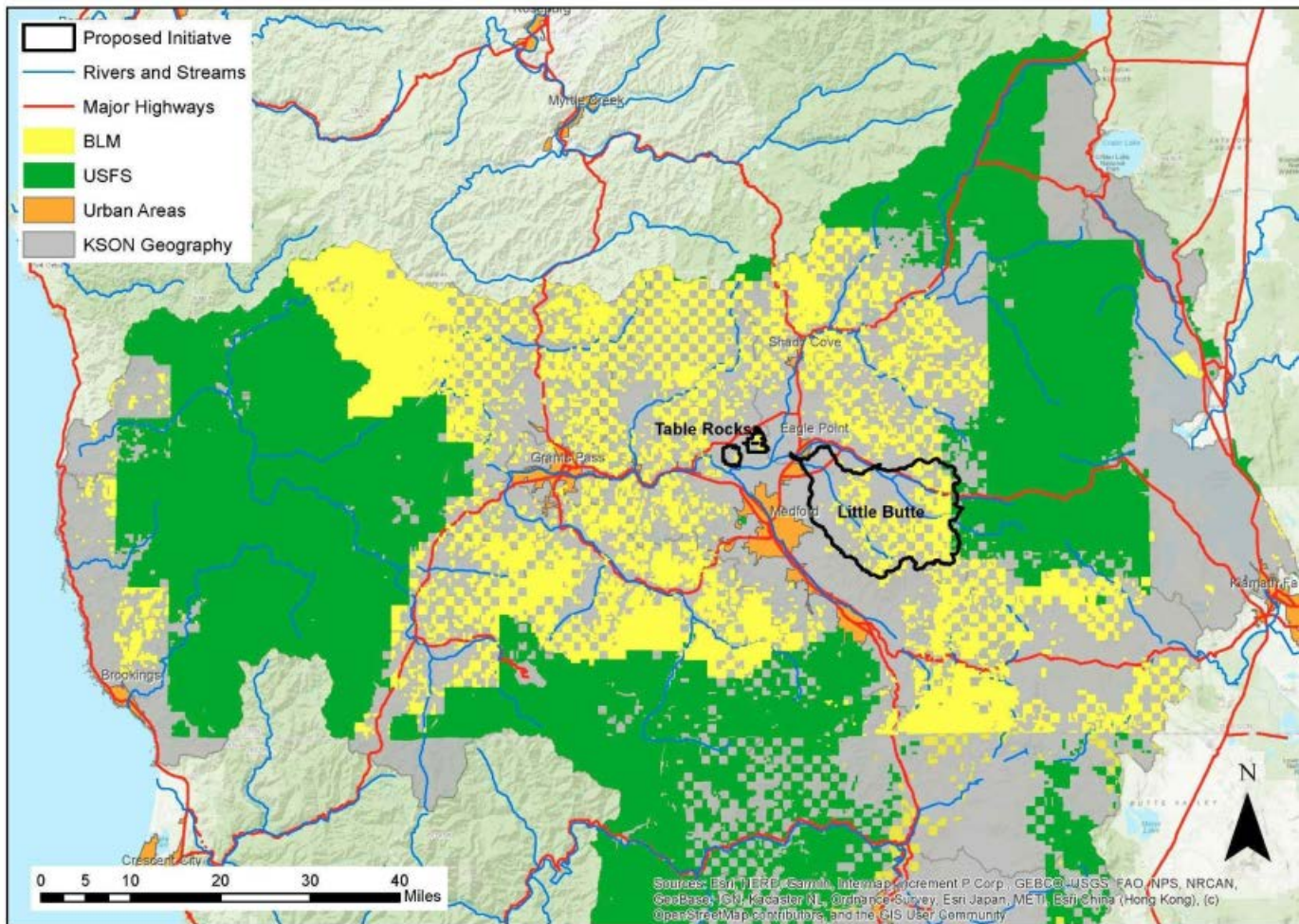


Figure 3. KSON Proposed Initiative geography overview. The Little Butte Oak Initiative (i.e., focal geography) includes the Little Butte Creek Watershed and Table Rocks Conservation Area.

FIP Priority Review: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Name of Initiative: Little Butte Oak Initiative

Name of Partnership: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The core partners in this proposal have a track record of leveraging investments in previous restoration work to implement conservation work at a landscape scale.
- The partners have experience working on previously funded FIP initiatives and have identified clear roles and responsibilities for the partners.
- The partnership has developed a clear plan for communicating and engaging with a broad range of stakeholders throughout the life of the initiative.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal demonstrates limited ability to catalyze additional investments. All match funds included in the FIP proposal come from two sources: Klamath Bird Observatory and Lomakatsi Restoration Project. There is limited information provided about the match.
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project, a core partner and key implementor for this FIP proposal, is involved in other FIPs and many projects throughout the state, which may impact their ability to engage in this proposal and meet the proposed ecological outcomes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partners work with all the entities in the FIP geography who do similar work. The partnership has a process for bringing on new partners when necessary.
- The partners recently updated their Memorandum of Understanding to include detailed information on their decision-making and internal communication processes.

CONCERNS:

- The proposed work plan is very reliant on Lomakatsi Restoration Project for implementation and a key individual at Klamath Bird Observatory for partnership facilitation and management. Long-term success of the partnership could be impacted if either organization experiences staff turnover.
- Though the proposal includes a clear community outreach strategy, it is unclear how much outreach to engage private landowners and build community support for the proposed ecological outcomes has already started.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partners have a lot of experience implementing prescribed fire treatments and engaging the community around this work.
- The partnership has an excellent understanding of historic habitat conditions and the natural processes that once maintained them, both in scientific and cultural terms. The proposal also describes how poor forest management and fire suppression has led to current landscape problems.

CONCERNS:

- Some of the work proposed for the Table Rocks site may be maintaining a land acquisition site obtained in part with previous OWEB funding, which might not be consistent with the intent of the FIP program.
- The proposal did not discuss, in detail, the barriers to implementation of prescribed fire and associated strategies to overcome challenges.
- How individual restoration projects will be maintained over the long term is not well described in the proposal. If projects are not well managed, the long-term ecological uplift is jeopardized.
- Much of the restoration work is slated to occur on private lands and it is unclear how quickly landowners can be engaged to get projects on the ground.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership will incorporate baseline data into their monitoring plan and have a method to use data to inform adaptive management.

- The Theory of Change included in the proposal is easy to follow and understand.
- There is a detailed monitoring plan under development which will be ready before the implementation of the FIP initiative, if funded.
- There are existing databases in place for the partnership to store and manage data collected.
- The proposal clearly depicts which partners are responsible for each of the monitoring tasks.

CONCERNS:

- The table in the proposal that describes oak habitat conservation priority watersheds does not clearly describe how thresholds were developed or how these thresholds inform project prioritization.
- It is unclear how much, and what kind of, pre-project data will be needed to measure the impact of restoration efforts. It may be difficult to discern a trend with bird related metrics over the life of the initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The partnership is encouraged to monitor how plant communities respond to prescribed fire treatments.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal describes a logical pathway for how the partnership has selected the proposed geography, and the entailed restoration actions.
- The partnership has clearly incorporated various climate projections into the proposed initiative.
- The proposal provides a good discussion of how the partnership is incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into the proposed initiative.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal would benefit from a larger discussion on oak woodland and oak savanna, and how the partnership determines what is the appropriate ecosystem target at individual sites.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership's intended investment in public engagement is encouraging and will be necessary to ensure community support.
- The amount of the budget allocated for restoration projects grows over the life cycle of the initiative, which is consistent with the description of where the partnership is at with their restoration planning.

CONCERNS:

- With only two partners set to receive funding through the initiative, the ability of the partnership to achieve its goals may be limited if one or both partners experience organizational challenges or capacity constraints.
- The region has a number of contractors that would likely be interested to conduct the restoration work described in the proposal; however, it is not clear if outside contractors would be invited to bid for a contract, or if all of the work would be completed "in-house" with the partners.
- Engagement with tribes is included in the proposal, but it is unclear if it will occur prior to restoration efforts begin.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Improving Aquatic Health in the Harney Basin
2. **Name of Partnership:** Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative
3. **Application Number:** 223-8219-20123
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats

5. Initiative Abstract (from the application)

For many decades the core partners Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (MNWR), Ducks Unlimited (DU), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U S Geological Survey (USGS), Audubon Society of Portland (PA), Wet Meadow Partners Consulting Group (WMP), Harney Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD), County Court, Friends of MNWR (FOMR), Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC), Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC), and landowners worked to accomplish their separate goals around improving flood irrigated wet meadows and improving the waterbird habitat value of Malheur Lake. But only through the collaborative efforts of the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative (HBWC) have those efforts come together. Convened by High Desert Partnership (HDP) HBWC addresses the goals of the Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats priority of OWEB. Including wetland degradation and loss, promoting flood irrigation, reducing carp, and managing invasive plants in wet meadows. HBWC partners are dedicated to restoring this critical habitat and will be able to build on the significant progress of addressing wetland sustainability in Harney Basin.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$3,923,080	\$1,366,706
Biennium 2	\$3,856,280	\$1,366,706
Biennium 3	\$3,972,180	\$1,366,706
Total	\$11,751,540	\$4,100,118

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	Medium
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium (+)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- What is the historic ecological condition of the wetlands in the proposed FIP geography, and is the intent of the partnership to restore those ecological conditions?
- What is the litigation status around Foley Slough and how will it impact the ability of the partners to implement their workplan?
- The partnership implemented projects in the first FIP initiative that allowed them to learn more about the causes of poor habitat conditions on Malheur Lake. How will a second round of FIP funding result in large-scale restoration efforts on the lake?
- Describe how conservation metrics will be monitored over the long term?
- The proposed budget includes a substantial investment in technical assistance. Discuss why this amount of technical assistance is necessary given that the previous FIP initiative also featured a relatively high amount of technical assistance?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

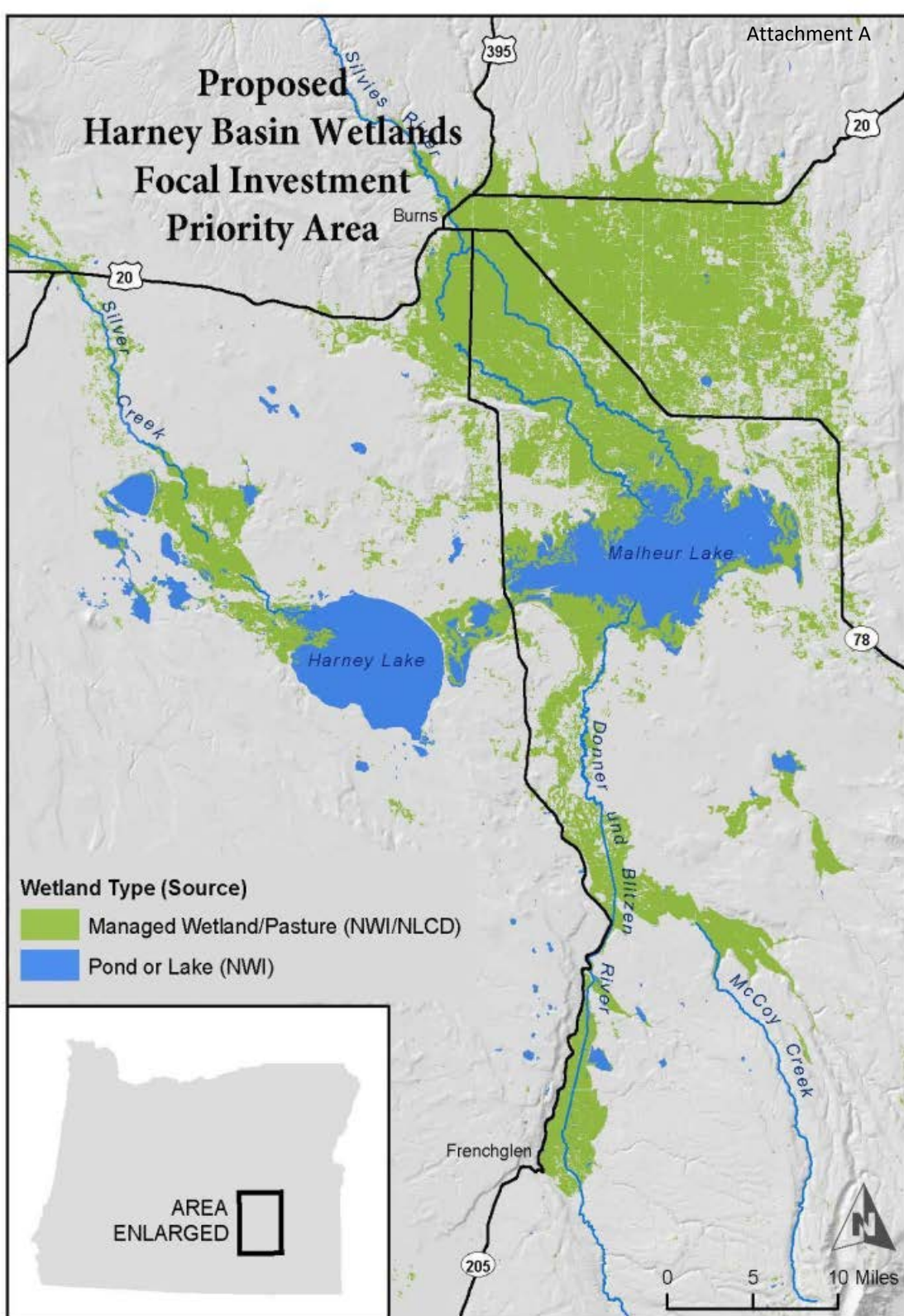
9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Proposed Harney Basin Wetlands Focal Investment Priority Area



FIP Priority Review: Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats

Name of Initiative: Improving Aquatic Health in the Harney Basin

Name of Partnership: Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The High Desert Partnership is the convener and has built a strong organization with a successful history of engaging the community and leading collaborative efforts.
- The partnership contracts for facilitation services through Oregon Consensus, which provides additional capacity to the partnership.
- The partnership uses a collaborative consensus approach to make decisions. This includes the allocation of funding to projects, which allows all partnership members to be engaged in decisions.
- The partnership proposes to invest significant resources in stakeholder engagement. Resources include the development of communication tools, which have been identified as necessary to support the needs of the agricultural community.

CONCERNS:

- A significant portion of the proposed FIP funding runs through the High Desert Partnership. Turnover or other challenges within the organization could impact the partnership's ability to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.
- A significant amount of match funding for the FIP initiative comes from one core partner—the original source of this funding is unclear.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The partnership has made great strides to engage the community in many conservation activities. The long-term effectiveness of these engagement efforts will be put to the test by the basin's profound natural resource issues.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The composition of the partnership is inclusive. Urban and rural stakeholders and the Burns Paiute Tribe make the right collection of partners to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.
- The partnership has a proven track record to successfully implement the actions described in the proposal and has demonstrated its ability to adaptively manage collective restoration objectives.
- The partnership has been a model for addressing complex natural resource concerns in an effective manner that has resulted in many benefits to the larger community, beyond the scope of the proposed initiative.

CONCERNS:

None

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal clearly describes a model of Malheur Lake that the partners use to guide their restoration efforts.
- The proposal provides good details around the partnership's goals for wet prairie conservation, and how the partners met similar goals in their previously awarded FIP initiative.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal lacks a discussion of how management planning and implementation management will be done with in-field infrastructure—installed in collaboration with private landowners to maintain wet meadow habitats.
- The partnership has made progress to identify potential causes surrounding poor habitat conditions in Malheur Lake and various alternatives to begin addressing the issues. However, only modest lake restoration efforts occurred in the previous FIP initiative. It is unclear how far the partners will get in a second round of FIP funding given the complexities and associated costs of the issues impacting the lake.
- It is unclear how effective the proposed vegetation management will be to address non-native species that are becoming widespread.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.*Rating: Medium***STRENGTHS:**

- The partnership has a variety of existing data and has incorporated some of it into predictive models to better understand the factors that affect lake and wetland conditions.
- Hypothesis testing is well incorporated into the partnership's monitoring protocol.
- The strategic action plan provides an extensive description of the partnership's monitoring approach and theory of change for their proposed initiative.

CONCERNS:

- It is unclear how indicators or metrics associated with ecological outcomes would be monitored over time.
- The proposal only generally describes how data will be analyzed and interpreted. The data analysis for each data type is not described and does not match the variety of data that the partners plan to collect.
- While the strategic action plan describes a strong monitoring approach, this does not always carry over to the answers to relevant monitoring questions in the proposal.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.*Rating: Medium (+)***STRENGTHS:**

- The application clearly describes the science that partners have done to date, and how it resulted in the analysis of limiting factors beyond carp when considering restoring the Malheur Lake ecosystem.
- The partnership clearly articulates how they will incorporate learning from implementing the first FIP initiative.
- The proposal provides a solid strategy development discussion centered around effects of climate change and specifically how it will impact irrigation in the basin.

CONCERNS:

- The proposed strategy appears to focus on reestablishing a single type of wetland and it is unclear if this provides the complexity required to sustain wetland habitats over time.
- The changing hydrology associated with climate change makes it difficult to build a strategy around historic conditions.
- Litigation involving water rights in certain systems may delay, or prevent, the implementation of flood-irrigated wet meadow projects.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal includes grant types that are consistent with the partnership's proposed work plan.
- The partnership has a clear understanding of the capacity needed to run the partnership and successfully engage the community. This is reflected well in the proposed grant types.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership requests a modest monitoring budget, particularly in biennium one and two of the initiative. This may hinder the ability to effectively track outcomes and inform adaptive management.
- The proposal includes a relatively large amount of technical assistance in biennium one and two. This is surprising given the initiative is largely a continuation of the first FIP initiative that also featured a large amount of technical assistance projects.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Oak and Fire: Restoring Resilience in the East Cascades
2. **Name of Partnership:** East Cascades Oak Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 223-8221-20125
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

5. Initiative Abstract (from the application)

The East Cascades Oak Partnership works on the east slopes of the Cascades where biodiversity and climate resilience are threatened by fire suppression, grazing, and development. Over 25 tribal, public, and private entities are partnering to implement ECOP's Strategic Plan, restoring fire-adapted conditions, protecting biodiversity, and maintaining climate resilience in this Oregon white oak landscape, an OWEB FIP priority.

We will: protect 15,000 acres of priority habitat from conversion; reverse the effects of fire suppression on 17,000 acres through restoration; refine spatial priorities at the site scale; strategically deploy outreach tools to engage landowners; connect people with management guidance and technical support; lower barriers to the use of prescribed fire; expand access to a variety of native plant materials; implement monitoring work that measures project effectiveness and long term ecological outcomes; adapt our monitoring tools to better reflect tribal values for use on reservation; and continue to facilitate partnership meetings and business through 2027.

Our partnership works in two states. Oregon partners include:
ODF, ODFW, USFS – Mt. Hood National Forest, USFS – Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, NRCS, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Oregon Parks and Recreation, Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust, Pacific Birds, Columbia Land Trust

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$2,544,000	\$4,250,000
Biennium 2	\$2,433,000	\$9,084,000
Biennium 3	\$2,177,000	\$548,000
Total	\$7,154,000	\$13,844,000

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High (-)
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	High (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium

F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- How does the stakeholder engagement budget support the needs described in the proposal?
- How will the partnership ensure it has the right skills to ensure successful implementation of restoration projects described in the work plan?
- How will the partnership measure success over a large geography and set of restoration actions?
- The work plan is complex with a variety of oak habitats over a broad geography and with many private landowners. Does the partnership feel that the work plan scale is achievable?
- The proposal discusses permit and burn windows as challenges. How will these challenges be addressed?

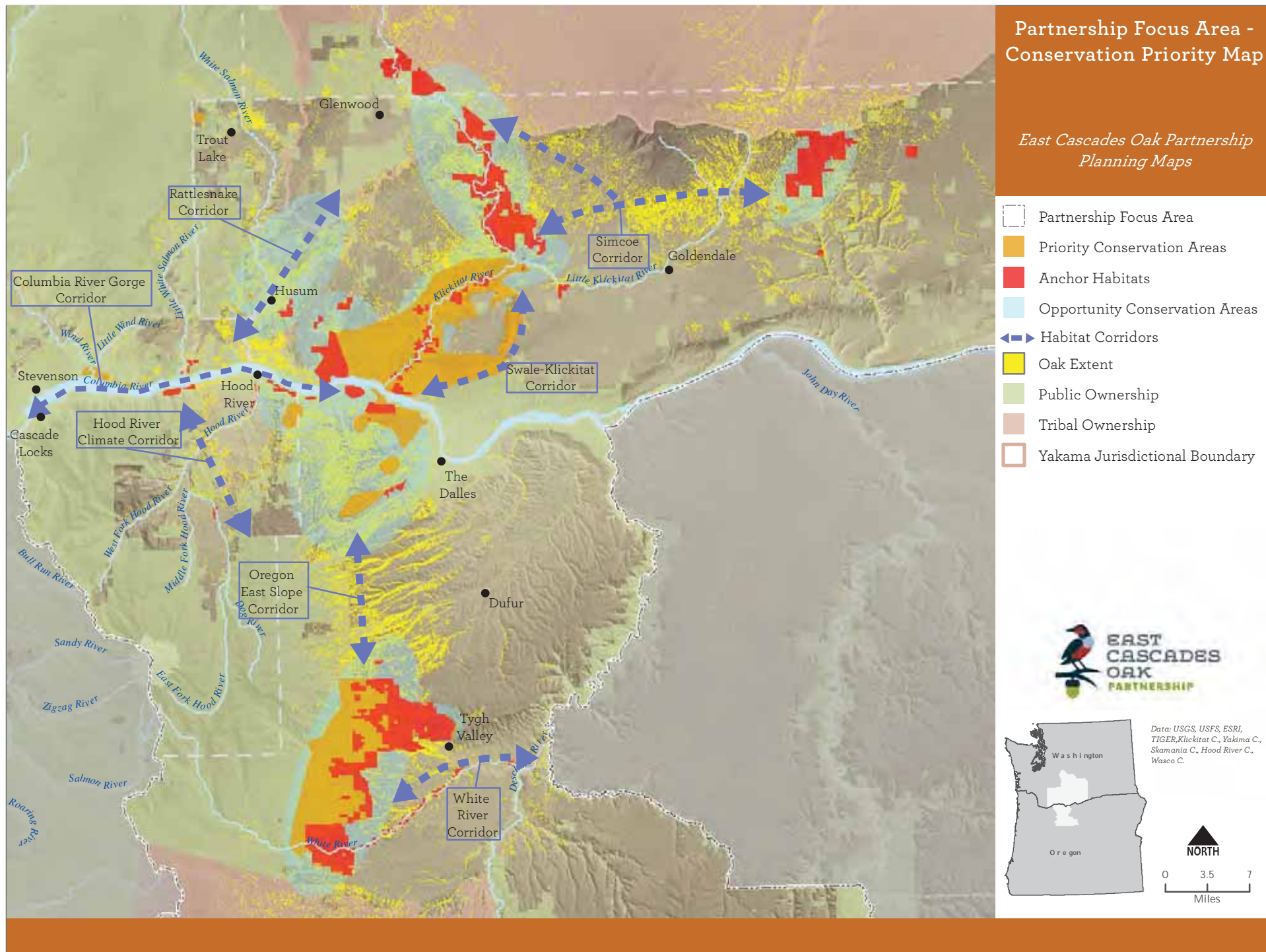
[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet



FIP Priority Review: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Name of Initiative: Oak and Fire: Restoring Resilience in the East Cascades

Name of Partnership: East Cascades Oak Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has a clearly defined leader and has allocated a significant amount of funding to partnership technical assistance throughout the life of the FIP.
- The partnership has a detailed strategic action plan (SAP) and well-developed governance documents, including a clearly described decision-making process.
- The partnership completed extensive stakeholder engagement during the development of the SAP, including engagement with the ranching community to develop an understanding of their needs and how they manage the land.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership has identified sources of match; however, it is not clear if all the sources are secured or will align with proposed ecological objectives and OWEB's grant programs.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates the partnership has a clear leader and well-developed governance documents, that include information on partnership membership and the decision-making process.
- The proposal demonstrates the partnership has spent a significant amount of time planning and coordinating and has a clear vision of what they want to achieve within the FIP initiative.

- The partnership is inclusive of most local partners, including local government and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership has significant technical expertise related to oak habitat and experience with planning, monitoring and acquisition. However, the partnership has limited experience with restoration project implementation and would benefit from additional partners with implementation experience.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates a clear plan to incorporate existing baseline oak habitat distribution data to inform where to work and track changes over time.
- Partners have developed and started to implement a monitoring approach to establish plots and collect pre-treatment data. This will allow them to ground-truth the different model results of oak distribution.
- Given limited information about oak-dependent wildlife species, partners will evaluate the need for a checklist or species monitoring module to help build information about at-risk and/or culturally important species.
- The partnership indicates it is interested in applying a shared understanding of oak systems and the people interacting with them in an adaptive management process.
- The partnership developed separate results chains for a variety of strategies to restore East Cascade Oak Systems. These are described in detail in the partnership's Strategic Action Plan.
- The partnership's approach to identify which priority projects to implement is clearly described and grounded in an understanding of the geography and ecology.
- The proposal demonstrates a thorough understanding of limiting factors and barriers.
- The project pipeline and restoration trajectory appear logical, including the approach to tackle "low-hanging fruit" projects before moving on to more challenging projects.
- The partnership hired a landscape historian and has engaged with tribal elders to better understand the geography's historical context.
- The proposal strongly emphasizes the social aspect of the initiative and recognition of the presence of people in these ecosystems. The proposal clearly describes the human component and the importance of developing a social license for prescribed burning and reintroduction of fire into this system.

- There is a meaningful tribal partnership described in the proposal. The tribes are not only a partner, they are engaged in active restoration.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal does not contain a signed Memorandum of Understanding or charter for the partnership.
- The work plan is complex with different types of restoration in different oak habitats and works with private landowners over a large, geographically diverse landscape. It is unclear if the proposal is scaled to those complexities and whether it can be accomplished.
- The grazing results chain focuses on changing rancher's behaviors but is not clear what conservation actions will be implemented.
- While the Strategic Action Plan clearly describes the theory of change, the conservation actions described in the proposal were general and somewhat unclear.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- While the partnership does not have a final monitoring plan, they have completed a current conditions assessment and have baseline data to compare outcomes of restoration actions.
- The partnership was awarded a technical assistance grant from OWEB that will help them complete a monitoring plan by mid-2023.
- The partnership developed a monitoring tool that standardized how partners collect data in the oak landscape.
- The proposal identifies the metrics to be measured and used to inform adaptive management, despite no formal monitoring plan.
- The partnership includes the right members with the capacity and expertise to complete a monitoring plan for this work.
- The implementation results and outcomes matrix in the proposal are very well presented.
- The partnership has identified a dedicated entity for data management.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal does not clearly identify the ecological outcome indicator/metrics they will use to track the initiative's progress.
- It is not clear how the monitoring of ecological outcomes will be prioritized over the life of the initiative.

- The proposal lacks details on how current or future data collection will be managed.
- It is not clear if the GIS database described in the proposal is developed.
- The work plan for biennium 1 describes many restoration and monitoring actions, but the monitoring plan will not be complete until biennium 2.
- The proposal would benefit from a greater description of how the proposed actions will benefit species.
- The size of the geography and the goals around increasing connectivity may be difficult to measure. Some of the areas are a great distance from each other.
- Not having a completed monitoring plan makes it difficult to evaluate its merits.
- The partnership has done extensive planning and engagement, but they do not have much experience with restoration implementation.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The strategic action plan is based on strong science and the partnership has helped to develop the body of knowledge.
- The partnership has used sophisticated geospatial tools to develop the strategic action plan and identify projects.
- The partnership has consulted with expert entities, including a landscape historian and tribal elders to understand the history of the geography.
- The proposal includes a description of climate impacts that incorporate observational information. It also includes climate envelope modeling and other statistical modeling.
- The proposal presents a detailed list of actions describing how the partnership will respond to climate impacts. These include the use of spatial models; the exploration of restoration methodologies; and the work to remove barriers to the use of prescribed burns. The actions include objectives to gather and utilize public engagement.
- The proposal provides a thorough description of the gap in baseline information about oak landscapes in East Cascades. The description included with this response puts the initiative's plan to explore prescribed burn associations in realistic context. The proposal notes how their efforts could ultimately facilitate the use of prescribed fire under changing public sentiment (concerns about air quality, liability).

CONCERNS:

- The proposal discusses permits and burn windows as challenges but does not describe how these challenges will be addressed.

- The species list in the proposal is incorrect. Several sub-species listed are not present in the geography.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal includes a variety of grant types.
- The allocation of funds between grant types is appropriate given the actions proposed through the three biennia.
- The proposal clearly outlines the strategy of their work plan, the grant types, and the timeline for project implementation.
- The budget includes a diversity of match types that amount to almost 180% of the funding request.
- There are a diversity of partners to complete restoration actions.

CONCERNS:

- While the budget includes significant match funding, the majority is associated with restoration actions. It is unclear if all sources of match funding are secure.
- A large portion of funding goes to support a single entity. This may prove a challenge if this entity is unable to continue in its role.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Habitat Restoration for Oregon Coast Coho Recovery in the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Basins

2. **Name of Partnership:** Siuslaw Coho Partnership

3. **Application Number:** 223-8222-20126

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

5. **Initiative Abstract (from the application)**

This initiative builds off of more than two decades of collaboration among our partner members including: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Bureau of Land Management, Siuslaw National Forest, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the McKenzie River Trust.

With implementation funding, the Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) will (1) implement projects outlined in our initiative which will promote the conservation and recovery of Oregon Coast coho through voluntary habitat protection and restoration efforts; (2) build the capacity of the partnership; (3) provide technical assistance for project development; (4) allow us to engage with stakeholders for watershed restoration initiatives and (5) allow the SCP to monitor the effectiveness of our efforts.

Our ecological outcomes include (1) an increase in the quantity and quality of summer and winter rearing habitats in the initiative geography sufficient to anchor population resilience and (2) a connected assemblage of diverse habitats sufficient to foster a broad expression of life-history strategies in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes Oregon Coast coho populations, an OWEB board-approved priority.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$4,000,000	\$6,771,080
Biennium 2	\$4,000,000	\$3,023,923
Biennium 3	\$4,000,000	\$2,768,002
Total	\$12,000,000	\$12,563,005

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:**

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- It appears that the Partnership paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff turnover. Describe the Partnership's capacity coming into the FIP and the plan for potential staff turnover during the initiative.
- Describe the partnership's engagement with large industrial forestry landowners and the Oregon Department of Forestry. Could their omission from the partnership impact the ability to achieve proposed ecological outcomes?
- Describe how warm water fish in Triangle Lake might impact projects in the area and the Partnership's plan to address potential impacts.
- What percentage of the geography in this proposal is on public land versus private land?
- The monitoring strategy is focused on project scale monitoring. How will landscape-scale impacts be monitored to better understand the impact of the initiative as a whole?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

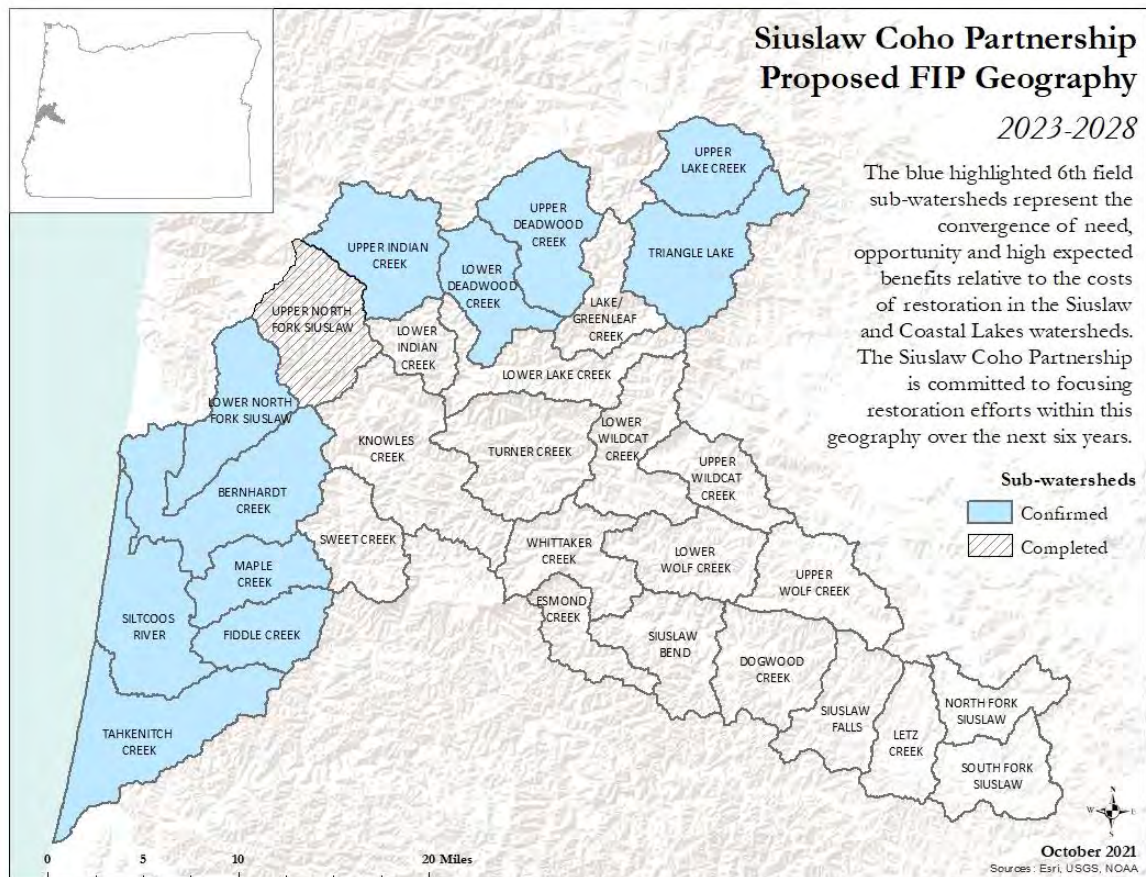
10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Color Maps of Siuslaw Coho Partnership Proposed FIP Geography, 2023-2028

The following section includes color maps of the proposed FIP geography for the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes basins. The first map depicts an overview of the 11 priority sub-watersheds for the next six years (2023-2028), and the following maps depict proposed conservation actions in the sub-watersheds. The sub-watersheds include: Maple Creek, Fiddle Creek, Siltcoos Lake, Tahkenitch Lake, Lower North Fork Siuslaw River, Bernhardt Creek, Lower Deadwood Creek, Upper Deadwood Creek, Upper Indian Creek, Triangle Lake, Upper Lake Creek.



FIP Priority Review: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Name of Initiative: Habitat Restoration for Oregon Coast Coho Recovery in the Siuslaw River and Coastal Lakes Basins

Name of Partnership: Siuslaw Coho Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership worked with a consultant to build awareness of the social limiting factors associated with the FIP ecological objectives. They have used the information to develop an outreach strategy to engage the community.
- The proposed work plan demonstrates the partnership as thoughtful about each partner's strengths and distributes the work of the FIP among the partners. This increases the partnership's ability to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.
- The Siuslaw Watershed Council, the convener of the partnership, is known for having diverse representation from within the watershed community and as being an organization that welcomes and listens to diverse voices.
- The partnership has a long history of securing funding from multiple sources, including private foundations and federal sources.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership experienced capacity issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, with staff turnover and lack of partnership coordination. The partnership is still working to fill all the necessary staff positions at the core partner organizations. It is necessary to have the capacity to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership includes the right organizations to achieve the proposed ecological objectives and the partners have a long history of working collaboratively on outreach, planning and project implementation.
- The inclusion of McKenzie River Trust and its recent staffing expansion to the coast ensure that the partnership has the necessary skills to achieve the initiative's land acquisition goals.
- The partnership conducted extensive community engagement during the development of the SAP and included diverse landowner interests.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership has minimal engagement with large industrial forestry landowners and Oregon Department of Forestry is not listed as a partner. These two omissions leave a gap in the partnership which could impact their ability to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal describes a well-thought-out restoration strategy and prioritization framework.
- The initiative focuses on a stronghold approach to prioritize projects in areas that are well-functioning or could be well-functioning with strategic restoration rather than focus on areas that need extensive resources to restore ecological function.
- The proposal clearly describes strategies to address limiting factors for various habitat type, including increasing channel complexity, installing large wood, and implementing riparian treatments.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal appears to be focused on government entities and would benefit from additional detail on how non-governmental organizations, local communities, and landowners are engaged.
- While the proposal discussed temperature, it would have benefited from additional description of temperature through a climate lens in this geography. The NorWEST temperature predictions that are used in the proposal, have significant limitations. It

is unclear whether the initiative's proposed work focuses on areas that will be more resilient to temperature limitations in the future.

- There is uncertainty about the expected outcomes from the Stage 0 and Stage 8 work. The proposal would benefit from additional description of the resources going toward projects with predictable outcomes versus those with less predictable outcomes and how they come together to achieve ecological uplift.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- There is uncertainty around fish passage at Triangle Lake. While this could be a good place to invest in restoration actions, the proposal does not provide clarity on the fish passage issues and makes it difficult to determine if it makes sense to invest in projects upstream of Triangle Lake at this time.
- It is unclear how warm water fish in Triangle Lake might impact the recovery of native fish following restoration actions.
- The percentage of the geography that is on public land versus private land is unclear in the proposal.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- Although the monitoring plan is not complete, the proposal clearly articulates how the partnership plans to track the conservation actions being implemented and the ecological outcome indicators they plan to monitor.
- The proposal also describes their plan to establish a monitoring committee and appoint a monitoring coordinator and QA officer for this initiative.
- The partnership's Theory of Change clearly links the initiative's restoration strategies to the desired conservation outputs and near, mid, and long-term ecological outcomes.
- The partnership has a current monitoring grant that funds water quality monitoring in their FIP geography.
- The proposal thoroughly describes ample baseline data currently collected and/or committed to be collected that will allow for the impacts of restoration actions to be understood.
- The partners engaged in the US Forest Service process for building programmatic monitoring for Stage 0/Stage 8 restoration. This initiative provides further opportunity to see how these projects play out in a coastal environment.

CONCERNS:

- While the proposal described project-scale monitoring and referenced some larger-scale monitoring projects, there does not appear to be monitoring of landscape-scale impacts or discussion of how they plan to apply their monitoring results in an adaptive management framework to inform future conservation and monitoring actions.

- The proposal lacks detail on how data will be managed. Without a completed monitoring plan it is difficult to evaluate the partnership's ability to track progress.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The proposal focuses on warm summer temperatures, but would benefit from thinking more broadly about temperature monitoring and the seasonality of temperature.

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership developed their strategic action plan through the Coho Business Plan process. This was a rigorous planning effort that spanned many years.
- The partnership utilized a combination of Netmap/Landscape Ecology, Modeling and Mapping Analysis modeling, anchor habitats, stronghold approach, and best professional judgment to determine their proposed geographic focus.
- The Stage 0/Stage 8 projects are built on good science and provide details that make sense. The Siuslaw Watershed Council has the experience and history of success to implement these types of projects.
- The partnership is working to finalize their theory of change in cooperation with a contractor to assist and refine the visual components.
- The proposal demonstrates an understanding of climate change impacts within the geography. It clearly describes the precipitation and hydrologic changes anticipated in the Northwest and the implications of streamflow changes and phenology on coho, including disruption in their life history if they miss cues to begin upstream migration to spawn.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal references various plans, but does not provide direct linkages to key recovery and conservation plans or clearly outline how these planning documents were used to prioritize project work.
- The Theory of Change is not part of their strategic action plan, although it is in draft form.
- The ecological justification for dune grass restoration is not clear as it relates to coho recovery.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership proposes 100% match/leverage.
- The outreach budget for the initiative appears low; however, the partnership has engaged with the community and evolved over time.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal requests the maximum amount of funding each biennium, but it is unclear how they estimated project costs. The proposal would benefit from additional project cost details.
- The majority of the budget categories in the proposal are allocated to all partners, but it seems likely that certain partners are taking the lead role for different grant types. Not differentiating partners in the budget makes it difficult to understand distinct partner roles.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The budget dedicated to outreach is small, but the proposal indicates that landowner outreach is an important barrier to success of the initiative. It is unclear if the budget is truly reflective of the outreach need. In particular, acquisition projects can take significant outreach time. The proposal would benefit from additional description of the landowner outreach that has already occurred.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Restoring Resilience in Two Estuaries
2. **Name of Partnership:** Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative (OCCEC)
3. **Application Number:** 223-8223-20127
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

5. Initiative Abstract (from the application)

Coastal Estuaries are a FIP priority because they are highly productive, diverse, and provide ecosystem services crucial to people and nature. Connecting forested uplands to the ocean, estuaries play a unique role, influencing landscape function across multiple habitats. Coastal resiliency to sea level rise depends upon conserving our estuaries through protection and restoration of key ecological processes and functions including hydrological connectivity, nutrient cycling and sediment transport.

The Yaquina and Alsea estuaries have lost over 90% of their tidal swamps and significant amounts of other types of tidal wetlands. Correcting decades of degradation can be daunting, but a diverse team of Core Partners have committed to working on the priority projects identified. They come from these organizations: MidCoast Watersheds Council, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, The Wetlands Conservancy, McKenzie River Trust, Ducks Unlimited, Fred M. VanEck Forest Foundation, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, ODFW, Lincoln SWCD, USFWS, BLM, and USFS.

FIP funding will help achieve OCCEC's ecological outcomes in the Alsea and Yaquina estuaries: restoring the percentage of functional tidal wetlands through restoration (900 acres), protecting current tidal swamps and landward migration zones (100+ acres), and protecting with conservation ownerships or easements 400+ acres to allow for future restoration.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$1,523,000	\$1,073,000
Biennium 2	\$3,921,700	\$2,106,000
Biennium 3	\$2,390,250	\$1,791,000
Total	\$7,834,950	\$4,970,000

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High

C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	High (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- How does the Partnership Technical Assistance budget support the partnership and enable it to be successful throughout the course of the initiative?
- How does the stakeholder engagement budget support the partnership to engage with private landowners and achieve the ecological goals of the initiative?
- Some of the partnering organizations have experienced significant staff turnover during the last few years. Describe how the partnership will address potential staff turnover during the course of the initiative.
- The success of restoration outcomes relies on negotiation of land acquisition. Given the complexities and uncertainties around land acquisition, describe why the partnership feels confident that it will achieve the ecological objectives described in the proposal.
- The monitoring strategy is focused on site and project-specific monitoring. Has the partnership considered conducting status and trends monitoring to better understand the impact of the initiative as a whole?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

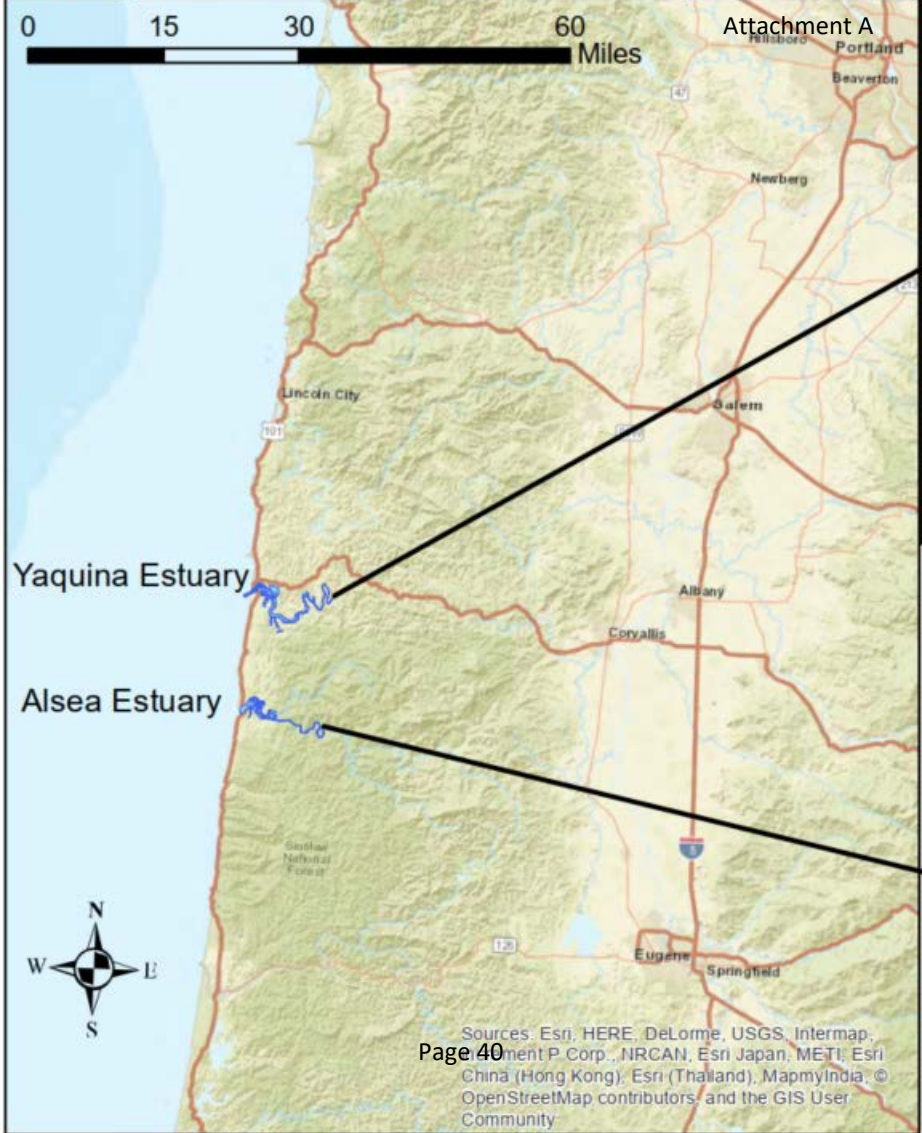
9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

0 15 30 60 Miles



Yaquina Estuary

Alsea Estuary



Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap,
ment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri
China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), MapmyIndia, ©
OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User
Community

FIP Priority Review: Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Name of Initiative: Restoring Resilience to Two Estuaries

Name of Partnership: Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative (OCCEC)

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has worked with a consultant to develop a financial plan to identify state, federal and private sources of funding to support the proposed ecological outcomes identified in the FIP proposal.
- The partnership has actively engaged stakeholders and added new key members to the partnership.
- The focused approach proposed by the partnership in this FIP initiative increases the partnership's ability to work collaboratively and achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.
- The partnership has identified a leader, who has a successful track record working with OWEB.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership proposes a limited amount of funding dedicated to partnership technical assistance and does not clearly describe how the funding will be used to support the capacity of the partnership throughout the life of the FIP.
- Though the partnership has a history of successful stakeholder engagement, the proposal did not provide detail on how the partnership would engage stakeholders within the FIP geography—this is necessary to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes of the initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership developed comprehensive governance documents that include a clear decision-making process. The partners used those documents to guide the initiative development, make decisions, and prioritize projects.

- The partners worked collaboratively on this initiative since 2016 and were able to maintain momentum and make critical decisions regarding the initiative's priorities during the pandemic— this demonstrates a committed and resilient partnership.
- The partnership is composed of natural resource professionals and technical experts that have the expertise necessary to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes. The inclusion of the Siletz Tribe in the partnership brings significant estuary expertise which will help the partnership achieves its proposed ecological outcomes.

CONCERNS:

- Some of the partnering organizations have experienced significant staff turnover during the last few years, this can cause challenges for the partnership.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates a deep understanding of well-quantified historical conditions.
- The initiative's work plan clearly describes each project in detail (acreage, cost, geography, and narrative) and ties actions to the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- The proposed initiative builds on a long legacy of planning, particularly in the Yaquina estuary.
- The proposal incorporates feedback received in the previous FIP proposal and builds off identified strengths.
- Coordination with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians is well-articulated and tied to ecological outcomes that are relevant to the Tribe.
- The proposal clearly identifies potential challenges to the initiative as well as strategies to address these challenges.
- Given the challenges associated with land acquisition projects, the acreage goals appear to be appropriately sized to the initiative.
- The proposal describes how the initiative will build habitat restoration capacity in the region that could catalyze additional ecological uplift.

CONCERNS:

- The success of restoration outcomes relies on negotiation of land acquisitions, which can be complex and uncertain.
- It appears that restoration occurs around the fringes of the geography and that the initiative may not be able to address big ecological issues such as invasive species like eel grass, green crab, etc.

- If the tide gate removal projects trigger certain regulatory authorities (e.g. US Army Corps of Engineers Section 408 review) projects could be delayed or derailed.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal references multiple recovery, conservation, and other key plans to understand the existing baseline data and the actions and areas that the initiative targets for restoration.
- The partnership plans to collect a variety of baseline data at least one year prior to project implementation for a variety of metrics to track progress and understand if they are increasing the functional hydrologic connectivity in historic tidal wetlands.
- The proposal describes a process for the partnership to track their restoration actions to compare conservation outputs to existing data and calculate progress toward meeting restoration goals as a percentage of current and historical tidal marsh and swamp.
- The partnership has established a monitoring subcommittee and drafted a monitoring framework that is intended to help develop site-specific restoration monitoring plans in the future. For each project, the monitoring team will submit a monitoring plan to the partnership prior to project implementation.
- The partnership plans to produce annual progress reports that will summarize monitoring results. They also plan to meet annually to review interim monitoring data results and discuss any changes in action implementation and lessons learned.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal describes a 5-year interval for monitoring. This interval may not be frequent enough over the life of the FIP to result in a meaningful measure of change.
- Federal and state agencies and researchers who conduct studies in these geographies do not appear to be included on the monitoring committee. The partnership would be well-served by engaging these experts.
- The monitoring strategy appears to be focused on site and project-specific monitoring as opposed to status and trends. This may limit the ability of the partners to understand the impact of the initiative as a whole.
- The Theory of Change does not describe limiting factors or make a clear link to the restoration actions that will be implemented to address them. It also does not include a connection to the metrics they plan to monitor in their draft monitoring framework.
- There appears to be inconsistencies in the ecological outcome metrics listed in the draft monitoring framework, the strategic action plan, and the proposal.

- The proposal does not clearly describe how the monitoring or implementation data will be managed to track goals over time.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership refined their geography and appears to work strategically in high-priority geographies.
- The proposal references numerous planning documents to support their work, including references to climate change considerations.
- The emphasis on projects that are “low-hanging fruit” seem appropriate given the complex nature of estuarine projects.
- The proposal clearly incorporates climate considerations and describes the implications for sea-level rise (one of the key limiting factors described in the OWEB Priority Memo for Coastal Estuaries). The proposal describes how restoration activities for tidal wetlands will ameliorate these impacts.
- The proposal is closely tied to the Oregon Conservation Strategy and includes recommendations from the Oregon Global Warming Commission’s 2021 recommendation for a carbon sequestration goal.

CONCERNS:

- Large sections of the coast are hardened (rip-rapped). The challenges associated with this are not well-addressed in the proposal.
- Although the proposal indicates that the partnership and initiative are focused on enhancing the resilience of estuarine habitats in the face of climate change, the proposal does not provide details or refer to how this happens.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposed budget allocates funds to a diversity of partners.

CONCERNS:

- The budget for monitoring appears low given the scope of proposed work and the complexities of the ecology within the proposed geography.

- The investment in partnership capacity may not be adequate to complete the work outlined in the work plan.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Oregon Model to Project Sage-Grouse, All Counties Phase II
2. **Name of Partnership:** Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee
3. **Application Number:** 223-8224-20128
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat
5. **Initiative Abstract (from the application)**

The Oregon All Counties Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Steering Committee (Partnership), includes the following core partners: Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Harney SWCD, Lakeview SWCD, Malheur County SWCD, Baker County's Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and private landowners from each county. The Partnership's primary ecological outcome includes strategically planning and implementing conservation treatments on a landscape scale to restore Oregon's private rangeland sagebrush-steppe rangelands and to ultimately restore ecological health and increase sage-grouse populations. The Partnership conducts its work through the framework of six Programmatic CCAAs which are formal agreements with USFWS. Under the Programmatic CCAAs, the Partnership engages private landowners in voluntary conservation actions in exchange for certain assurances should sage-grouse be listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). After six years of planning and implementation success, the Partnership seeks additional FIP funding to achieve long term goals outlined in the *Oregon All Counties Steering Committee Strategic Action Plan* (SAP, OACSC updated 2021) and fulfill capacity needs critical to our success.

The Partnership will implement the following actions:

- 1) Reduce wildfire risk,
- 2) Treat invasive annual grasses/noxious weeds and augment understory vegetation,
- 3) Address juniper/conifer encroachment,
- 4) Improve grazing management strategies,
- 5) Plan and implement actions to connect fragmented habitat, and
- 6) Enhance mesic habitat.

Our goals are directly aligned with the OWEB board-approved "Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat" priority because our: geography is located within high priority areas identified by each county and connects to other sage-grouse "strongholds" within the focal planning area; actions address the primary ecological threats to sagebrush habitats; and the SAP is designed to improve ecosystem function specifically for sage-grouse.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$4,000,000	\$3,000,000
Biennium 2	\$4,000,000	\$3,000,000
Biennium 3	\$4,000,000	\$3,000,000

Total	\$12,000,000	\$9,000,000
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7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	High (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	High (-)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- The proposal notes that the core partners will split FIP funding equally. Does this lead to challenges in prioritizing land for restoration and conservation purposes? In addition, what will happen if one partner struggles to implement the initiative?
- Is the nature of the partnership collaborative? Or has the partnership developed a collective plan for work and funding, and is working separately to implement conservation practices that benefit sage-grouse?
- How does the partnership see their efforts in light of climate change, catastrophic wildfire, and invasive annual grasses? Can their conservation efforts keep up with deteriorating conditions on the landscape?
- How will the partnership know if their activities result in a positive response from sage-grouse?
- Discuss how you can share specific conservation successes and challenges within the initiative if the location of certain activities is kept confidential?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

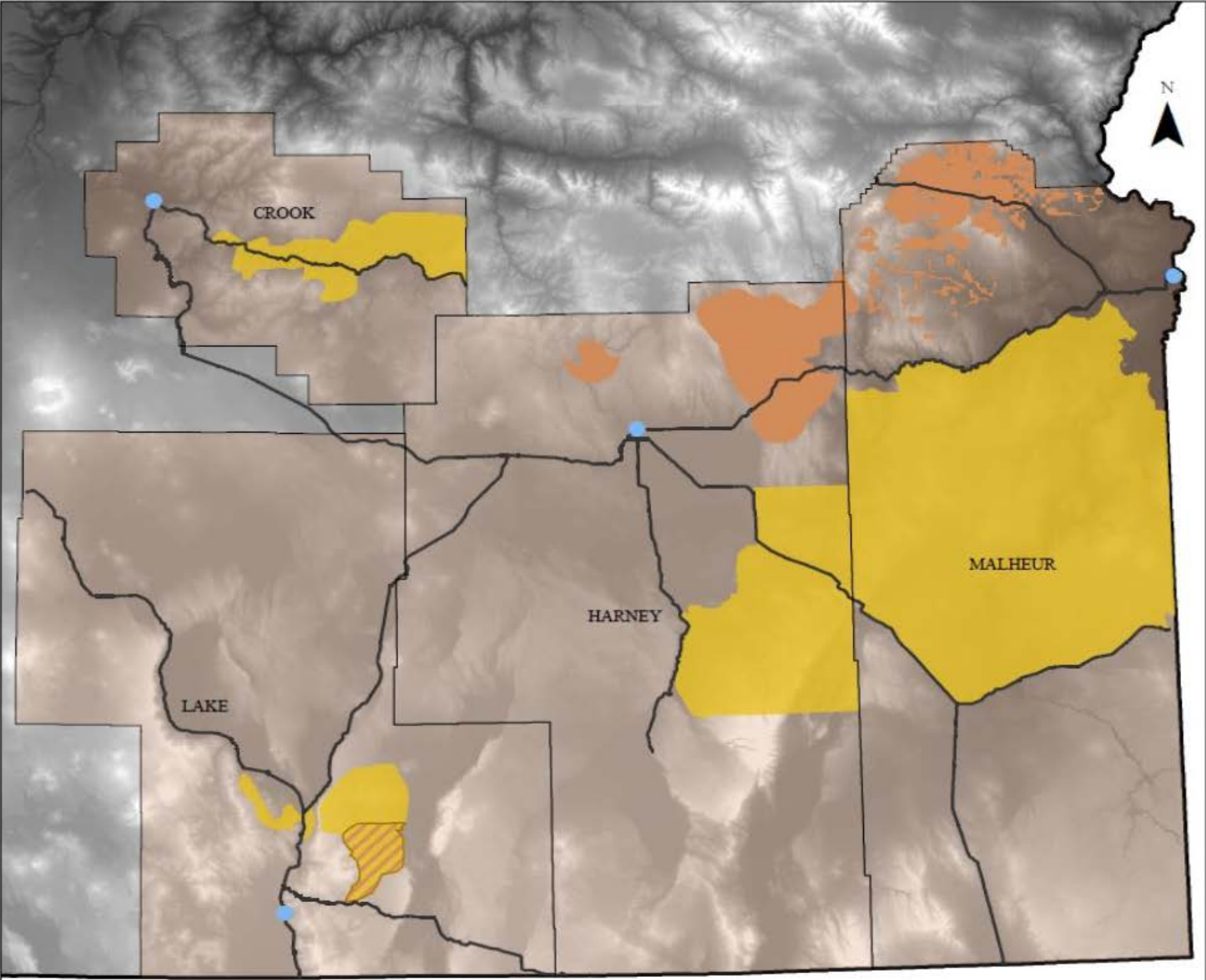
9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

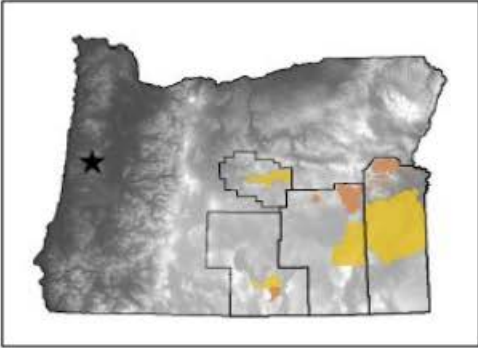
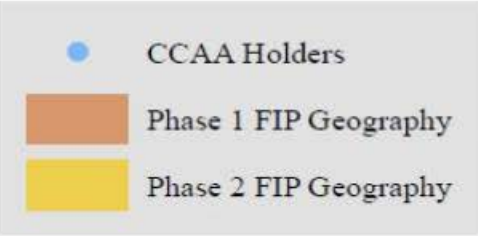
Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Figure 2: FIP Focal Area Geography.



Oregon All County
CCAA Steering
Committee Initiative



FIP Priority Review: Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Name of Initiative: Oregon Model to Project Sage-Grouse, All Counties Phase II

Name of Partnership: Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal covers a large geographic area and partners coordinate with landowners and the appropriate federal agencies to achieve landscape-scale outcomes.
- The proposal demonstrates the partnership has a plan for catalyzing additional funding opportunities, and the funding would help achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.

CONCERNS:

- It is unclear from the proposal how the partnership makes funding decisions. It appears that funding is equally distributed across all the partners engaged in the proposal, which does not demonstrate prioritization of projects or strategic planning.
- The proposal does not clearly describe the roles and responsibilities of the partners, including how collaboration and coordination occurs across the initiative's large geography.
- The proposal lists community partners but lacks detail on how those community partners will be engaged in the initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- Through their previously awarded FIP initiative, the partnership has clearly demonstrated the ability to implement conservation measures in core sage-grouse habitat.
- The composition of the partnership supports the proposed ecological outcomes of the FIP initiative.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership has a very basic governance document, which does not address changes in partnership leadership or turnover at partner organizations. This could limit the ability of the partnership to successfully collaborate and achieve the proposed ecological outcomes over the course of the initiative.
- Due to the nature of the work and agreements in place, this is a small partnership that works on very specific deliverables related to sage-grouse conservation. It is not clear from the proposal if this is a truly collaborative partnership, or a group of organizations with a collective plan and funding that work separately to achieve ecological outcomes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership works with an incentive program, Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA), to enter into 30-year agreements between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and private landowners where land is managed to reduce threats to sage-grouse. In return for managing their land to benefit sage-grouse, landowners receive assurances against regulatory requirements if the sage-grouse is listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.
- CCAs are an appropriate vehicle that help assure out-year management on land that has undergone publicly funded restoration actions.
- The partnership seeks to build on the successes achieved during their previously awarded FIP initiative which saw them meet and exceed ecological outputs related to juniper control and invasive annual grass treatments amongst other activities.
- The partnership engages partners with technical expertise to help them achieve success at a landscape level.
- Through the CCAA process, site specific planning with landowners occurs, which creates durable products for long-term private lands conservation.
- Landowner interest in the CCAA program is high, as demonstrated by numerous letters of intent for landowners to enroll 160,000 acres in the program.

CONCERNS:

- In an era of changing climate and catastrophic wildfire, sage-grouse habitat conditions may be deteriorating faster than restoration and conservation efforts can keep up.
- Success of the proposed treatments depends on restoring vast landscapes of public and private land. A patchwork of restoration may have limited long-term benefits if

invasive annual grasses continue to proliferate across the range and move into previously restored areas.

- Within the focus areas of the proposed initiative, the partnership intends to prioritize work where prior restoration efforts have occurred; however, it is unclear what the partners would do with a landowner who is interested in the CCAA program and has property in a low priority area for sage-grouse conservation.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Staff capacity is a limiting factor. The initiative covers a large geographic area, and it is challenging to secure sufficient long-term funding for qualified staff.
- Landowner confidentiality within the CCAA program makes it a challenge to share relevant location information with funders and partners.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership developed an effective data collection and management system that features the use of field tablets, a database to upload data and photo points, and the ability to have a complete record for each property treated.
- The partnership, in cooperation with USFWS, developed a reporting database for conservation actions implemented through the CCAA program.
- The partnership developed an adaptive management model, informed by the monitoring of previously implemented conservation work.
- Site-specific monitoring that occurs at the pasture level can be rolled up to whole CCAA scale and into sage-grouse reporting units. Monitoring data also feeds into larger USFWS efforts and can be integrated with statewide partnership.
- The partnership utilizes a well-vetted, threats-based matrix to plan conservation at individual sites.

CONCERNS:

- Much of the monitoring implemented by the partnership is at the project level and may not capture larger landscape trends. Additionally, the partnership often relies on qualitative data (e.g., photo point monitoring), and more quantifiable data would strengthen their monitoring approach.
- It is unclear whether control sites have been established for monitoring purposes. Given the changing landscape over time, a lack of control sites may be problematic.
- With landowner confidentiality issues, it is difficult for those outside the partnership to track the effectiveness of individual treatments. Due to the same confidentiality issues, it is also challenging to place conservation work in context with complementary actions done on federal land.
- The proposal does not describe how the partnership will monitor how sage-grouse respond to the proposed conservation treatments.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.*Rating: High (-)***STRENGTHS:**

- The proposal refers to relevant sage-grouse conservation planning materials, as well as online technical tools that have been developed in recent years.
- The proposed juniper treatment planning is straightforward and accounts for habitat fragmentation and may also reduce catastrophic wildfire risks. Implemented correctly, this will build sagebrush habitat for the future.
- The threats-based model used by the partnership will be deployed every five years at conservation sites, which will allow for collecting data on ecological trends.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal contains some discrepancies on the number of acres that are proposed for invasive annual grass and juniper treatments.
- The proposal references threats from juniper and invasive annual grasses that far exceed the acreage intended to be treated through the initiative. Therefore, it unclear whether the treatments will have a demonstrable impact to sage-grouse populations.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.*Rating: Medium***STRENGTHS:**

- The CCAA program is an appropriate vehicle for multiyear management of sage-grouse conservation on private land, with assurances to maintain public investments.
- The proposal identifies the capacity to provide technical assistance and monitoring as a limiting factor and allocates funding for the important positions to carry out this work.

CONCERNS:

- There is inconsistency in the match/leverage figures used throughout the proposal.
- It is unclear how BLM match funding will be allocated within the three BLM districts covered in the initiative geography.
- The budget over the life of the initiative is uniform for each biennium. This indicates that the partners may not have taken the long-term evolution of grant needs into consideration.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Salmon SuperHwy Native Fish Habitat Reconnection
2. **Name of Partnership:** Salmon SuperHwy Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 223-8255-20129
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
5. **Initiative Abstract (from the application)**

The Salmon SuperHwy (SALMON SUPERHWY) partnership is an effective team of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations working together to restore fish passage at high priority man-made barriers and reconnect **Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish** in the Tillamook, Nestucca, and Sand Lake watersheds. Core partners include USDA Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Tillamook County, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, Nestucca Neskowin Sand Lake Watersheds Council, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Oregon Department of Transportation.

In addition to providing valuable social and economic outcomes, the SALMON SUPERHWY is working to achieve the following ecological outcomes.

- Native fish will have unobstructed access into at least 95% of their historic habitat.
- Improved river and stream connectivity will enhance watershed and habitat forming processes, including downstream transport of essential flows, sediment, and wood and free movement of anadromous fish and other aquatic organisms.

Building on the momentum of several successful years of project implementation, the partnership will use FIP funding to increase the leveraging of resources and accelerate the pace of project implementation to bring the program to successful completion, full reconnection of 180 miles of priority fish habitat.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$3,000,000	\$5,588,800
Biennium 2	\$3,153,000	\$18,221,000
Biennium 3	\$3,153,000	\$12,807,000
Total	\$9,306,000	\$35,616,800

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- What outreach has been done to tribes or NOAA fisheries to engage them in the partnership?
- Many of the proposal's identified fish passage barriers along the Salmon SuperHwy are partial barriers. How does the partnership evaluate the ecological benefits vs cost to replace partial barriers?
- How was the threshold to restore passage to 95% of historic habitat determined as the optimal threshold?
- The application describes ecological benefits to fish passage. What ecological benefits beyond restoring passage are gained by implementing these passage projects?
- When it is down to the last few prioritized projects, there isn't the ability to move further down the list to the next willing landowner. How would the partnership adjust the project priority list if some landowners do not agree to a project?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

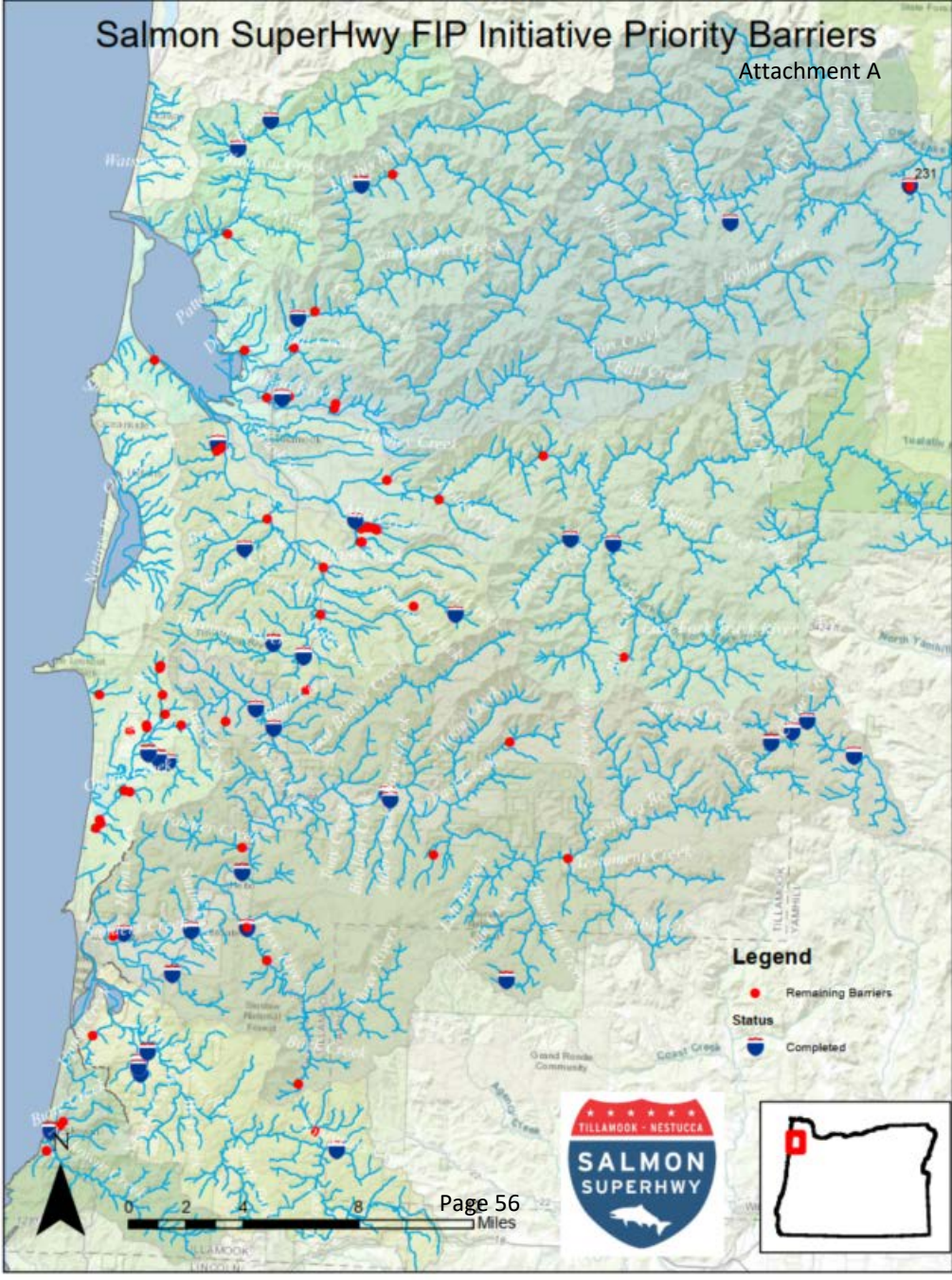
10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Salmon SuperHwy FIP Initiative Priority Barriers

Attachment A



FIP Priority Review: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Name of Initiative: Salmon SuperHwy Native Fish Habitat Reconnection

Name of Partnership: Salmon SuperHwy Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has developed and implemented a fundraising plan, which includes private fundraising, and has a history of success in receiving funding from both public and private sources.
- The partnership has a communication strategy and has been successful in using the strategy to tell the story of their work.
- The actions proposed in the FIP work plan are distributed among the different partners, resulting in engagement across project partners at all levels of the partnership.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership's reliance on one organization for coordination might impact the resiliency of the partnership if there is turnover within the organization; however, since the implementation of projects is spread among the partners it is likely that turnover would not impact the partnership's ability to achieve the proposed ecological objectives.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Initiative includes desired social outcomes and partners have a successful community outreach strategy, including local business support and an engaging website.
- Before COVID, the partners regularly led project site tours, it would be nice to see these restarted when safely possible.

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partners have been collaborating for more than a decade, have developed a detailed project prioritization plan, and have a decision-making structure to address operational issues and shared financial resources.
- The application clearly describes the roles and responsibilities of core partners, and partners have the right expertise to successfully achieve the proposed ecological objectives.
- The application clearly describes the partnership's plan if turnover occurs from within the core partners.

CONCERNS:

- Neither tribal governments, private timber owners nor NOAA Fisheries are engaged in the partnership. It is unclear from the proposal how the partnership will engage with these groups in the future.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- Restoring access to 180 miles or 95% of historical habitat for native fish in the regionally significant Tillamook and Nestucca watersheds, would be a noteworthy accomplishment and has a high likelihood of being achieved within the FIP timeframe.
- The project benefits all coastal salmonid species, including ESA-listed species. and Pacific lamprey.
- The partnership's prioritization methodology considers habitat benefits and project cost.
- The proposed fish passage work has the potential to benefit/complement other restoration efforts in the region.
- The application describes how climate-resilient infrastructure benefits fish passage, minimizes aquatic species vulnerability to catastrophic events (e.g., ability to migrate further upstream during warm water periods), and improves road safety for drivers.
- The application provides a good explanation of the proposed initiative's benefits to infrastructure/aquatic species to mitigate for climate change impacts by upsizing replacement structures.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership demonstrates an approach to achieve conservation outputs that support the proposed ecological outcomes; however, partners have, or soon will have, implemented 51 of the 93 priority projects and reconnected 129 miles of the 180 miles of prioritized habitat. Achieving the initiative's goal to address fish passage at remaining identified barriers is expensive, with diminishing returns at some sites where the available habitat upstream is a fraction of a mile.
- The proposal has a narrow focus on fish passage and does not describe other species that could benefit from these projects.
- The proposal could better describe the ecological benefits achieved through project implementation at partial fish passage barriers and how the partnership's prioritization method evaluates partial barriers.
- The application does not demonstrate how barrier removal alone restores channel process and function and lacks a description of ecological benefits beyond miles of habitat reconnected.
- There are some unknowns on project feasibility at sites where they cannot get access/landowner support.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) 2019 Statewide Fish Passage Barrier Priority List is not referenced in the application; most of the barriers in the application are not on that list.
- The partnership previously received FIP capacity funding to develop a charter, governance documents, and a process to manage partner turnover.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- Baseline information available from two culvert prioritization plans provide a wealth of control data and information for individual sites.
- The theory of change outlines an adequate approach to monitor the proposed conservation outputs and provides a visual representation of the ecological and economic benefits of the restoration strategy.
- Implementation monitoring is well described in the application, effectiveness monitoring is being conducted via the U.S. Forest Service Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program (AREMP).
- The partnership has a staff person to coordinate monitoring activities and maintain a database that is shared with partners.

CONCERNS:

- Monitoring described in the application does not track ecological outcome indicators beyond fish passage. No objectives or metrics are identified to monitor the

initiative's other objectives: restoration of natural stream processes, tidal connectivity and infrastructure resilience.

- The application lacks a description of juvenile or adult fish data that could be used to track progress towards meeting ecological outcomes.
- There is no monitoring proposed to track progress towards meeting social and economic indicators identified in the results chain/theory of change.
- The proposal does not describe how the different implementation and monitoring data will be managed, analyzed, and interpreted to ensure it can be used to describe the initiative's progress toward meeting ecological outcomes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates that the proposed initiative is in alignment with relevant management and planning documents.
- The project partnership includes experienced federal staff to provide permitting and project implementation support.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal is unclear on how projects are prioritized beyond being initially identified as one of the 93 targeted projects.
- The proposal does not provide a rationale for why restoring fish passage to 95% of historic habitat is the optimal threshold.
- It is unclear if the partnership intends to replace barriers upstream from barriers where access is not being addressed.
- The proposal lacks an explanation for the ecological benefit of addressing expensive partial fish barriers with limited amounts of upstream habitat.
- The proposal does not provide a scientific basis for the initiative's sole focus on fish passage.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The proposal describes how a 15-year flood event would trigger certain monitoring efforts, however the Strategic Action Plan is ambiguous in stating that the partnership "may" monitor at 15-year flood events. The proposal does not include a rationale for selection of the 15-year flood event as a trigger for this monitoring.
- The Optipass model used by the partnership treats all barriers as full barriers. However, many remaining barriers are partial barriers. Has there been any partnership discussion about the merits of addressing partial barriers?

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partners identify funding as a limiting factor and have developed a fundraising plan that includes multiple sources of potential and secured match.
- ODOT is identified as a partner showing meaningful match, which is appropriate since many of the proposed projects are under ODOT ownership.
- The funding request is targeted and focused on fish passage barriers.

CONCERNS:

- The monitoring budget at \$15,000 per year is very modest even given that the partnership is utilizing the U.S. Forest Service to conduct monitoring via the Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring Program (AREMP).
- The budget for stakeholder engagement in each biennium of the proposal is low, which might impact the partners' community engagement work.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Non-federal funding is needed to leverage potential federal funding that may come through the recent federal infrastructure bill.

1. **Name of Initiative:** Tenmile Lakes Native Fisheries and Water Quality Restoration Plan

2. **Name of Partnership:** Ten Mile Lakes Steering Committee

3. **Application Number:** 223-8216-20120

4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

5. **Initiative Abstract (from the application)**

Initiative partners are: Coos County, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership, Oregon Department of State Lands, Fish and Wildlife, Environmental Quality, City of Lakeside, Wild Rivers Land Trust, Tenmile Lake Association, Willamette Partnership, and Cascade Pacific Resource and Development. The partners overall priority is to restore where possible, natural functions to improve water quality and habitat for native fisheries in the Tenmile Lakes subbasin. Where not possible, implement enhancement actions that work within the land-use to reduce impacts to the watershed. FIP funding will be utilized to: 1) increase the monitoring and analysis capacity of CTCLUSI, 2) landowner outreach, 3) conduct due diligence and purchase two properties, in the Big and Johnson Creek subbasin, totaling 399 acres, 4) Engineer wetland restoration designs and implement on the two acquired properties, 5) transfer title of the two properties to CTCLUSI, 6) Engineer designs and restore 60 acres to Wetland voluntarily with Landowner in the Benson Creek subbasin, and 7) construct 4 miles of exclusion fencing above priority wetlands in the Johnson and Benson subbasins. Funding will address all FIP Coho Habitat priorities and key limiting factors in a high priority coastal Lakes watershed.

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$743,421	\$420,544
Biennium 2	\$1,149,490	\$308,057
Biennium 3	\$1,736,620	\$178,782
Total	\$3,629,531	\$907,383

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:**

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	Medium (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Low (+)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

8. **Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:**

- Describe the partnership’s decision-making process and how the projects listed in the work plan were prioritized.
- The proposed geography includes a significant amount of agricultural land. Describe why an agricultural representative will not be needed to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes of the initiative.
- Describe how the proposed water quality goals also address the concerns around salmon recovery in the initiative geography.
- Describe the wetland upstream restoration actions to be implemented, including their anticipated downstream benefits.
- The budget is weighted heavily on land acquisition. Given the complexities and uncertainties around land acquisition, describe why the partnership feels confident that it will achieve the ecological outcomes described in the proposal.

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

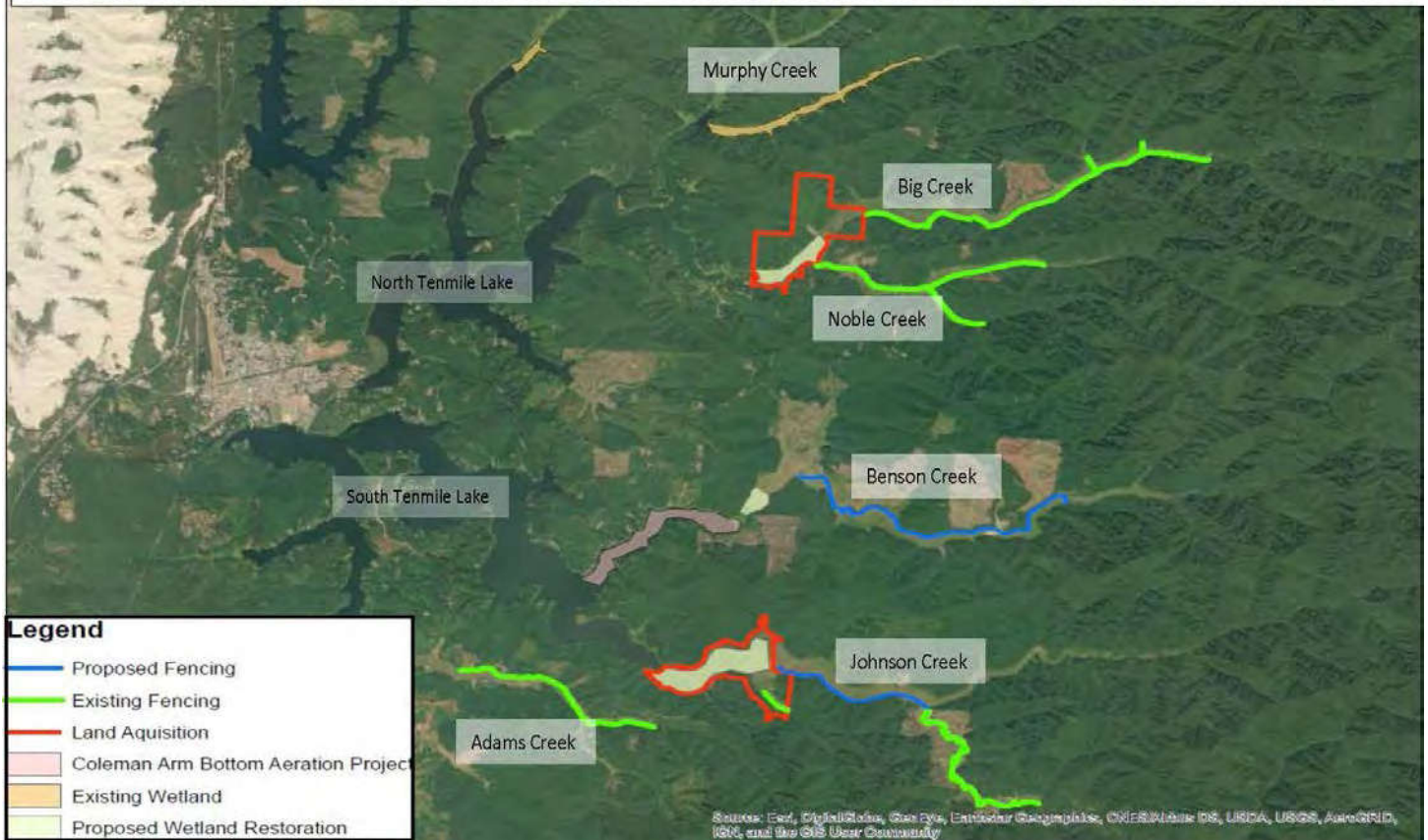
9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Tenmile Lakes Native Fisheries & Water Quality Restoration Project Map, December 2021



FIP Priority Review: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Name of Initiative: Tenmile Lakes Native Fisheries and Water Quality Restoration Plan

Name of Partnership: Tenmile Lakes Steering Committee

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partners demonstrate a strong commitment to the proposed ecological outcomes and have a history of engaging with the community on these complex issues.
- The proposal clearly describes the roles and responsibilities of the partners, and the structure seems appropriate given the community, the partners, and their history of working together.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal does not clearly describe the partnership's decision-making process, including how the projects listed in the work plan were prioritized.
- The partnership did not demonstrate that it has a plan to catalyze additional investments to support the proposed ecological outcomes.
- The proposed FIP geography includes significant agricultural land, specifically around the lake, but the partnership does not include agricultural representatives.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has worked collaboratively for more than 20 years and has demonstrated broad community support, including support and leadership from the County Commissioners and the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.
- The partners have a history of successful collaboration to plan, restore, and monitor projects and share a common vision to address water quality concerns in the FIP geography.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership is missing some local partners, including the Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, and does not explain why these partners are not involved nor does the proposal describe a process to bring on new partners.
- The partnership does not have a history of implementing acquisition projects, which are a significant component of the proposed work plan.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal clearly describes the process to select priority projects given the basin's limiting factors.
- The proposed land acquisition parcels are justified and timely.
- The Tenmile Lakes Basin is relatively small with a focused geography.
- The partnership has a track record of success to implement Open Solicitation grant program projects.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal would benefit from additional detail on the activities to be implemented to restore wetlands.
- The proposal would benefit from additional description of proposed upstream restoration actions and resultant downstream benefits.
- Flow restoration is mentioned in the restoration plan, but not discussed in the proposal.
- The partnership appears to be divided into different teams—not all the teams are represented in this initiative. The proposal would benefit from full participation.
- The proposal states that beaver will return to the area within 5 years of implementation, but it is unclear how that will happen without any active beaver restoration effort.
- The proposal does not clearly describe the proposed restoration activities. This makes it difficult to understand the proposed ecological outcomes including fish outputs and measurable benefits to water quality.
- The proposal did not address non-native predatory fish.
- While the funding to support the pilot project air compressor aeration system is from partner matching funds, the technology as a long-term restoration strategy is a concern.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.*Rating: Low (+)***STRENGTHS:**

- The proposed funding will support a lab technician and monitoring staff.
- While the proposal lacked detail on baseline data, the partnership has a history of monitoring in the watershed and has accumulated baseline data on water chemistry and sediment impacts.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal's description of baseline data is very limited and does not include Tenmile Lake Basin Partnership data collected from 2004 – 2015 with OWEB monitoring grants.
- The proposal did not include a description of fisheries and fish habitat data that Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has collected.
- The shade and habitat objectives described in the proposal do not appear to have a monitoring plan associated with them.
- The Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model used to evaluate the benefits of some of the proposed restoration work may be insufficient. The modeling for dissolved nutrient reduction is uncertain.
- The proposal lists what water quality parameters will be collected, but does not list the metrics that will be calculated.
- There is no monitoring for habitat or invasive/native fish in the FIP proposal that would allow progress tracking towards meeting habitat and fish outcomes described in the proposal.
- The proposal does not describe how data will be analyzed. The proposal states that data will be compared to state standards and to the previous year's data set, but it was not clear if the monitoring sites will be located in proximity to the restoration projects to detect a change, or if each restoration site will have pre—and post—project monitoring.
- There is no information on the monitoring study design to describe if before and after restoration project monitoring data will be collected and how monitoring sites will be located to track restoration actions.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.*Rating: Medium*

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal clearly describes the basis for project selection and proposed restoration areas.
- Placing priority areas under tribal ownership will result in long-term stewardship and long-term planning.

CONCERNS:

- While baseline water quality data was collected, it is unclear whether the parameters are sufficient. The proposal would benefit from additional detail on baseline data.
- One of the partnership's goals is to achieve a specific dissolved oxygen saturation level, but it is unclear if they will collect dissolved oxygen saturation data.
- The proposal does not appear to include collection of secchi disk data, which is important in lake systems.
- Throughout the proposal many different limiting factors were mentioned. This made it unclear if there is a true understanding of the watershed's limiting factors.
- The proposal did not provide technical references to describe the basis for anticipated outcomes.
- The implementation metrics listed in the FIP proposal do not match the Strategic Action Plan's progress monitoring framework.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.*Rating: Medium (+)***STRENGTHS:**

- The partners propose a modest budget with funding dedicated to support monitoring staff.
- Based on the work plan, the budget appears appropriate.
- A low outreach budget reflects landowner engagement and community outreach that partners have already completed and is appropriate for the initiative.
- While the proposal includes significant resources for land acquisition, channel decommissioning work can still be successful and meaningful in the absence of land acquisition.

CONCERNS:

- The budget is weighted heavily on land acquisition. If the partners are unable to complete the property transactions, it may limit the success of the Initiative.
- While a lab technician and monitoring staff will be hired as part of this Initiative, it is unclear if the partnership has the technical capacity to analyze and interpret the data needed to measure progress toward objectives.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative
2. **Name of Partnership:** Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 223-8218-20122
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Dry-type Forest Habitat
5. **Initiative Abstract (from the application)**

The partnership envisions utilizing this funding to create a healthy, resilient, and functional forest landscape maintained with fire as an ecological process, while mitigating the threat of high severity wildfire to dry forests, fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and the surrounding human communities. The ecological outcomes align with the Dry-Type Forest Habitat OWEB priority and include: developing a short- and long-term strategy for prescribed fire to re-establish the historical frequency of fire; engaging with private landowners to increase public knowledge of dry forest restoration principles and techniques; restoring dry forest landscape resiliency by re-establishing open and variable forest structure and reducing fuel loading; restoring healthy aspen, meadow, and shrub-steppe habitats by reducing encroaching conifers and juniper; and re-introducing prescribed fire as a key ecological process. These outcomes would be accomplished through strategic thinning, prescribed fire, and noxious weed treatments completed by the core partners including Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP), Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council (LCUWC), Fremont-Winema National Forest (USFS), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Oregon State University (OSU Extension), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Lake County Resources Initiative (LCRI), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and the Lake County Cooperative Weed Management Area (Lake County CWMA).

6. **Budget Overview:**

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$4,000,000	\$5,260,642
Biennium 2	\$4,000,000	\$2,218,590
Biennium 3	\$4,000,000	\$2,175,170
Total	\$12,000,000	\$9,654,402

7. **Overall Initiative Rating:**

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	Medium
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	Medium
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	High (-)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium (+)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High

G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)
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8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- Describe how the partnership will address private landowner engagement challenges within the initiative geography, and how the partners will earn community support beyond the landowners that have already agreed to participate in the initiative.
- Describe how the partnership engages the Klamath Tribes and how the tribe's work with prescribed fire is incorporated in the initiative's Strategic Action Plan.
- The proposal includes actions on roughly 10,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat. Explain why this amount of shrub-steppe habitat is appropriate for a Dry-type forest-focused initiative.
- There is a significant liability associated with reintroducing fire to the landscape. Describe how the partnership addresses the liability and smoke management concerns.
- How will the activities described in the proposal benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy species and/or provide source drinking water protection?

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

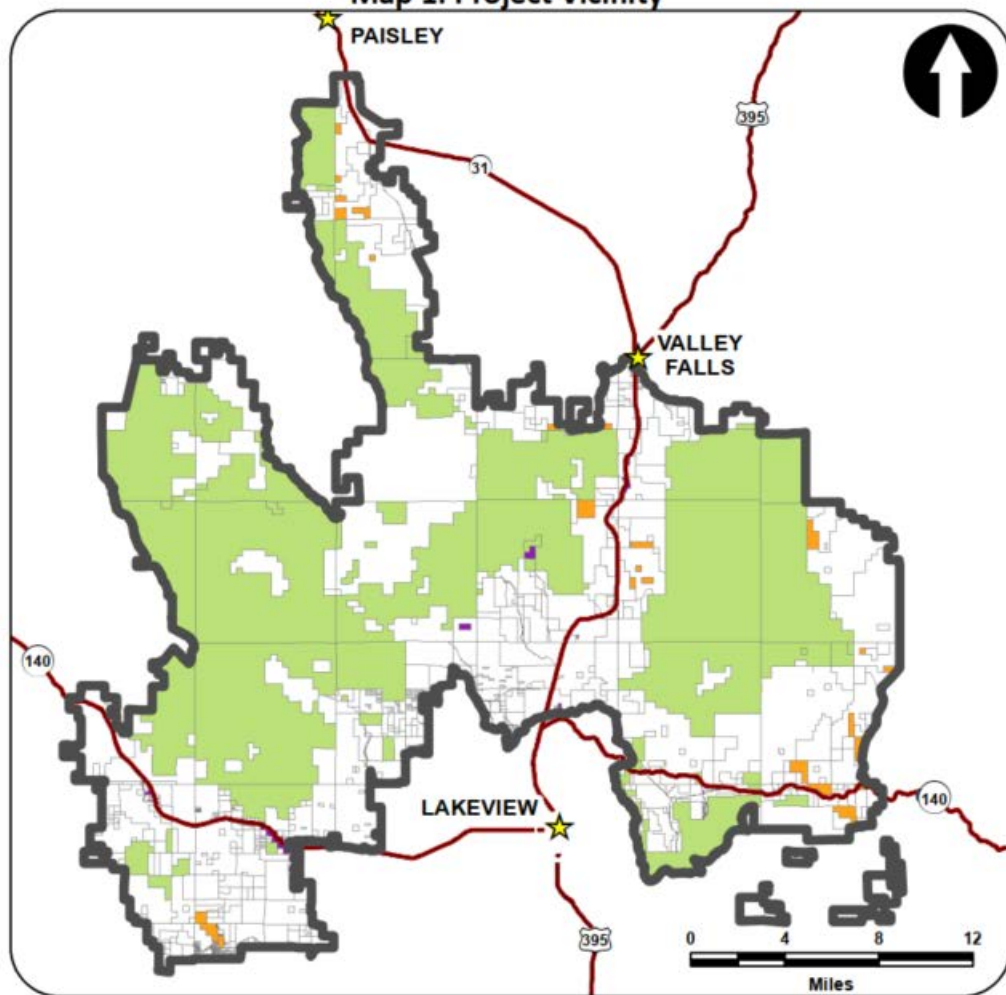
9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

Map 1: Project Vicinity



**Lake County All Lands
Restoration Initiative Boundary
(LCALRI)**

FIP Priority Review: Dry-type Forest Habitat

Name of Initiative: Lake County All Lands Restoration Initiative

Name of Partnership: Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal clearly identifies partner roles and responsibilities that build on partner strengths.
- The proposal describes a well-defined subcommittee structure to support the capacity of the partnership.
- The partnership has a history of successfully leveraging funding to implement collaborative projects within the initiative's geography.

CONCERNS:

- While the proposal clearly describes challenges within the initiative geography related to private landowner engagement, it does not describe how the partners will address these challenges.
- The proposal does not demonstrate that the stakeholder engagement strategies proposed are the most appropriate strategies to achieve their desired ecological outcomes.
- The budget allocates a small amount of funding to stakeholder engagement in comparison to the described need.
- The stakeholder engagement strategies described in the proposal are one-way communication pathways and do not provide the opportunity for the partnership members to engage in deeper dialogue with stakeholders, which could limit the partnership's ability to achieve their proposed ecological outcomes in the long-term.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has a history of working together to implement projects and has the

necessary agreements in place to work together and meaningfully share resources and responsibilities.

- The core partners have the knowledge and expertise to implement the proposed projects and the partners are working with the appropriate state, federal, and local government partners to implement prescribed fire.

CONCERNS:

- The partnership does not include The Nature Conservancy or the Klamath Tribes. Both organizations have experience with prescribed fire at the landscape scale and could help the partnership achieve its proposed long-term ecological outcome of returning prescribed fire to the landscape.
- The partnership has experience with implementing prescribed fire but does not describe lessons learned or how that experience will be used to implement prescribed fire at the landscape scale.
- The proposal describes limited engagement with the Klamath Tribes, whose input is important to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal clearly describes the restoration strategies, conservation actions, and anticipated social, economic, and ecological outcomes.
- The partnership has experience utilizing an adaptive management framework through the North Warner Project. Those lessons learned will be applied to this FIP initiative.
- The proposal clearly describes the proposed actions, outcomes, metrics, and monitoring needs, and clearly outlines the ecological and social issues within the geography.
- Adding partner workforce through this funding will allow for important work to be accomplished in this geography.
- The proposal describes that professional foresters will provide recommendations for each stand.
- The partnership has a history of securing funding for a variety of grant types that has prepared them for this initiative, including a technical assistance grant that funded mapping and project identification and prioritization of potential treatments.

- The proposal identifies priority species and how the various treatment types would impact those species. This allows the partnership to determine the best actions to achieve ecological objectives.

CONCERNS:

- This initiative is time sensitive. If wildfires come through the proposed geography before treatment can be done, it will limit the success of the initiative.
- There is a significant liability associated with reintroducing fire in the landscape. The proposed project area is within the wildland/urban interface which creates concerns around liability and smoke management. While residents of the basin are accustomed to smoke, if a fire were to start in one of these areas, it would be difficult to stop before it reached homes.
- Contractor shortages in the geography have the potential to delay project implementation.
- The proposal includes actions on roughly 10,000 acres of shrub-steppe habitat. While there are marginal areas that have overlap between shrub-steppe and dry forest, this amount of acreage may not be appropriate for a dry type forest initiative.
- The proposal lacks tribal engagement and utilization of tribal traditional ecological knowledge. The proposal describes notifying the tribes but does not appear to have provided the tribes an opportunity for input.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The Lake County Resources Initiative has a long-standing monitoring program and will be the lead on implementing the monitoring plan.
- The partnership recently developed an Arc GIS online platform and it will be updated to track monitoring data for this FIP initiative.
- The partnership provided a link to examples of past monitoring reports that were completed following a similar monitoring approach in this geographic area. The reports are well written and demonstrate their ability to collect, manage, analyze, and interpret the data.
- A key protocol to be followed, Fire Effects Monitoring and Inventory Protocol (FIREMON) is likely to provide adequate baseline and post treatment data on key ecosystem attributes that will enable them to track their progress toward meeting ecological outcomes over time.

- The partnership has completed fire risk monitoring and developed specific goals for reduction.

CONCERNS:

- The monitoring plan lacks detail on the ecological outcomes and metrics that they plan to monitor.
- The proposal oversimplifies how the data will be managed and lacks detail on data management.
- The proposal does not describe how the data will be analyzed or interpreted.
- The proposal describes the desire to show resilience to fire but does not include specific fire resilience goals.
- The proposal would benefit from further description of the initiative's plan for adaptive management.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal includes ample data to understand baseline conditions.
- There is a well-cited, scientific basis on why thinning and prescribed burning work, and the proposal references the literature that the partnership used to guide their approach.
- The proposal describes the lessons that the partnership has learned from prescribed fire and how they are applying those lessons for future treatment.
- The proposal references the climate change vulnerability assessment to bring a scientific basis to their planning.
- The proposal explicitly identifies the Oregon Conservation Strategy and how this initiative could overlap with those goals and actions.

CONCERNS:

- While the proposal provides a link to past monitoring reports to understand how monitoring data was analyzed in the past, it is not clear that the same process will be followed moving forward in this initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal allocates funds to appropriate partners.
- The proposed budget appears to be carefully developed and provides detail that makes it easy to understand.
- The partnership has already leveraged outside funding to work on planning and landowner engagement.

CONCERNS:

- If a wildfire goes through the geography prior to treatment, the priorities of the partnership will likely be impacted and the success of the initiative may be limited.
- It is unclear why the request for monitoring funds is reduced in the second biennium and whether this reduction is appropriate.
- The stakeholder engagement budget is low for the level of engagement necessary to implement the initiative.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan Implementation
2. **Name of Partnership:** Coos Basin Coho Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 223-8220-20124
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Coho Habitats and Populations along the Oregon Coast

5. Initiative Abstract (from the application)

The Coos Basin Partnership (CBP) team includes: Coos Watershed, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Coquille Indian Tribe, Coos Soil and Water Conservation District, Curry Soil and Water Conservation District – Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, Weyerhaeuser, Wild Rivers Land Trust, Wild Salmon Center, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Bureau of Land Management – Coos Bay District, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Restoration Center, Natural Resource Conservation Service, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, United State Fish and Wildlife Service – Coastal Program.

CBP will utilize OWEB funds from 7/2022 - 6/2028 to implement the high priority actions within the Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan. The following primary ecological objectives that this application address will make quantifiable progress towards OWEB's board priority for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast: increased juvenile coho production, increase in functional juvenile and adult Coho migratory connectivity, improved mainstem water quality, increased mainstem habitat complexity, increased tributary habitat complexity, increase in high quality estuarine habitat (fresh or salt), increase in juvenile coho overwinter survival, and increase in adult coho spawner abundance.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$3,469,614	\$2,923,290
Biennium 2	\$3,858,971	\$3,086,336
Biennium 3	\$3,747,408	\$1,886,552
Total	\$11,075,993	\$7,896,178

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	High (-)

E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium (+)
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	Medium
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	High (-)

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- Does the partnership anticipate any challenges associated with decision-making given the larger number of partners and the need for consensus of a quorum?
- The proposal references a climate resiliency mapping tool that was developed by partners. Describe the tool and how the partnership utilizes it.
- Measuring outcomes to show meaningful progress will likely require monitoring and analysis beyond the timeline of this initiative. Describe the partnership's plan for monitoring beyond the timeline of this FIP initiative.
- The proposal cited potentially outdated documents related to climate change. Describe how climate change is considered in the work plan.
- While the proposal includes a diverse set of partners, the work plan shows that most of the work will be done by the Coos Watershed Association. Describe why it makes sense for CoosWA to be the primary implementor and CoosWA's capacity to both facilitate the partnership and implement the majority of the work plan.

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

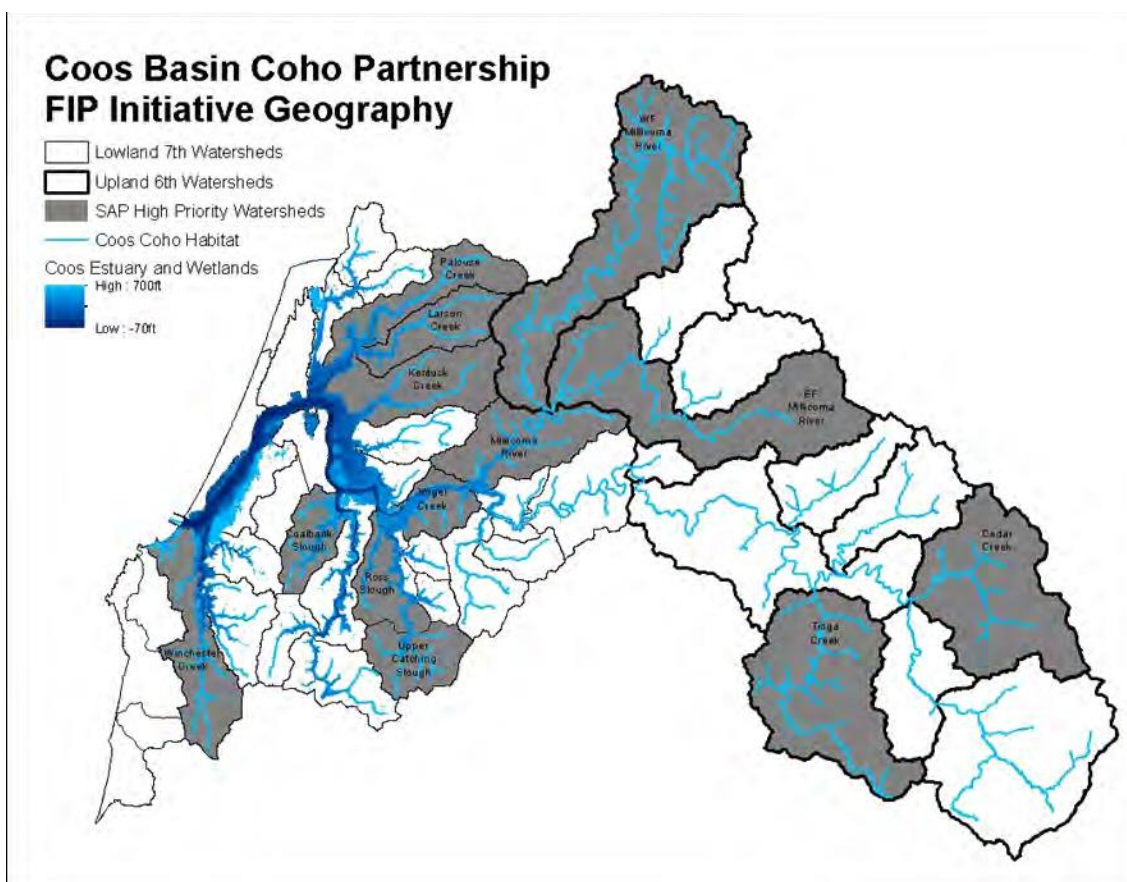


Figure 8.1 Coos Basin Coho Partnership FIP Initiative Geography. Gray 6th field upland and 7th field lowland subbasins indicate High Priority subwatersheds identified in the SAP and selected as the focus areas for the CBP FIP Initiative. White sub-watersheds were identified in the SAP as excluded or lower priority and are not included in the FIP geography.

FIP Priority Review: Coho Habitats and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Name of Initiative: Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan Implementation

Name of Partnership: Coos Basin Coho Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA

(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.

Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee

(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal demonstrates that the partners have made long-term commitments to each other and have the capacity to implement the proposed FIP initiative.
- The roles and responsibilities of the partners are clearly described in the proposal, including the match resources each group brings to the FIP initiative.
- The proposal includes a clear plan for community engagement, including hiring a contractor to develop new outreach tools.
- The partners are engaged with other local projects, including the tide gate partnership.
- The majority of the projects proposed in the workplan already have landowner agreements in place.

CONCERNS:

- This is a larger partnership with decision-making based on the consensus of a quorum, which may be challenging at times.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership

Rating: High

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has collaborated informally for more than 25 years. In 2018, the partnership formalized in coordination with the Wild Salmon Center and NOAA through the completion of a Coho Business Plan and the adoption of a formal decision-making process.
- The composition of the partnership is diverse, including engagement with the local tribes, and is the right collection of partners to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes. The proposal also provides a thoughtful description of which local entities are not involved in the FIP initiative and why they are not involved.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal includes a diverse set of partners, yet the work plan included in the proposal for all three biennia show that most of the work will be done by the Coos Watershed Association. This is understandable since the Coos Watershed Association is the primary implementor in the basin and has the most expertise in project implementation; however, spreading implementation funds among partners could improve long-term partnership effectiveness.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The proposal includes an extensive strategic action plan (SAP) that builds on two previous plans and provides a clear path to prioritized actions.
- The proposal includes a detailed work plan describing 40 projects through the life of the initiative. Additionally, the proposal includes a one-page summary for each of the 15 projects proposed in biennium one.
- The proposal includes a well-thought-out outreach plan that describes landowner recruitment as the biggest limiting factor to partnership success; however, most projects have established landowner relationships, and the partners have good experience and success in recruiting landowners for restoration actions.
- The proposal describes a dual approach with both interior areas and tidal areas targeted for restoration. This adds some resiliency to the initiative, as funding and projects are spread to different habitat types.
- The tidally influenced restoration in this proposal is cutting edge with well-supported literature.
- The partners have been heavily involved in the Tide Gate Partnership and are on the leading edge of tide gate upgrade projects with management plans that can benefit both landowners and habitat.
- The proposal clearly demonstrates that partners are bought into the partnership, including two Tribes, and have a strong foundation of success.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal would benefit from additional discussion on why beaver reintroduction is necessary and how it would achieve desired outcomes.
- While these partners are some of the most experienced tide gate practitioners in Oregon, there are uncertainties associated with tide gate work and permitting that could present challenges.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has an established monitoring team that will fully scope and design a monitoring plan over the 6-year initiative. The proposal states that monitoring analysis will be incorporated into adaptive management.
- The proposal cites multiple data sets that each partnership possesses and the value that is provided to prioritize their geographic area of interest.
- The proposal cites state and federal plans that provide a roadmap for conservation and recovery goals in the Coos Basin. These plans guide the assessment of current conditions and the expected changes as restoration strategies are implemented.
- There is ample juvenile and adult Coho data in multiple subwatersheds in the Coos Basin that can be compared over time as conservation actions are implemented.
- The partnership has extensive baseline data in addition to tribal traditional ecological knowledge. The proposed monitoring metrics to measure ecological outcomes are easily measured through surveys.
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) habitat quality data exists across every subbasin with Coho present. This data can be compared to post-restoration data.
- The Theory of Change succinctly describes how conservation actions will address limiting factors and lead to desired ecological outcomes.
- The proposal does a good job of linking proposed actions to Coho survival and production metrics as opposed to miles or acres of restored habitat.

CONCERNS:

- Measuring outcomes in a statistically significant manner to show meaningful progress will take monitoring and analysis well beyond the timeline of this initiative. The partnership should plan for many years of monitoring to get to the outcomes described in the proposal.
- While the proposal includes population-level monitoring, it would benefit from also measuring progress at the project level.
- The Theory of Change does not describe the role of land acquisition and conservation easement actions.
- While the work plan clearly describes the monitoring to be performed, including the scale of monitoring and metrics, there is an inconsistency in the information provided in the proposal. The proposal would benefit from a more detailed, consistent, description of monitoring.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.*Rating: Medium***STRENGTHS:**

- The proposal is well-thought-out with a focus to develop and reconnect anchor habitat for Coho.
- The partners understand the benefits of beaver and beaver dam analogs—they intend to incorporate beaver reintroduction into the initiative activities.
- The proposal demonstrates the partnership’s knowledge of the benefits of old-growth forests to aquatic habitat.
- The proposal clearly incorporates climate change projections, particularly in tidal areas, and describes the context for Coho decline and climate impacts, including key scientific reference documents. Partners have developed a climate resiliency mapping tool.

CONCERNS:

- While the prioritization of projects is well-described in the SAP, the proposal narrative would benefit from additional details of project prioritization.
- Some of the referenced planning documents that relate to climate change are outdated.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.*Rating: High (-)***STRENGTHS:**

- The extensive monitoring budget seems appropriate for the scale of monitoring proposed in this initiative and will provide data needed to perform adaptive management.
- There is a good variety of matching funds including contributions from private industrial forest and non-profit organizations.
- The work plan’s focus on restoration projects is appropriate for the initiative.
- The stakeholder engagement budget is appropriate given that many landowners are already engaged and committed to projects.

CONCERNS:

- Although the work plan provides a breakdown of the budget for each project, the proposal budget lists two restoration partners and does not break down how restoration funding and match are divided. The proposal would benefit from further description of the allocation of restoration funding between these partners.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

1. **Name of Initiative:** Hood River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Initiative
2. **Name of Partnership:** Hood River Basin Partnership
3. **Application Number:** 223-8226-20130
4. **Initiative addresses the following Board-identified Priority(ies):** Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

5. Initiative Abstract (from the application)

The Hood River Basin Partnership has eight core partners participating in this proposal, including the Hood River Watershed Group, Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, East Fork Irrigation District, Farmers Irrigation District, Middle Fork Irrigation District, USFS Hood River Ranger District, and the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. Key ecological outcomes include increased quantity and quality of spawning and rearing habitat for native fish species and protection of water quality. FIP funding would provide costshare on the highest priority water conservation, aquatic habitat, and fish passage projects, along with landowner engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring to support these projects and ecological outcomes. The scope of work is consistent with OWEB's 'Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species' FIP priority for several reasons: 1) The Hood River Watershed is a high priority focal area; 2) The projects/actions in this proposal address limiting factors identified in the Lower Columbia Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010); and 3) Collectively, the proposed actions will restore and protect watershed processes that lead to improved aquatic habitat for Chinook salmon, steelhead, coho, bull trout, Pacific lamprey, and other native fish species.

6. Budget Overview:

Funding Period	OWEB Funding Request	Estimated Match
Biennium 1	\$2,103,000	\$7,537,000
Biennium 2	\$2,243,000	\$12,503,370
Biennium 3	\$2,168,000	\$5,878,370
Total	\$6,514,000	\$25,918,740

7. Overall Initiative Rating:

(see attached evaluation criteria review worksheet for details)

Evaluation Criteria	Rating
A) Extent to which initiative addresses a board priority	N/A
B) Capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments	High
C) Performance history and composition of the partnership	High (-)
D) Potential for progress toward measurable ecological outcomes	Medium (+)
E) Ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes	Medium
F) Scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed initiative	High (-)
G) Budget supports achieving ecological outcomes	Medium (+)

8. Potential Interview Questions from OWEB Staff:

- Describe how the Partnership TA budget supports the partnership and enables it to be successful throughout the course of the initiative.
- How does the stakeholder engagement budget support the partnership to engage with private landowners to achieve the irrigation efficiency goal of the initiative?
- Describe how the decision was reached to include the entire Hood River Basin geography in the FIP initiative geography.
- Describe how the initiative's implementation and monitoring data will be managed, analyzed, and interpreted.
- Explain the initiative's role with pesticide stewardship.

[The following sections will be completed following the OWEB Board Grants committee applicant interviews on June 14-15, 2022]

9. Board Committee Discussion Summary:

10. Board Committee Ranking:

Attachment A: Initiative Map

Attachment B: Evaluation Criteria Ratings Worksheet

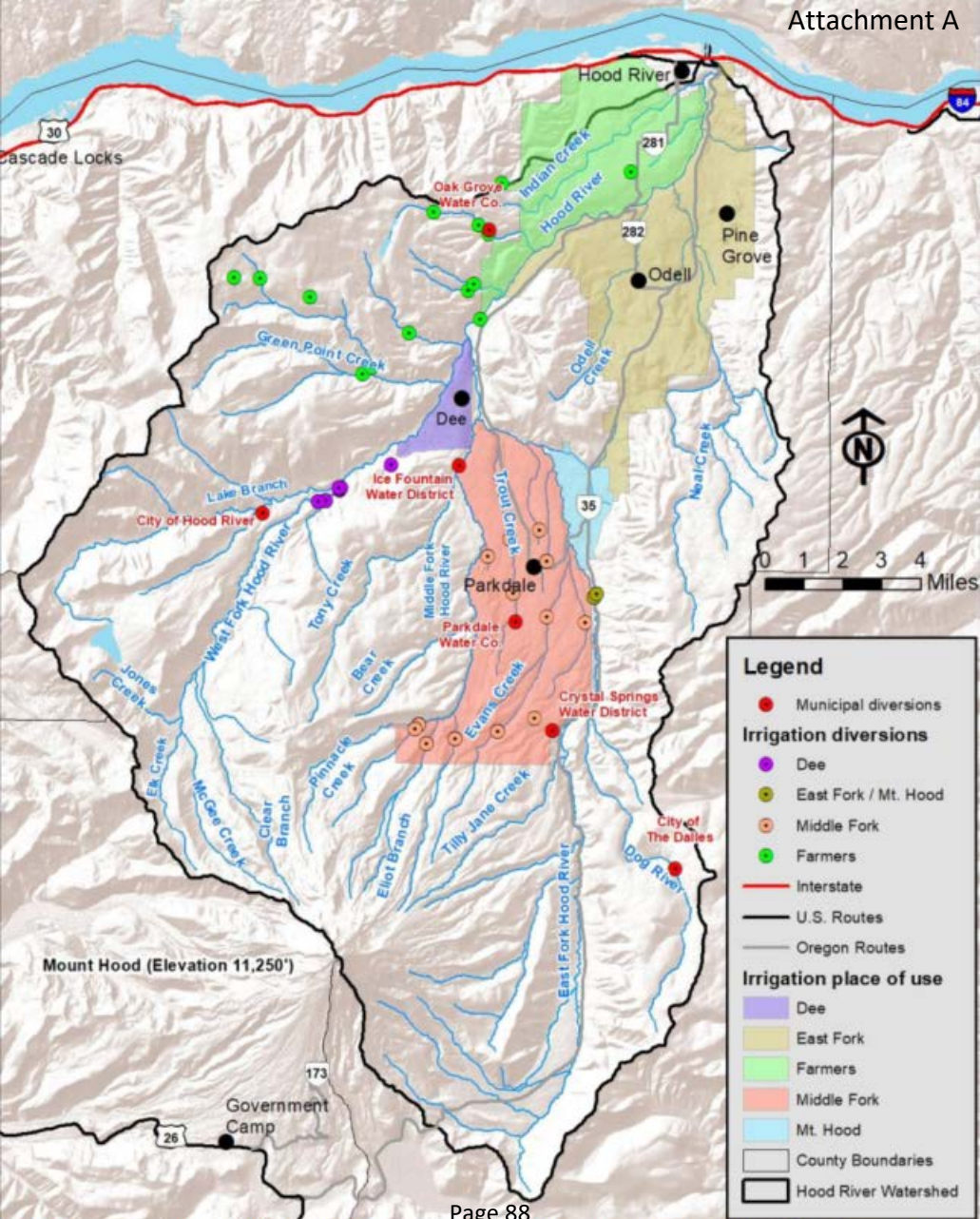


Figure 1. Principal points of diversion for municipal and irrigation water districts, and irrigation district boundaries. This map also shows the FIP geography, which coincides with the watershed boundary.

FIP Priority Review: Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species**Name of Initiative:** Hood River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Initiative**Name of Partnership:** Hood River Basin Partnership

EVALUATION CRITERIA**(a) The extent to which the initiative addresses a Board-identified priority.***Rating: This criterion will be evaluated through the OWEB Board Grants Committee***(b) The capacity to partner, engage the community, and catalyze additional investments applied to activities within the initiative geography.***Rating: High***STRENGTHS:**

- The roles and responsibilities of the partners are clearly described in the proposal and make sense given the strengths of each partner.
- The proposal demonstrates that the partnership has leveraged additional funding to support the ecological outcomes.
- The governance structure is developed to account for future staffing transitions, which support the partnership's ability for long-term success.
- The partnership includes local, state, federal, tribal, and irrigation district partners which have the right expertise to achieve the proposed ecological outcomes.

CONCERNS:

- There is a significant Spanish-speaking population within the proposed FIP geography, but no formal plan to engage this population is included in the proposal.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

None

(c) The performance history and composition of the partnership.*Rating: High (-)***STRENGTHS:**

- The composition of the partnership, including the participation of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as core partners, supports the proposed ecological outcomes.
- The individual members of the partnership have worked together to plan and implement restoration actions for many years— this proposal builds off their collective success.
- The irrigation district members of this partnership have been leaders in irrigation modernization efforts.

CONCERNS:

- It is clear from the proposal that the partners have worked together for a long-time, but reviewers found the description of the partnership and its decision-making process to be vague. A more detailed description would have helped the reviewers understand how the partnership would operate if awarded a FIP.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:

None

(d) The extent to which the proposed approach will make progress toward measurable ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership includes estimated outputs in terms of miles, acres, water conserved, etc., and clearly links them to ecological outcomes.
- The proposal does a good job relating specific actions and areas where the partners work in priority areas for multiple fish species.
- Reliance on beaver dam analogs to achieve channel restoration work is risky but could result in immediate benefits with sufficient sediment load given the glacial headwaters of the watershed.
- Water conserved via irrigation efficiency projects will be returned to instream via OWRD's conserved water program.

CONCERNS:

- The initiative's geography encompasses the entire watershed.
- The initiative includes an ambitious irrigation efficiency goal. It's not clear from the proposal whether it's achievable unless there is an accompanying increase in landowner participation in USDA Farm Bill programs.
- Some of the restoration activities (livestock fencing, riparian, manure management, etc.) described in the proposal are modest in scope.
- For irrigation efficiency projects, the proposal could have provided a better description of how conserved water will be managed. Information is found in the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), but not in the narrative response to the questions.
- With the watershed's large number of orchards, it might be a concern to build beaver dam analogs in some identified locations because these will attract beaver and cause damage to valuable pear and cherry trees.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Due to the watershed's snow and glacier-fed cold-water streams, and geographic location that encompasses habitat for species on both the west and east sides of the Cascades, the Hood River Watershed has a diverse assemblage of anadromous and resident fish. These include: spring and fall Chinook salmon, summer and winter steelhead, coho, Pacific lamprey, bull trout, searun and resident cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout.

- Currently, the Hood River basin provides cool water thermal refugia for aquatic species. The proposal describes how this is expected to change as glaciers recede due to warming temperatures caused by climate change.
- The partners have a history of successfully implementing projects awarded funding through OWEB's Open Solicitation grant program.

(e) The ability to track progress towards proposed outcomes.

Rating: Medium

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership has access to and relationships with partners who collect habitat, biological, and water quality data that describe existing conditions. The Hood River Basin Study provides a baseline of current irrigation and municipal water use and can be compared to future streamflows following implementation of restoration actions. Fish monitoring data is collected by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- The proposal thoroughly describes known limiting factors in the basin.
- The proposed monitoring framework is a good start, and it will be even stronger once the monitoring plan is completed. The proposal demonstrates they are on the right trajectory.
- The partnership plans to convene the Technical Advisory Committee annually to review monitoring data and emerging research for stream habitat enhancement projects and identify alternative implementation strategies, if needed.

CONCERNS:

- Some of the metric measurements described in the proposal are not well-connected to outcomes (e.g., number of manure management projects doesn't equate to achieving outcomes)
- Improved water quality and management of nutrients are goals for the partnership, but the application is unclear how these ecological outcomes will be measured.
- There is no monitoring described to track progress associated with fish passage restoration or community engagement efforts.
- The proposal contains conflicting information needed to understand exactly what monitoring will be done and what metrics will be calculated to track progress for each restoration strategy.
- The proposal does not describe how the initiative's implementation data or monitoring data will be managed, analyzed and interpreted.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(f) The scientific basis and planning tools that support the proposed Initiative.

Rating: High (-)

STRENGTHS:

- The partnership is using an advisory committee to rank projects, with a mix of quantitative and qualitative criteria.
- The proposal provides good detail on how activities are prioritized using intrinsic potential for fish habitat, Bonneville Power Administration's Atlas model, along with integration of hydrologic conditions.
- The initiative's proposed actions align with the restoration targets identified for the Hood River basin in Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan.
- The partners are working from a fourth iteration of their SAP, which demonstrates commitment to process, as well as the partnership's successful implementation of projects that then necessitates updating the SAP as restoration targets are met.
- The proposed methodology to measure and track flow and expected outcomes on flow restoration are well described.
- The proposal incorporates climate change data and potential future water scenarios into flow restoration planning and prioritization.

CONCERNS:

- The proposal briefly describes that proposed flow restoration actions may lead to higher streamflows and velocities in some locations than are optimal for some salmonid species.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

None

(g) The extent to which the allocation of funds across proposed grant types will support the achievement of the proposed ecological outcomes.

Rating: Medium (+)

STRENGTHS:

- The initiative's ecological goals are focused on habitat and flow, and the budget reflects this well.
- A significant portion of the initiative's monitoring funding is match provided by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.
- The proposal includes diverse sources of match funding.

CONCERNS:

- The budget for stakeholder engagement is low with only \$95,000 budgeted in total for all six years of the initiative.
- The budget for Partnership Technical Assistance is low and the proposal does not explain why partners would not request funding to support partnership coordination, communication, meeting facilitation, reporting, training, etc.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- The monitoring budget is much higher in the first biennia then in later biennia. Since the partners are developing a monitoring plan in the first biennia, this may not be a concern.
- Promoting pesticide stewardship is noted in application but is not reflected in the budget.