



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Virtual Meeting
March 9-10, 2021



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Agenda

March 9 & 10, 2021

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the March 9 & 10 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **March 9:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 8850 2829 5047 and password: 840503
 - **March 10:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 825 6305 3198 and password: 426566
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov. Written comments received by Friday, March 5 at 5:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Item C) at approximately 8:50 am. on March 9 and (Agenda Item M) at approximately 8:25 a.m. on March 10. In order to provide verbal comment, you must contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov, by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 8, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

A. Board Member Comments (8:05 a.m.)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:45 a.m.)

The minutes of the December 16-17, 2020 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (8:50 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

D. Committee Updates (9:05 a.m.)

Written updates will be provided from board subcommittees. A verbal update will be provided from the DEI committee including the results of a recent board survey. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (9:35 a.m.)

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

F. Klamath Dam Removal (10:10 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director Richard Whitman will update the board on the dam removal project and ask for a general indication of board support in the unlikely event that additional funding is needed to complete restoration work following dam removal. *Action item.*

G. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program Monitoring (11:05 a.m.)

Partnerships Coordinator, Andrew Dutterer, and Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, will present Progress Tracking Reports for the Cohort 2 FIPs and answer questions from board members. *Information item.*

H. Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update (11:35 a.m.)

Tide Gate Coordinator, Jillian McCarthy, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, Audrey Hatch, and Regional Program Representative, Coby Menton, will provide an overview of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program (FSFS). *Information item.*

I. Oregon Department of Transportation Fish Passage (12:45 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, will request that the board authorize the Executive Director to add \$100,000 in ODOT funds to an existing agreement for OWEB to distribute for watershed grants. *Action item.*

J. Telling the Restoration Story (11:55 p.m.)

Deputy Director, Renee Davis, and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, Ken Fetcho, will share information about the Willow Creek Telling the Restoration Story project.
Information item.

K. Climate Change Considerations in Grant Making (12:00 p.m.)

Deputy Director, Renee Davis, and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, Audrey Hatch, will request the board indicate their support for outreach to grantees and partners about OWEB's efforts to more fully address climate considerations across its grant programs.
Action item.

L. Strategic Implementation Areas (12:55 p.m.)

Acting Business Operations Manager, Courtney Shaff, will provide an overview of the status of the 2020 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) and request technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring funding for the current slate of SIAs. *Action item.*

M. OS Grant Awards (1:15 p.m.)

Regional Program Representatives Katie Duzik, Mark Grenbemer, Liz Redon, Greg Ciannella, Sue Greer, and Coby Menton, and Grant Program Manager, Eric Williams, will provide an overview of the Spring 2020 Open Solicitation grant review and evaluation process and request funding for staff-recommended restoration, technical assistance, and open solicitation projects. *Action item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

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Wednesday, March 10, 2021**N. Spending Plan Presentations (8:05 a.m.)**

Executive Director, Meta Loftsgaarden, will provide updates to the board on OWEB's 2021-2023 Spending Plan. The board will be asked to provide direction for staff moving forward with final options for the July 2021 meeting. *Information item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

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

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

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

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

General Business

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

Action on Grant Awards

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

Executive Session

The board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181 or send an e-mail to april.mack@oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board of Agriculture*

Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Board Co-Chair, Public (Tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Public*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*

Non-voting Members

Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Anthony Selle, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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www.oregon.gov/OWEB

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

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack
april.mack@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

March 9 & 10, Virtual
July 27 & 28, Virtual
Oct 26 & 27, TBD

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Jan 25 & 26, TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site:
www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

The Approach We Take

We believe that every endeavor is guided by a set of commitments not just about the “why” and the “what,” but also the “how.” These are the ways we are committed to engaging in our work. This is our approach. These principles modify everything we do.

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of watershed health
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact
- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management – when we see something that’s not working, we do something about it

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Ensuring information is available and accessible to diverse audiences



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

We are dedicated to OWEB’s mission and take great pride that our programs support watershed health and empower local communities. Our work is deeply rewarding and we are passionate about what we do. Our team is nimble, adaptable, and forward-thinking, while remaining grounded in the grassroots history of watershed work in Oregon. With a strong understanding of our past, we are strategic about our future. We believe in working hard while keeping our work environment innovative, productive, and fun. We are collaborative, both with each other and with outside partners and organizations, and place great value in continually improving what we do and how we do it.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

December 16 & 17, 2020 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Buckmaster, Bruce
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Reeves, Meg
Selle, Tony

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Mack, April
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

ABSENT

Alvarado, Ron
Henson, Paul

OTHER

Bey, Marko
Brandt, Troy
Brick, Jim
Cupples, Jacqueline
Defrees, Dallas Hall
Fairbanks, Terry
Ferrell, Justin
McGinnis, Cheryl
Neider, Brandi
Nye, Brad
Tattam, Ian
Walz, Kristen

Wednesday, December 16, 2020

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

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:02:36)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:54:18)

The minutes of the September 9, 2020 and October 30, 2020 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the minutes from the September 9 and October 30, 2020 virtual meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 0:55:36)

Executive Director, Jan Lee, from Oregon Association of Conservation Districts addressed the role that DEQ is taking in land conservation and the work they are doing to build a coalition that would support the benefits of working in natural lands to help affect climate mitigation and adaptation. DEQ will review how offset programs (Alternative Compliance Instruments (ACI)) may be used to provide offsets from working lands that could comprise an ACI.

Four written comments were provided in lieu of oral comments addressing agenda item G, Spending Plan:

- Luckiamute Watershed Council (and agenda item H)
- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (and agenda item H)
- Western Invasive Species Network
- West Multnomah SWCD

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 1:02:01)

Representatives from board subcommittees provided updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 1:28:19)

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

F. Budget and Legislative Updates (Audio = 2:15:17)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the current biennium's revenues and staffing and the 2021-23 Governor's Recommended Budget. *Information item.*

G. Spending Plan Discussion (Audio = 2:37:50)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the timeline for approval of the 2021-2023 spending plan, and requested the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. *Information item.*

H. 21-23 Council Capacity/Application Process (Audio = 3:15:42)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the 2021-2023 biennium council capacity grant guidance and sought board approval of changes to the guidance. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board approve the changes to the 2021-2023 council capacity grant program and guidance documents, as described in Attachments A through C of the December 2020 staff report. Gary Marshall seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) Funding (Audio = 3:06:35)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the current status of the 2020 SIAs and requested funding for one SIA grant that is ready for implementation. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board award \$99,951 of funding for SIA grants and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 1, 2020. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHC) Appointments (Audio = 4:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams provided a recommendation to the board to reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the commission. *Action item.*

Jason Robison moved the board reappoint Woody Wolfe and Lois Loop to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, as recommended by the Board of Agriculture, for four-year terms ending in January 2025. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

K. Land Trust Project Selection and Management & Easement Stewardship (Audio = 4:12:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Brad Nye, Conservation Director at Deschutes Land Trust, responded to board requests to better understand how land trusts determine which properties to invest in, and once legal interest is obtained, how conservation properties are stewarded. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 2:19 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

Thursday, December 17, 2020

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

L. Public Comment

None provided.

M. FIP Cohort 2-Board Presentations (Audio = 0:01:05)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer and FIP partners provided an update on Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives that were awarded funding starting in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Information item.*

N. NRCS Funding to Support Local Delivery of Farm Bill Programs (Audio = 3:24:18)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff requested the board retroactively approve receipt of up to \$500,000 in federal funds from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs. *Action item.*

Mark Labhart moved the board approve receipt of \$500,000 from the NRCS to support local delivery of Farm Bill programs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds, through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. DEI Activity – Results of OWEB’s DEI Survey of Grantees & Board Next Steps (Audio = 3:28:56)

Interim Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, Sue Greer, Miriam Forney and Ken Fetcho provided an overview of the quantitative results of a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) survey of OWEB grantees and qualitative analysis of subsequent grantee interviews and discussed next steps for the board. *Action item.*

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board take the following actions: 1) commit that all board members will complete a DEI survey, 2) continue the DEI ad hoc committee to analyze survey results and determine strategic next steps, and 3) include DEI as a standing agenda item for all board and coordinating committee meetings. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

P. 2020 Fire Update (Audio = 4:32:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Small Grant Coordinator Kathy Leopold provided an update about OWEB’s recent Wildfire Response grant offering and the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force, which OWEB is co-convening at the request of the Governor’s Office to support post-wildfire recovery. *Information item.*

Q. Additional Funding for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Technical Assistance Grants (Audio = 4:48:05)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested the board approve receipt of funding from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in support of Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) technical assistance (TA) grants. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board approve receipt of up to \$140,000 from Oregon Department of Forestry in support of the CREP Technical Assistance grants, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements with an award date of December 17, 2020. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:09 by Co-Chair Jason Robison.

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	July 1, 2019 Spending Plan	Mar 2021 additions	Spending Plan as of Mar 2021	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Mar 2021 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Mar 2021 awards
1	Open Solicitation:							
2	Restoration	31.200	5.031	24.233	15.945	8.288	8.288	0.000
3	Technical Assistance							
4	Restoration TA	3.100	0.774	3.265	1.966	1.299	1.299	0.000
5	CREP TA	1.125		1.163	1.163	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.000	0.255	1.007	0.497	0.510	0.510	0.000
7	Monitoring grants	3.500		1.753	1.753	0.000		0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition							
9	Acquisition	6.750		4.905	4.905	0.000		0.000
10	Acquisition TA	0.000		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
11	Weed Grants	3.000		1.631	1.631	0.000		0.000
12	Small Grants	3.300		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.278		0.760	0.760	0.000		0.000
14	TOTAL	54.253	6.060	40.217	30.120	10.097	10.097	0.000
15	% of assumed Total Budget	54.73%		48.79%				
16	Focused Investments:							
17	Deschutes	4.000		2.085	2.085	0.000		0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habit	2.180		0.780	0.780	0.000		0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands	2.500		2.400	2.400	0.000		0.000
20	Sage Grouse	0.474		0.474	0.474	0.000		0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.000		2.000	2.000	0.000		0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde	2.777		2.311	2.311	0.000		0.000
23	John Day Partnership	4.000		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse	1.715		1.343	1.343	0.000		0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.000		1.713	1.713	0.000		0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	1.500		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership	3.455		3.354	3.354	0.000		0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.450		0.150	0.150	0.000		0.000
29	TOTAL	27.051	0.000	22.110	22.110	0.000	0.000	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget	27.29%		26.82%				
31	Operating Capacity:							
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	14.416		14.330	14.330	0.000		(0.000)
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.250		0.425	0.425	0.000		0.000
34	Organizational Collaboration	0.200		0.100	0.100	0.000		0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	0.500		0.779	0.779	0.000		0.000
36	TOTAL	15.366	0.000	15.634	15.634	0.000	0.000	(0.000)
37	% of assumed Total Budget	15.50%		18.97%				
38	Other:							
39	CREP	0.750		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000		0.793	0.793	0.000		0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	0.700	1.125	1.925	0.800	1.125	1.125	0.000
42	Natural Resource Emergency			1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
43	TOTAL	2.450	1.125	4.468	3.343	1.125	1.125	0.000
44	% of assumed Total Budget	2.47%		5.42%				
45	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	99.120	7.185	82.429	71.207	11.222	11.222	0.000
46	OTHER DIRECTED							
47	ODFW - PCSRF	11.690		11.690	11.690	0.000		0.000
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.321		0.321	0.321	0.000		0.000
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF			0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
50	TOTAL	12.011	0.000	12.011	12.011	0.000	0.000	0.000
51	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	111.131	7.185	94.440	83.218	11.222	11.222	0.000

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Climate Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Alan Henning, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray

Background

The Climate Committee met on January 7, 2021 to review of action items/next steps from previous discussions; take a deeper dive into climate and/or resilience related questions in OWEB's current grant applications; get grounded in sequestration 'return on investment' for different climate actions; discuss adaptation co-benefits for different climate actions in which OWEB invests now; and explore how OWEB can 'lean into' climate action with OWEB investments.

High-Level Summary of the Discussion

The committee discussion of these topics was robust and wide ranging. Regarding how climate information might be reflected in/integrated into OWEB's grant programs:

- Grant applications could lay out three scenarios of emissions levels (pointing applicants to where information exists re: associated impacts) and ask applicants to describe how different emissions levels are expected to impact ecosystems in their project area and how their project will address this. The committee acknowledged that downscaling for all models is not complete, but some early opportunities to use these models exist.
- Building upon the previous bullet, grant applications could include a more generic question about how systems are projected to change due to climate and how proposed projects address this.
- Climate questions in applications should give applicants the opportunity to address both climate impacts (e.g., adaptation) considerations, and the sequestration benefit (e.g., planting projects that sequester carbon).
- Upcoming 5-year status reviews by NOAA will result in better articulation of climate impacts in federal recovery plans, which could then be integrated into FIP program priorities and solicitations.

Regarding timing for incorporating climate related information into OWEB's grant applications:

- Climate related questions could be incorporated into applications initially to encourage applicants to consider climate impacts and benefits in project planning and communicate to applicants OWEB's intent to ultimately add evaluation criteria that address climate considerations. The committee discussed the importance of not delaying incorporation of climate considerations into OWEB's grant-making, while being mindful of providing time for the necessary outreach to partners.
- Applicant/grantee outreach on this topic will be important, so that partners 1) know about this work by the board committee and 2) understand where/how to access information to support incorporation of climate considerations. (See Agenda Item K.)

The committee discussed other important topics such as:

- Grounding climate considerations in the requirements and expectations of different funding sources (e.g., Measure 76 funding, PCSRF funding); and

- Exploring how current evaluation criteria can account for climate considerations, while planning for longer term updates (e.g., administrative rule reviews and rulemaking) (e.g., for restoration OARs) to more meaningfully incorporate climate considerations in OWEB's grant-making.

As follow-up to the committee meeting, staff will be drafting a work plan that articulates areas of work between now and end of the 2019-21 biennium (e.g., connections to current work regarding natural and working lands and impacted community/climate equity with the Oregon Global Warming Commission under Climate Executive Order 20-04, development of climate related questions for grant applications), given reduced staff capacity), and looks toward areas of climate work moving into the 2021-23 biennium.

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Ad Hoc Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Jason Robison, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Tony Selle

Background

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee met January 28. The committee reviewed a draft of the board DEI survey and provided feedback to staff.

Summary of Discussion

Board DEI Survey

Courtney Shaff shared a draft of the survey with the committee prior to the meeting. The committee discussed the draft and provided feedback to staff, who included the suggested edits in the final version of the survey.

The board DEI survey was emailed out to all board members on Friday, February 5. The survey closed on Monday, February 22. All eighteen board members completed the survey. Staff will share the results of the survey at the March board meeting.

To Be Presented at the September 2020 Board Meeting by:

Tony Selle, committee member

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Acting Business Operations Manager

Courtney.Shaff@Oregon.gov, 503-986-0046

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Focused Investment Committee Update

Subcommittee Members

Tony Selle (Chair), Bruce Buckmaster, Randy Labbe, Mark Labhart, Gary Marshall

Background

The Focused Investment Committee met on January 20, 2021 to discuss the FIP portion of the 2021-2023 spending plan, the proposed 2021-2023 FIP Solicitation Schedule, post-Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) reporting, and the proposed virtual FIP gathering.

FIP Portion of the 2021-2023 Spending Plan

Staff previewed the FIP spending plan line items to be presented to the board in March. Focused Investment line items include Implementation FIPs and FIP Effectiveness Monitoring. If the board maintains the proposed 26% of the spending plan in FIP investments, this will allow for full funding of the 11 cohort 1 and 2 FIPs plus an additional \$10 million for a cohort 3 solicitation. This is based on the November lottery revenue forecast; we will receive new forecasts in February and May, which may change funding availability.

Proposed FIP Solicitation Schedule

The committee reviewed the tentative solicitation schedule, which is planned to open in July 2021 and result in board awards in July 2022. The committee noted that the number of new FIPs is dependent upon available revenues, and that increased revenues will allow for funding more FIPs while staying within the board's desired percentage of the spending plan. Ten partnerships engaged in preliminary conversations prior the 2020 solicitation being paused, and it is expected that many of these partnerships will be interested in applying in 2021. Several of the current FIPs are discussing new applications as well. In addition, there is interest from several coastal partnerships in applying to become implementation FIPs.

Post-FIP Reporting

The committee reviewed the anticipated timeline for project completion of cohort 1 FIPs. Ashland and Tri-County sage-grouse are likely to be the first FIPs to complete project implementation, in 2023, which will drive the timeline for post-FIP reporting. Reporting should build on the outputs reporting included in Progress Tracking Reports to include outcomes reporting based on available information. Costs for post-FIP reporting also needs to be determined. Further discussion on this topic will occur at a joint FIP/Monitoring committee meeting in the spring.

Virtual FIP Gathering

Staff noted that dates are set for two virtual FIP Gathering sessions, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm on February 23 and March 30.

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Monitoring Committee Update

Committee Members

Alan Henning (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Molly Kile, Brenda McComb

Background

The Monitoring Committee met on January 13, 2021 to debrief from the December 2020 board meeting; check in regarding status of ongoing projects; discuss the 2021-23 board spending plan and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring; discussion coordination with the board Climate Committee; and hear a brief introduction to Klamath monitoring, as follow-up from December board meeting.

December 2020 Board Meeting Debrief

The debrief of the December board meeting began with Alan Henning providing additional information regarding the Stage 0 monitoring workshop that was held in November 2020. He noted the large and diverse attendance, the excellent presentations, and the helpful identification of both available information and remaining questions. The committee discussed a potential role for OWEB in helping to establish a communication network on this topic. Staff will consider this idea during scope of the 2021-23 workplan for OWEB's monitoring efforts.

Monitoring in the 2021-23 Board Spending Plan

The discussion turned to the 2021-23 spending plan, and potential priority areas for monitoring investments. One idea was using Telling the Restoration Story' funding to assess how restored areas responded to the 2020 wildfires. The group discussed connections between FIP monitoring and interest among the committee regarding monitoring interests related to climate. The committee asked staff to be on watch for good opportunities to marry these topics. The group then revisited the concept of post-FIP reporting, which would allow FIPs that have completed their official three biennia of involvement in the program to continue to report to OWEB about progress related to implementation objectives and ecological outcomes through time. Committee members provided helpful feedback about considerations such as being clear about expectations for content (e.g., using FIP Progress Tracking Reports as a model for post-FIP reporting). The committee sees value in OWEB investing resources for FIP partnerships to continue to synthesize data and information about progress and the importance of this information to informing ongoing adaptive management. The committee noted that partnership capacity could affect the ability to engage in and the quality of post-FIP reporting. The committee flagged two key follow-ups for staff as the concept is further refined: reach out to local partners to better understand resource needs (and use this understanding to scope the funding amount available); and think about the cadence for reporting for different FIPs relative to system responses (i.e., not all habitats/ecoregions respond at the same pace).

Coordination with the Board Climate Committee

Staff updated the committee members (most of whom also serve on the climate committee) about the climate committee discussion. In preparation for a joint discussion of the two

committees about estimation and monitoring related opportunities regarding climate impacts and benefits, the members flagged several possible work areas including, but not limited to: 1) better accounting by the agency for the climate impacts, like emissions, of implementation by grantees in tandem with an estimation of offset potential from actions that are implemented with OWEB funds, like plantings; 2) addition of questions in grant applications to prompt applicants to begin thinking about emissions and sequestration issues; and 3) addition of application questions regarding the climate adaptation benefits a project might deliver.

Staff will work on drafting information for the committee that lays out:

- Existing monitoring investments in status and trends that could help inform climate impacts through time; and
- Existing monitoring investments that address climate-specific questions (e.g., blue carbon).

Introduction to Klamath Monitoring Activities

In response to a question asked at the December 2020 board meeting regarding monitoring in advance of Klamath River dam removal, Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, provided a brief overview of work that is underway. The committee asked to be kept updated about the broader Klamath dam removal discussions, including the contingency agreement and monitoring.

Staff Contact

Renee Davis, Deputy Director

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March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Ad hoc Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Chair), Ron Alvarado, Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Eric Murray, Gary Marshall

Background

The committee received a report on work of a state agency 'water funding' team, and received a briefing on a legislative concept that agencies are working on with the Governor's office related to equitable participation in water decision-making at the community level. The committee then spent the remainder of the meeting discussing what the most important roles should be for the committee and board related to water and Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision.

State Agency Water Funding Committee

Eric Williams discussed the work of state agencies to increase coordination around water infrastructure funding - both built and natural. The agencies have developed an internal matrix to help identify where opportunities exist to coordinate funding by project type (e.g., wastewater, water storage, sourcewater protection, etc.). This information will be combined with conversations with applicants for water funding to determine what they see as opportunities for increased coordination and barriers to receiving funding. Feedback approaches may include surveys, focus groups or other means. Committee members identified the importance of making sure that natural infrastructure is fully included in the conversation. Finally, Eric discussed work being done by Willamette Partnership to analyze how effective Oregon has been at receiving federal funds for water-related infrastructure. Staff will provide the committee with the Willamette Partnership analysis when complete.

Water Equity Legislative Concept

Meta Loftsgaarden provided draft language for a water equity legislative concept that is being developed in coordination with the Governor's office. The goal is for agencies who provide water project funding (i.e., OHA, DEQ, OWEB, WRD, Business Oregon) to clearly be able to fund planning that includes expanded ways to engage stakeholders in the planning process. Feedback from the committee included making sure to include needs such as translation services in best practices and working with impacted communities to develop best practices that, in practicality, work to enable community members to engage. Board members also suggested considering the development of outcome measures to help agencies focus on what success would look like in this area. The final bill text will be provided when it is available.

Committee Role

Committee members discussed a variety of potential roles the committee, and the board, could serve related to water investments and Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision. The committee will continue conversations, with the goal of having this as an agenda item at the July board meeting. Generally, the committee discussed taking a deep dive into the environmental goal of the water vision and with the following concepts:

- Providing encouragement to the state agencies to consider cross-agency decision-making structures when funding water projects. This could tie well with the water funding team discussed at the meeting.
- Providing examples of what the agency already does/funds that support the water vision
- Thinking through whether the board might want to consider any ecological priorities related to water for project proposals based on input from the water vision
- Identifying gaps and how those gaps could be filled – either through OWEB funding or a different approach – this is where having board members who represent multiple organizations is helpful.

Staff Contact

Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

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March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-1 Granting Approach Update

This report provides the board an update to the granting approach transitioning into the 2021-23 biennium.

Background

When granting was paused and the spending plan rebalanced in 2020, the board decided to operate on a “checkbook” basis, awarding grants only with cash on hand. It will be helpful for OWEB grantees to understand how granting will be approached in the new biennium.

Granting Approach in 2021-23

The board awards some grants, such as council and district capacity grants, at the beginning of the biennium. While funds for these grants may not be in hand at the beginning of a biennium, the board-adopted spending plan is based on funds included in the state budget, which is based on the official revenue forecast. Since grants are paid on a reimbursement basis, revenue “catches up” to grant awards during the course of the biennium. The current revenue forecast is sufficient for robust grant making in 2021-23; however, lottery revenue could decline if lottery machines are shut down again.

Staff are confident that the board can proceed on a more typical basis in 2021-23, awarding capacity grants up front for the biennium and planning for awards on a schedule similar to pre-pandemic cycles for the remaining programs. This will allow for adaptation sufficient to accommodate reductions if needed.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014.

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-2 2020 Annual Tribal Report

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2020 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe in 2020. The 2020 Annual Tribal Report has been submitted to the Legislature Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and Governor's Office.

Background

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

2020 Annual Tribal Report

The 2020 Annual Tribal Report includes a description of the following:

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

The annual report also includes a summary of the amount of funding OWEB has provided to tribes in 2020 and includes the amount of funding that tribes have contributed to grants through match that closed in 2020. Last year, OWEB did not provide any grants to tribes in the Open Solicitation grant offering. However, tribes received four grants for a total of \$1,062,432 through the John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership (FIP). Across all grant programs, tribes provided approximately \$371,595 in cash and \$304,262 in in-kind support to OWEB grants that were completed in 2020.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Tribal Liaison, at ken.fetcho@oregon.gov or 971-345-7081 or Metal Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachment

- A. 2020 Annual Tribal Report



2020 Annual Tribal Report

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



Agency Overview

Key Contact

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Tribal Liaison

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

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

OWEB works with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to address watershed scale restoration needs. OWEB operates grant programs that tribes can apply for to fund a variety of watershed management, protection, and restoration projects. Tribes can leverage those funds to meet their natural and cultural resource restoration goals and objectives.

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

Tribal Policy

In 2018, OWEB completed its process and revised its tribal policy with LCIS and tribal input. In 2020, OWEB’s tribal liaison and director continued to work together to communicate the intent of OWEB’s Tribal Policy and how staff can work effectively with tribes.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB works closely with tribes and involves them in programs and decision-making processes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency’s interactions during 2020 with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe that occupies lands in Idaho and Oregon.

OWEB Board and Grant Programs Tribal Participation

Board Membership

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

The tribal representative helps identify opportunities for collaboration and ensures the OWEB board and staff is aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Robison is fully engaged in this process and actively participates on various committees and currently serves as the Board’s co-chair to provide vital input and leadership.



Photo 1. Middle Fork John Day River, location where in 2020, restoration began by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Grant Program

Grant Applicants

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [ORS 541.375(1)]. **Since 2006, OWEB has awarded just over \$8,400,000 in grants to tribal governments.** In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of, or partners with, local

watershed councils. Oregon statute describing watershed councils (ORS 541.388) specifically identifies “federally recognized Indian Tribes” as potential members of local watershed councils. Tribes are a critical partner in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grants that our grantees such as watershed councils and SWCDs receive. In 2020, there were 22 completed grants that included tribal contributions. **Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$371,595 in cash and \$304,262 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2020.**

Small Grant Program

In OWEB’s Small Grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are eligible to be members of Small Grant Teams in each of the state’s 28 Small Grant areas. These Small Grant Teams have access to \$100,000 per biennium to recommend grants of up to \$15,000 for watershed restoration projects. Other team members include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. All small grant teams have reorganized the composition of their Teams for the 2019-2021 biennium. Representatives of all nine federal recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe serve on 20 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. This number has increased from 15 to 20 over the last biennium and is likely due to the increased outreach OWEB completed in 2019 before the new biennium began. There are some tribes that sit on several small grant teams and some small grant teams that have more than one tribe participating together.

Regular Grant Program

The economic downturn associated with the COVID -19 pandemic has had financial impacts to OWEB. As a result, OWEB took several immediate actions to reduce costs. This includes staff reductions totaling one-third of the agency (in the form of transfers and reassignments with other agencies). Operating with fewer staff limited the ability to hold new grant cycles after the funding decisions were made on the applications received in October 2019.

There were no grants awarded to tribes through the Regular Grant Program in 2020. However, one grant was awarded to the Lomakatsi Restoration Project to perform oak habitat restoration on two sites in the Willamette Valley. One of those locations include Noble Oaks near Willamina in Polk County, on conservation lands owned and managed by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Normally, OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. However, based on the financial impacts described above, the agency solicited for only one grant cycle in 2020. Applications were received in July 2020. Tribal agencies have submitted four applications in this cycle, which are currently under review. It is likely that our board will make funding decisions at the March 2021 Board meeting.

OWEB’s Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with appropriate tribal staff. They meet with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and throughout the life of each grant to ensure tribes can meet their goals and objectives. In addition, tribes often partner with watershed councils and soil and water conservation

districts (SWCDs) by helping manage the projects and at times receive funding to implement projects as contractors.

Regular Grant Program – Regional Review Teams

Applications received through OWEB’s Regular Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprised of state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. All six regional review teams have at least one tribal natural resource professional participating in the review process. In 2020, seven tribal agency representatives participated on OWEB Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Land Acquisition Grant Program

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

Water Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB’s water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest or interests in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing instream flow. Similar to the land acquisition grant program, OWEB notifies tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received and once a recommendation has been made to allow multiple opportunities to provide input in the decision making process.



Photo 2. Granite Creek, site of future restoration that will be lead by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Focused Investment Partnership Program

In 2020, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The OWEB Board made the initial awards in the program in 2016.

Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively in partnerships on ambitious, long-term, and landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives aimed at creating measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board.

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

The FIP Program is another great opportunity for tribes to pursue and receive grant funding from OWEB. **In 2020, tribes received four grants for a total of \$1,062,432 through the John Day Basin FIP.** Tribes receiving these grants included the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

In 2019, the OWEB Board approved a new grant program, which evolved from the previously offered Development FIP grant program. The new Partnership Technical Assistance grants offer two tracks: 1) Partnership Development to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan and governance documents, and 2) Partnership Capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation. Partnership Technical Assistance applications were received in October 2019 and in January 2020 OWEB awarded six Partnership TA grants. **Four of the six partnerships that received grants in 2020 include tribes as core partners.**

Other Grant Program Involvements

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

OWEB staff also participates in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation for the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the



Photo 3. John Schaefer (right), CTCLUSI biologist, working with Dr. Ben Clemens from ODFW on a lamprey monitoring project, co-funded by OWEB.

construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP, as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

Tribal Liaison

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

In 2020, OWEB's tribal liaison continued to emphasize the importance of OWEB's tribal policy to new employees and board members. Starting in 2019, each new employee and board member is briefed on the tribal policy and receives a copy of the current Annual Tribal Report.

The tribal liaison worked with Jennifer Karson-Engum to provide a tribal training at OWEB's All-Staff Meeting in November 2020. Jennifer is a cultural anthropologist and ethnographer for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Jennifer's presentation taught staff about the Tribe's traditional areas of use that spread across the Western United States and how the importance of the Cultural Resources being integrated into the Natural Resources Department. She highlighted their efforts to document the traditional place names for a wide geography in NE OR and SE Washington. This training was extremely valuable to help OWEB staff learn more about the importance of place names and the rich information they provide for the Tribes and the broader public.

Oregon Water Vision

OWEB has been continuing to work with the Governor's Natural Resources Office (GNRO) in communicating with tribes related to Oregon's 100-year Water Vision to prepare a secure, safe, and resilient water future for all Oregonians. In late 2019 and early 2020, OWEB coordinated with the GNRO to participate in individual water vision meetings with tribes to receive feedback regarding the importance of water and the unique connections each tribe has with water and water infrastructure. The Governor's budget has identified financial resources in the 2021-2023 biennium that include a position at OWEB to help move the Water Vision forward in the next biennium. Director Loftsgaarden participated in a Water Vision Panel at the Annual Tribal Summit to discuss the importance of continuing to work on implementing this Vision in 2021.

Tribal Coordination on Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery

OWEB is part of a team helping to facilitate conversations about natural and cultural resource recovery related to this year's wildfires. Following the 2020 fires, the state established a task force to address State Recovery Function 7 – Natural and Cultural Resources. While the task force has had participation from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services, it has been clear since its

establishment in October that a more focused conversation needed to occur with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon. The following is a summary of the structure that will be used to increase tribal engagement on natural and cultural resources across all fires.

Natural and Cultural Resource (NCR) Recovery Task Force – A letter was sent to each tribal chairman to invite an individual from the tribe to participate in the Task Force.

Tribal Work Group of the NCR Recovery Task Force – A formal work group was established in December 2020 under the Task Force to further address concerns and opportunities related to natural and cultural resources. The work group includes tribes, state and federal agencies and is convened by Danny Santos with LCIS, Keith Anderson (co-chair of task force) and Meta Loftsgaarden (co-convener of Executive Leadership group). The initial role of the group is to:

- Review assessments to determine if tribal cultural and natural resources are adequately reflected in the information provided.
- Identify best ways for tribes to participate in community-level conversations about fire recovery prioritization and investment
- Identify best ways to communicate with tribes about upcoming work on federal/state lands so tribes have the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to decision-making on public lands

As a result of the work group's first meeting, OWEB will be coordinating with the Oregon Department of Forestry to ensure interested tribes participate in reviewing assessments to include appropriate cultural and natural resource information in the synthesis for each fire.

Cultural Resources Protection Permits

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

Focused Investment Partnership Ecological Priorities

At the end of 2019 OWEB staff initiated a process to reach out to tribes to seek their input prior to the OWEB Board approving the ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Initiatives. "At least every five years, the Board shall approve ecological priorities of significance to the State to be addressed by Focused Investment Partnership Initiatives. Ecological priorities shall be determined with public input and scientific rigor and shall include maps and narrative describing the desired ecological outcomes for eligible Focused Investment Partnership Initiative activities" (OAR 695-047-0030). Pursuant to this rule, OWEB staff and the focused investments committee of the board initiated an assessment of the FIP Priorities in fall 2018 with the intent of having revised Priorities in place by January 2020.

In order to seek tribal input, additional efforts were made to present the draft ecological priorities to the tribes to consider this proposal and provide oral and written comments. This process involved direct engagement with tribal NR leadership, by presenting at the Tribal

Natural Resources Workgroup to discuss each ecological priority and the areas of the state in they were being proposed. OWEB also made an effort to email the draft document to all of the tribes and extended the deadline by two months to receive feedback from tribes to allow them sufficient time to prepare their comments. This process assisted OWEB in ensuring the new priorities that were approved by the OWEB Board in January 2020 reflected culturally important considerations by incorporating information from Tribal restoration plans that identified priority areas for lamprey and bull trout.

Annual Tribal Summit and Tribal Work Groups

OWEB's Executive Director and tribal liaison attended the Virtual Annual Tribal Summit and training hosted on December 1 and 2 to engage and listen to tribal representatives to understand the issues that are important to them. The tribal liaison also began to co-chair the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meetings in 2020 along with his fellow co-chair Mike Wilson, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. Their shared roles help to plan and convene regular meetings to share information and to better understand key initiatives tribes and state natural resource agencies are working on that may be relevant to each other. This arrangement has helped OWEB's tribal liaison foster and develop a strong relationship with co-chair Wilson and they saw increased participation from tribes and state agencies in the workgroup in 2020. OWEB's tribal liaison will continue to co-chair the Workgroup in 2021 with the new Tribal co-chair, Audie Huber, from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Administrative Rules

In April 2020, the OWEB Board adopted revised administrative rules for both the Water Acquisitions and Monitoring Grant programs. Representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation participated on these Rulemaking Advisory Committees to assist us in developing administrative rules that are reflective of standards that tribes deem important.

Assessment of Grant Practices Impact to Tribes

OWEB is interested in performing a programmatic assessment of its granting practices to better understand if there are negative impacts to federally recognized tribes' ability to apply for and receive funds to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives. In 2020, OWEB initiated the planning phase of this assessment by developing a draft approach and recruiting a master's student from Portland State University (PSU) with the assistance of Dیره Callica and Rick Mogren from the Institute for Tribal Government at PSU. The tribal liaison will work with the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup to communicate the intent of this program and contact tribes individually to schedule one-on-one interviews to better understand:

- if there is anything inherent in OWEB's granting practices (applicant eligibility, application review process, grant administration and reporting requirements) that creates a disadvantage to receive OWEB funding.
- the approach taken to decide if they should pursue OWEB funding and how that view might vary within a Tribe's organizational structure

- if they prefer to be the lead applicant or partner with another organization when applying for OWEB funds
- additional administrative or technical obstacles that create barriers to applying for and receiving OWEB funds.

This project will be implemented in 2021 and a final report that includes a recommendation of solutions to address any barriers/challenges will be shared with tribes.

Meetings with Tribes

The global pandemic affected OWEB’s ability to meet in person with the tribes in 2020. However, OWEB staff continued to work with technical staff from tribes on many levels to continue to administer grant funds for projects and respond to inquiries from them to develop and fund future watershed enhancement projects.

One effort that was greatly appreciated by OWEB included tribal participation on a Steering Committee to develop a workshop on stream restoration and monitoring. Stan Van Der Wetering, Supervising Fisheries Biologist for the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, provided his technical expertise to help develop the agenda and participated in the 2-day workshop. OWEB reached out to invite all the Federally Recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe to attend the workshop. In total 8 different tribes attended this workshop to share information and learn more about an innovative approach to restore streams to a more natural, pre-disturbance condition.

Tribal Cultural Items Survey

In 2020, OWEB’s tribal liaison worked to address the comments they received from the Task Force on Oregon Tribal Cultural Items on OWEB’s Cultural Items Survey Report. OWEB met with members of the Task Force to better understand how best to respond to their comments and discussed a concern the Task Force identified related to our grantees reporting information when they perform cultural surveys before a restoration project is initiated. The response to the Task Force’s comments was provided to tribal leaders and cultural resources staff for review on July 29, 2020. We look forward to their response as we tried to provide the information that was requested in a timely manner.

One of the pending items that has emerged from this effort is the Tribe’s review of the retention schedules with State Archives. While we understand that this conversation has been put on hold due to the pandemic and competing priorities, we do need to understand how Tribal comments will affect our retention schedule. We respectfully request that this task be addressed in 2021 and look forward to discussing how it will affect the way in which we manage our records over time.

It is through these interactions that relations are developed, and trust is built. OWEB looks forward to fostering these relationships in 2021 and in the years to come.



This report provides the board an update about the OWEB's 2019-21 budget situation, the legislative budgeting process, and initiation of the 2021 Legislative Session.

Background

As described at the December 2020 board meeting, Lottery revenues have continued to improve following the COVID related downturn that began in spring of 2020 and resulted in staffing reductions at the agency. Staff also updated the board about three staff members who were returning, effectively January 2021, from positions with the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program. Finally, in December, staff briefed the board about the biennial budgeting process and release of the Governor's Budget in preparation for the 2021 legislative session.

OWEB's Budget for the Remainder of This Biennium

Lottery revenues that support a sizable portion of OWEB's budget during the remainder of the 2019-21 biennium are continuing to rebound. In early February 2021, OWEB received a lottery revenue distribution that totaled \$5.4 million for grants and \$.582 million for operations, both of which are approximately 55% of the amount anticipated prior to the revenue downturn. This amount was higher than what agency estimated had predicted under the 'worst-case scenario' planning last spring. This addition, combined with \$18 million held by the board, gives the board a total current grant funds balance of \$23.4 million, which is helping to support Open Solicitation awards at the March 2021 meeting. Remaining funds following the March awards, along with May 2021 distributions, will be applied to the 2021-23 spending plan. Also at the March meeting, staff will update the board about the state revenue forecast that will be released on February 24, 2021.

The 2021-2023 Budgeting Process

Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. At the December 2020 meeting, staff reviewed with the board the content of the Governor's Budget for OWEB. While the agency received some of requested positions, including a limited duration position to focus on climate and water policy issues, an administrative services position, and a tide gate coordinator position, two other limited duration positions requested were not included in the budget. In addition, the agency sustained other cuts, totaling approximately \$650,000. As a result, based on the Governor's Budget, the agency will need to continue to take substantial reductions in contracted services and other non-staff costs in its operating budget.

The budgeting process now transitions into the legislative process. During the 2021 legislative session, the first phase of the budgeting process—agency budget presentations during legislative hearings—occurs between February and May. OWEB's budget hearing is anticipated to occur during the late March to early April timeframe. As needed, additional discussion of budgetary issues may occur following the budget hearing. Work sessions with the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee may occur any time after agency budget hearings are completed. Staff will update the board as OWEB's budget progress through the legislative budgeting process. OWEB's budget is subject to change during the legislative budgeting process and is not considered final until the Legislatively Approved budget is passed by the legislature at the end of the 2021 session.

The 2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 session of the Oregon Legislative Assembly commenced on January 19, 2021. Staff developed two handouts that describe the agency and OWEB's budget request in Governor's Budget to provide to legislators during meetings with them (Attachments A and B). Over 2100 bills have been introduced during session thus far. Currently, OWEB is tracking 99 bills in the agency's top two tiers of priorities. Examples of Priority 1 bills that OWEB is tracking include (but are not limited to):

- HB 5037, OWEB's budget bill for the operations portion of the agency's budget;
- HB 5038, OWEB's budget bill for the grants portion of the agency's budget;
- HB 3160, which would establish an Oregon Wildfire Preparedness and Community Protection Fund and utilize OWEB for grant-making for a percentage of these funds; and
- HB 2257, which would allocated funding to the Oregon Water Resources Department for establishment of a Conservation Reserve Program focused on groundwater conservation in Harney County.

At the March 2021 board meeting, staff will provide an update about bills that are directly related to OWEB.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director / Legislative Coordinator, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 971-345-7231 or Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachments

- A) "About OWEB" legislative handout
- B) OWEB budget handout



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Mission

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

About Us

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they live. The agency is led by a 18-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

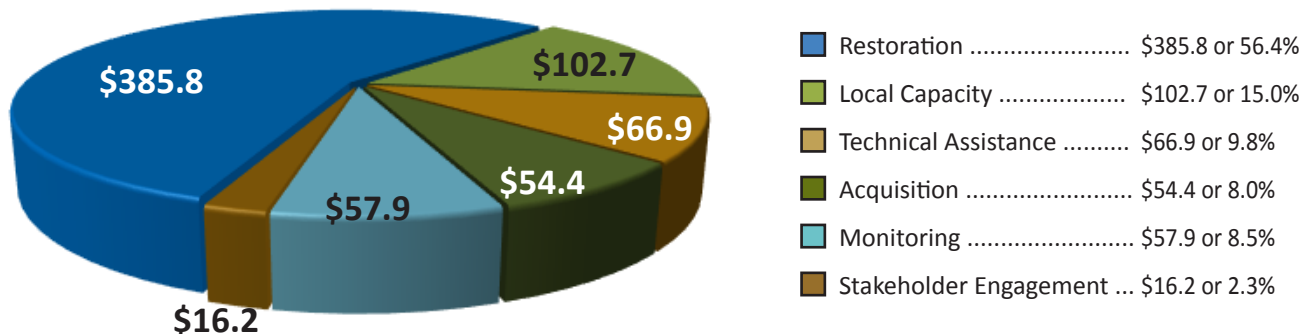
Cooperative Conservation

Since 1999, OWEB has provided more than 10,100 grants to local volunteer efforts to keep Oregon’s water clean and habitats healthy. The majority of the funds invested go directly to on-the-ground improvements of land and water such as native plantings, fish passage barrier removals, irrigation efficiencies, and other fish and wildlife habitat improvements that help protect land for future generations.

OWEB grants also support related activities such as:

- Development and design of projects
- Organizational capacity of local community groups
- Engaging landowners and stakeholders in conservation
- Data collection to determine effectiveness of the work

Statewide Total Grants (All Fund Sources from 1999 to December 2020): \$683,889,096



Dollar amounts are in millions

Primary Funding Sources

Constitutionally dedicated Oregon State Lottery revenues, congressionally appropriated Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and salmon license plate proceeds.

Local Economies and Communities Benefit

OWEB funds are used to pay those who design and implement projects, hire field crews, and buy goods and services they need to get the job done.



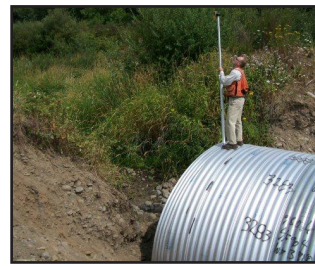
= 15 - 24 local jobs

According to a University of Oregon study, every \$1 million of OWEB investments creates 15-24 jobs in local communities across Oregon.



90¢ of each \$1 supports local economies

On average, more than 90¢ of every OWEB grant dollar supports local businesses, services, and suppliers within Oregon.



Results

OWEB has funded more than 10,100 grants since 1999, with which Oregonians have restored more than 6,100 miles of streams and have made more than 6,800 miles of habitat accessible for fish. The grants have helped landowners improve more than 1,305,700 upland habitat acres and restore, improve, or create more than 58,200 wetland or estuarine habitat acres.



Before river reconnection project



After project

River reconnection photos courtesy Coos Watershed Association

Contact

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360, Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178





Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 2021-2023 Governor's Budget

Budget

Category	2019-2021 Legislatively Approved Budget	2021-23 Governor's Budget
General Fund	\$0	\$0
Lottery Funds	\$90,535,226	\$76,371,684
Other Funds	\$3,070,646	\$14,863,984
Federal Funds	\$45,304,270	\$48,011,159
Total Funds	\$138,916,142	\$139,246,827
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	35.00	32.00

Policy Packages – Recommended (including reductions)

REDUCTION - 070 – Revenue Shortfalls

Reduces current service level (CSL) to account for shortfalls in lottery revenues that began in the 2019-21 biennium and are anticipated to continue at some level in 2021-23. This includes elimination of 3 administrative FTE and reductions to services and supplies, including contracting funds used to operate OWEB grant programs. (\$1,077,928) (LF:Ops and FF)

REDUCTION - Statewide Adjustments (091, 092, 096, 097, 099)

Implements multiple reductions totaling nearly \$500,000, including elimination of standard inflation, increased vacancy savings, statewide adjustments to DAS charges and Attorney General rates, and elimination of costs associated Microsoft 365 consolidation. (\$448,343) (LF:Ops and FF)

125 – CSL Restoration

Restores a small portion of the expenditures reduced in POP 070 by establishing a new permanent Administrative Specialist (AS) 2 to assist with work previously completed by three (3) permanent administrative positions eliminated in POP 070. \$151,573 (LF:Ops)

110 – Program Enhancement, Water and Climate

Provides a limited duration OPA4 position and contracting resources to assist with coordination of water and climate initiatives, both of which are natural resources priorities for Governor Brown, while considering issues of equity and environmental justice. \$326,653 (LF:Ops)

120 – Tide Gate Coordinator

Creates a limited duration NRS4 position to expand partnerships with federal, state, and local partners to help plan, design, permit, and implement tide gate repair and replacement projects on the Oregon Coast and Lower Columbia River. The package will result in natural resources solutions that balance conservation and economics in rural communities. \$297,174 (FF)

210 – Additional Grant Funds – Federal Funds Limitation

Allows the agency to receive additional funding from Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund to support monitoring work by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in the Upper

Klamath Basin. OWEB is the lead applicant for PCSRF funds, and then distributes funding to ODFW. \$134,500 (FF)

220 – Additional Grant Funds – Other Funds Limitation

Allows the agency to receive additional Other Funds (\$6,000,000) to distribute as grants related to the 2016 Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement. OWEB will administer funds from PacifiCorp to address water-quality improvements in the Upper Klamath Basin, associated with the Klamath River dam removal. Also, allows the agency to receive additional Other Funds (\$1,000,000) from Idaho Power Company as part of relicensing of the Hells Canyon dam complex to address water-quality and salmonid habitat improvements in the lower sections of the Malheur and Owyhee river basins. \$7,000,000 (OF)

230 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Grant Funds

Funding for grants to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) to help landowners who want to keep their farms and ranches working for Oregon’s economy, healthy rural communities, and support healthy fish and wildlife populations, water quality, and other natural resources benefits. \$5,000,000 (OF)

200 – Carryforward of Grant Funds

Standard process to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This package allows funds for these grants to be expended in the 2021-23 biennium. \$15,600,000 (FF/OF)

Policy Packages – Not Recommended

100-NRS-3 – Program Continuity – Conservation Outcomes Specialist

Limited duration; Assists in building structure for monitoring and reporting results of agency and partner investments in watershed restoration. Helps to implement coordinated monitoring, adaptive management and shared learning aspects of OWEB’s updated strategic plan. \$263,688 (LF: Ops)

100-NRS-4 – Program Continuity – Partnerships Coordinator

Limited duration; Manages work associated with Focused Investment Partnership program, which intends to scale up conservation to ensure progress toward quantifiable ecological outcomes. \$248,291 (LF: Ops)

100 – Program Continuity – Contracting Funds and Statewide Charges

Funding for personal service contracting, specifically to support a portion an Internal Auditor 2, through a shared services agreement with the Water Resources Department, and funding for statewide Microsoft 365 and state data center charges. The funding request of \$112,011 for package 100 contracted services was in addition to the contracted services that were previously included in CSL, but reduced in 070 by \$322,838 and not restored in 125. In 2021-23, the total reduction in contracted services is \$434,849 (LF:Ops)

115 – Coordinated Streamside Management

Request a limited duration NRS3 position to enhance the agency’s efforts to better evaluate and document the ecological return using data and results to inform the interagency Coordinated Streamside Management program, focused on monitoring of Strategic Implementation Areas in coordination with Oregon Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Quality. \$234,209 (LF:Ops)

March 9-10, 2021 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E4: Strategic Plan Update

This report provides an update about implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

At this and upcoming meetings, the board will be provided with both general updates on plan progress, and more detailed updates as needed on specific priority areas.

Strategic Plan Update

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between December 2020 and February 2021. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the subcommittee updates.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director, at Meta.Loftsgaarden@oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, December 2020 – February 2021

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: December 2020-February 2021

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategy: Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments

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

✓ N/A

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

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

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- Local partners are trained and have access to media and tools.
- Local conservation organizations have meaningful connection to local media.
- Each region has access to public engagement Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
 - o are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed;
 - o understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;
 - o understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increase in public conversation about watersheds and people's role in keeping them healthy.
- Increase recognition of landowner connection to healthy watersheds.
- Broader representation/greater variation of populations represented in the Oregon watershed stories.

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

Strategy: Listen, learn and gather Information about diverse populations

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

- ✓ Engaged Tribes in providing input to Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force’s assessment synthesis of wildfire impacts and priority actions
- ✓ Completed the Interagency Climate Justice Survey for the Interagency Workgroup on Climate Impacts on Impacted Communities.
- ✓ Sent survey to board members to better understand their current perspectives on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

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

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop funding Strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

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

- ✓ Convened DEI ad hoc committee to provide survey to board members to understand their current perspectives on diversity, equity, and inclusion. If funding is available next biennium, this work will set the baseline to engage the board in DEI and develop potential investment strategies that fit the sideboards of OWEB funding.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact individuals, organizations and business practices.
- OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB’s unique relationship with tribes.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.

- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration.
- Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers.
- Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders.
- OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ Increased awareness by grantees of gaps in community representation.
- ✓ Increased representation of grantees and partners from diverse communities on boards, staff and as volunteers.
- ✓ Increased funding provided to culturally diverse stakeholders and populations.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

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

- ✓ N/A (on hold due to funding shortages)

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

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

- ✓ N/A (on hold due to funding shortages)

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

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

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB’s capacity investments.
- Help exists for local groups to define their restoration ‘community’ for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- A suite of alternative options exists to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes.
- New mechanisms are available for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding.
- A set of streamlined cross-agency processes exist to more effectively implement restoration projects.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increase in indicators of capacity for entities.
- Increased restoration project effectiveness from cross-agency efforts.
- Increase in funding for capacity by funders other than OWEB.

Priority 4 – Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

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

- ✓ Coordinated discussions among agency water infrastructure funders and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to initiate a process to determine specific ways to improve access to water infrastructure funding and coordination among funding agencies.

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

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

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

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

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Partner to design Strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

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

- ✓ OWEB continues to serve as co-convener of the Natural and cultural Resource Recovery Task Force, using recently completed post-fire assessments to prioritize key actions on natural resources recovery. A series of funding packages are in development for state and federal consideration.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding.
- OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments.
- OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations.
- Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.
- Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner.
- Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds.
- Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios.
- Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration.
- Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments.
- Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts.
- Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration.
- Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects.
- Increase in new and diverse funding sources.
- Increase in creative funding mechanisms and Strategy.
- Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment.
- Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.

Priority 5 – The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

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

- ✓ Received approval through the Governor's budget to move forward the OAHP policy option package requesting \$5 million in other funds, allowing the agency to seek outside funding for OAHP.

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

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

- ✓ Completed a survey regarding natural and working lands climate solutions to timber and agricultural landowners along with conservation and natural resource organizations to better understand drivers for landowners/managers to sequester carbon/adapt to climate change.

Strategy: Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands

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

- ✓ Developed a strategy to continue to engage with landowners/managers after completion of the climate survey to engage in focused discussions to increase carbon sequestration projects on working lands.

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

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

- ✓ Nine Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define develop local monitoring plans and those plans have been approved by the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group.

- ✓ Eleven Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) teams worked collaboratively with Oregon Department of Agriculture and other partners to define goals and submit applications for technical assistance funding through OWEB's targeted SIA grant offering.

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

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

- ✓ Executive Director participated in annual Sage Grouse Conservation (SageCon) meeting with a focus on continuing to increase private landowner participation in conservation that improves sage-steppe habitat while supporting the local agricultural economy.

So That: (Outputs)

- Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects.
- Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use.
- New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands.
- Local capacity exists to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands.
- A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers and incentives for working lands owners.
- Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations.
- Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects.
- Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands.
- Expanded working lands partnerships improve habitat and water quality.
- Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

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

- ✓ Finalized Cohort 2 FIP Progress Tracking Reports and presented to OWEB Board in December 2020.
- ✓ Completed Conservation Effectiveness Partnership fact sheets about Whychus Creek and Willow Creek case studies, quantitatively describing the outcomes of restoration and conservation investments in these two watersheds.

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

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

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

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

- ✓ Local teams for the Thirtymile, Eightmile, and Lower North Fork Malheur SIAs convened to develop specific monitoring proposals to understand the impacts of SIA projects.
- ✓ Offered a training webinar about OWEB's revised monitoring grant application, which reflects new requirements under revised administrative rules adopted in 2020.

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

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

- ✓ Convened the Stage 0 restoration monitoring workshop, which brought together approximately 100 scientists, practitioners, researchers, managers, and funders to discuss state of the knowledge regarding Stage 0, information gaps, and opportunities for communication and coordination on future monitoring and implementation.

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

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

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

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

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe restoration investment outcomes.
- Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.
- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly.
- Impacts on ecological, economic and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians.
- Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.
- Increase in local organizations that integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities.
- Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological outcomes.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

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

- ✓ Held a quarterly call with the seven recipients of Partnership Technical Assistance grants, who are laying the groundwork for addressing landscape scale restoration.
- ✓ Bonneville Environmental Foundation completed progress tracking reports for each of the new cohort of FIPs.

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

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

- ✓ Brought on board a tide gate coordinator with NRCS funding to provide overall coordination for the tide gate partnership and associated work; announced at a tide gate partnership meeting.
- ✓ Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by continuing funding for a pipe-sizing tool to aid in the development of tide gate designs that meet regulatory requirements for fish passage.
- ✓ Supported the Tide Gate Partnership by continuing funding for the development of a funding decision support tool to help optimize funding for tide gate repair and replacement projects.

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

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

- ✓ Climate committee is in the process of drafting questions for consideration in new grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- Conservation communities' value an experimental approach to learning and innovation.
- Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work is not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance.
- OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.
- OWEB investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate.
- Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren't previously.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increased strategic watershed restoration footprint statewide.
- Increased money for innovative watershed work from diverse funding sources.
- Increased learning from bold and innovative actions so future decisions result in healthy watersheds in Oregon.
- New players or sectors—such as healthcare providers—engaged to invest in watershed restoration, enhancement and protection.



Agenda Item F supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds, and Strategic Plan priority 7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director
Richard Whitman, DEQ Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Klamath Dam Removal - Contingency Funding
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Removal of the four PacifiCorp dams along the Klamath River in Oregon and California that block fish passage has been a priority of multiple governors in both states for over a decade. After extensive work by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation and its contractors (in partnership with states, tribes, federal agencies, irrigators, conservation groups, and many others), there is now a clear path to completing dam removal in 2023. This staff report updates the board on the dam removal project and asks for a general indication of board support in the unlikely event that additional funding is needed to complete restoration work following dam removal.

II. Background

PacifiCorp owns and operates four hydro-electric dams on the Klamath River, three in California and one in Oregon. PacifiCorp has decided that it is in the best interest of the company and its customers to stop operating the dams rather than spending substantial amounts on improvements likely to be needed if they were to continue generating power. PacifiCorp has agreed to transfer ownership of the dams to the Klamath River Restoration Corporation, which in turn has contracted with Kiewit Infrastructure -- one of the nation's most experienced large project construction firms -- which will remove the dams and restore the river to a free-flowing condition. Funding for removal and restoration is being provided by California taxpayers (\$250 million in bond proceeds) and PacifiCorp customers in both states (\$200 million, already collected).

Oregon DEQ and the California Water Resources Control Board have both approved water quality certifications for dam removal. The principal federal regulatory review of the project is by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which must approve a surrender license for removal to occur. Related to FERC's action, it will consult with federal fisheries agencies on impacts to threatened and endangered species (particularly SONC

coho), and review other environmental impacts through a NEPA review and cultural resource impacts through a section 106 review. The project also require Clean Water Act section 404 permitting from the U.S. Army Corps. All of these reviews are expected to be completed over the next year.

Related to the FERC review, one issue that has been raised is whether existing contingencies and risk tools provide a high enough level of certainty that the work will be completed. Responding to this concern, the states and PacificCorp have agreed that they will jointly and equally provide additional financial support for the project in the event that it would be needed, up to \$45 million (10% of the project budget, which already includes separate contingencies, contractual guarantees, insurance and performance bonding).

III. OWEB Board Request

In the unlikely event that existing cost control and risk mechanisms are insufficient to complete dam removal and related watershed restoration, Governor Brown has agreed with California and PacificCorp to make an additional contingency available for that work. In the event that FERC wants more detail about how that would be done, state agencies in Oregon have been coordinating closely with the Department of Justice to identify the best legal route to create such a contingency fund. OWEB has been identified as a funder that would have a strong constitutional and statutory connection with the work to be completed – both for dam removal and subsequent restoration. To mitigate the budget impact of such a need, if it were to arise, the state is proposing to provide its share of contingency funding (if needed) through a loan/grant mechanism.

“Deconstruction/restoration” funds would be loaned (likely via the State Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund administered by DEQ) to provide Oregon’s share of the up to \$15 million, with the loan paid back through grants by OWEB over the course of 20-30 years. This structure would allow OWEB to invest in this critical work (if needed), but in a manner that has a relatively minor impact to the agency’s budget. Importantly, all funding by DEQ and by OWEB would be reviewed through regular processes to ensure that funding complies with constitutional, statutory and regulatory requirements.

IV. Recommendation

At this time, staff request general support in a motion from the board that OWEB is an appropriate funding source for this work, knowing that details will follow in coming months and years to ensure the investments meet the agency’s constitutional requirements. This will allow staff to coordinate with other state agencies to work out details of funding if it becomes necessary.

Attachments

- A. Klamath dam removal project history
- B. The Largest Dam Removal in US History

Klamath Dam Removal Project History

- 2009 – Oregon, California, and the US Dept. of the Interior reach a comprehensive water agreement (KBRA), dependent on Congressional approval and funding. At the same time, the states and US DOI reach an agreement with PacifiCorp to remove four of its dams on the Klamath River.
- 2010 - OPUC determines dam removal is in the best interest of PacifiCorp customers.
- 2015 – Congress fails to pass KBRA legislation.
- 2016 – PacifiCorp, Oregon, California, and the US Dept. of the Interior amend the agreement for dam removal, to provide for a private entity to carry out the project rather than the US. The amended agreement requires approval of FERC.
- 2017 – PacifiCorp and the dam removal entity file applications with FERC.
- 2017-20 – Dam removal entity conducts a competitive procurement for a lead construction firm; Kiewit is awarded the design-build contract. Kiewit completes 90% design and engineering; provisions for insurance, performance bonds, contingencies and other mechanisms to guard against cost overruns.
- 2017-20 – Review of dam removal by an independent Board of Consultants to FERC – confirming project plan.
- 2020 – FERC issues order, partially approving transfer of the dams to the removal entity, but requiring PacifiCorp to remain on the FERC license.
- 2020 – Oregon, California and PacifiCorp negotiate MOA responding to FERC concerns, and affirm commitments to proceed, contingent on FERC approvals, which include the additional contingency funding.
- 2020-21 -- Updated FERC applications filed November 2020 and January 2021; NEPA review expected to be initiated March 2021; ESA consultations expected to formally commence March 2021.
- 2021-22 – FERC action on license transfer anticipated in 2021; FERC action on license surrender anticipated in spring of 2022.



By Alexander Mattheus 10th November 2020

For over a century, one of the most important salmon runs in the United States has had to contend with historic dams – and now four of them are set to be taken down.

"My great uncle and my grandma and my great grandparents and, I'm sure, their great grandparents: they were all fishermen. That's just what they did – they fished and it was out of necessity to support their families. And it's because that's what we've always done and we've never known another life," says Amy Cordalis, the general counsel of the Yurok, and a member of California's largest indigenous tribe.

It's hard to overstate how important this livelihood has been to the Yurok people who have lived for millennia in rural Northern California. And yet this livelihood has been diminishing for decades after the Klamath River – which flows through the tribe's territory – was dammed for hydro-electricity. But now, after years of painstaking negotiations, the fortunes of the Yurok could be set to change, with the largest dam removal project in US history given the green light.

Although she grew up in Ashland, Oregon, Cordalis would often visit Requa, a tiny village near the mouth of the Klamath River in northern California, to see family, attend tribal ceremonies – and to fish. Her father – "the ultimate Yurok fisherman" – had four daughters and a son, and he taught all of them to fish.

"When I was growing up, there were still decent salmon runs," she recalls. "On good nights, you could catch 100, 200 fish. We loved it. That's when you felt like you were like being your best Yurok self: you were doing what the creator made you for. You were going to be able to fill up your smokehouse and your freezer and not only just yours, but your grandma's, your aunts', your cousins' – all the people you cared about, you could give them fish so that they had food."



Amy Cordalis, the Yurok Tribe's general counsel, was taught to fish sustainably by her father, a skill passed down in families for generations (Credit: Matt Mais)

It's like the crumbling of the way that we live. It's the crumbling of how we interact with that natural environment, because there's no fish – Amy Cordalis

The money from selling the fish they didn't need would provide money for the children's school clothes, a fridge or a second-hand car, Cordalis says. In short, fishing was a valuable income on a reservation where the median income is only \$11,000 a year.

Today the fishing experience is very different, she says. Drawing upon all the techniques and skills passed down over generations is of little use, because when she goes down to the river with her own three boys, "there are no fish to be caught".

"It's like the crumbling of the way that we live. It's the crumbling of the way that we teach our kids," says Cordalis. "It's the crumbling of how we interact with that natural environment, because there's no fish."

Anytime you put a dam on a river, it always has profound effects: it chops the river into two pieces – Michael Belchik

Research bears this out. The Klamath River, **once home to the third-largest salmon runs (the migration of adult salmon upstream to spawn) in the continental United States**, now has runs at a fraction of their original numbers. One of five Pacific species, the spring-run Chinook salmon, which **historically numbered in the hundreds of thousands** has almost entirely been wiped out: the run consisted of fewer than 700 fish last year. Another species, the **Coho salmon, which grows typically to between 60cm and 76cm (24 to 30 inches) and can weigh over 5kg (11lb) in adulthood**, has been designated "threatened" under the US's Endangered Species Act.

The dams built on the Klamath River **have been identified as one cause of the drop in salmon numbers**. Eight dams were built on the river between the early 1900s and 1962 to produce hydroelectric power. The **presence of dams has been linked to marked changes in salmon populations on the Klamath and elsewhere**.

"Anytime you put a dam on a river, it always has profound effects: it chops the river into two pieces," explains the Yurok tribe's senior fisheries biologist, Michael Belchik, a tribal member who has decades of experience in fish restoration. "Rivers carry a lot more than just water. The water goes down river, fish move upriver, but not only that: there's nutrients, sediment and other organisms."



Cordalis, who fishes with her father and sister on the Klamath River, has seen numbers of salmon in the river tumble since her childhood (Credit: Matt Mais)

Without flowing sediment, the river below the dams then becomes starved of it, leaving only larger rocks on the river bottom. These rocks are ideal for bristle worms, also known as polychaete worms, to cling onto. "Normally, the mobile bed of the river prevents colonies of these filter-feeding worms from taking over every square inch of the bottom of the river," says Belchik. But now, "these worms have taken over everything".

Anytime you have fish that have limited genetic diversity and limited geographic area, you invite catastrophe to take out your fish, whether it's a fish disease or a flood – Michael Belchik

Although not harmful in and of themselves, the worms are the secondary host for *C. Shasta*, a parasite to which juvenile chinook salmon have proven particularly vulnerable. Belchik says that the Klamath's lowest dam, Iron Gate, has created overcrowded conditions that are ripe for the spread of *C. Shasta*. The salmon that don't go into the hatchery – a man-made spawning facility – spawn just below the dam. The many juvenile salmon that then gather closely here are prone to picking up the parasite.

"[These] are all the ingredients necessary to put together a runaway out of control disease problem that is now wiping out of 80 or 90% of our fish," says Belchik.

"Anytime you have fish that have limited genetic diversity and limited geographic area, you invite catastrophe to take out your fish, whether it's a fish disease or a flood."

The reservoirs behind the dams are also responsible for a significant build-up of toxic algae – which thrives in warm, nutrient-rich stagnant water. In sufficient quantities it becomes harmful to human health. In the autumn, water containing toxic algae is released and sent downstream towards the Klamath's mouth where the Yurok reservation is.

"We have just received our almost yearly announcement that the toxic levels of microcystin in the river and blue-green algae are now at unhealthy levels," says Frankie Myers, vice-chairman of the Yurok tribe. This doesn't just make fishing hazardous.

"There are pieces of our culture and our spiritual practices that we cannot do now without risking the health and safety of our people," he explains. "The place we go to pray, the place we go to heal, the place we go to do our medicine will make you sick. That has a psychological impact on our communities."

Towards renewal

The solution that Yurok and a coalition of other tribes and environmental organizations have long advocated for is the removal of the lower four of the eight dams on the Klamath. After painstaking negotiations, this led to the signing of an agreement between PacifiCorp (which operates these dams) and 40 other signatories, including tribes and state governments in 2010.

The simultaneous removal of the four dams, with a combined height of 411ft, makes it the largest dam removal project in America's history, according to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, the nonprofit tasked with overseeing the dam removals. It is also set to be the most expensive, at a cost of almost \$450m.



The largest dam set to come down on the Klamath is the Iron Gate Dam, standing at 173ft (53m) high (Credit: Dave Meurer)

The result will be **400 stream-miles of restored habitat** for salmon and other migratory species like steelhead trout and Pacific lamprey.

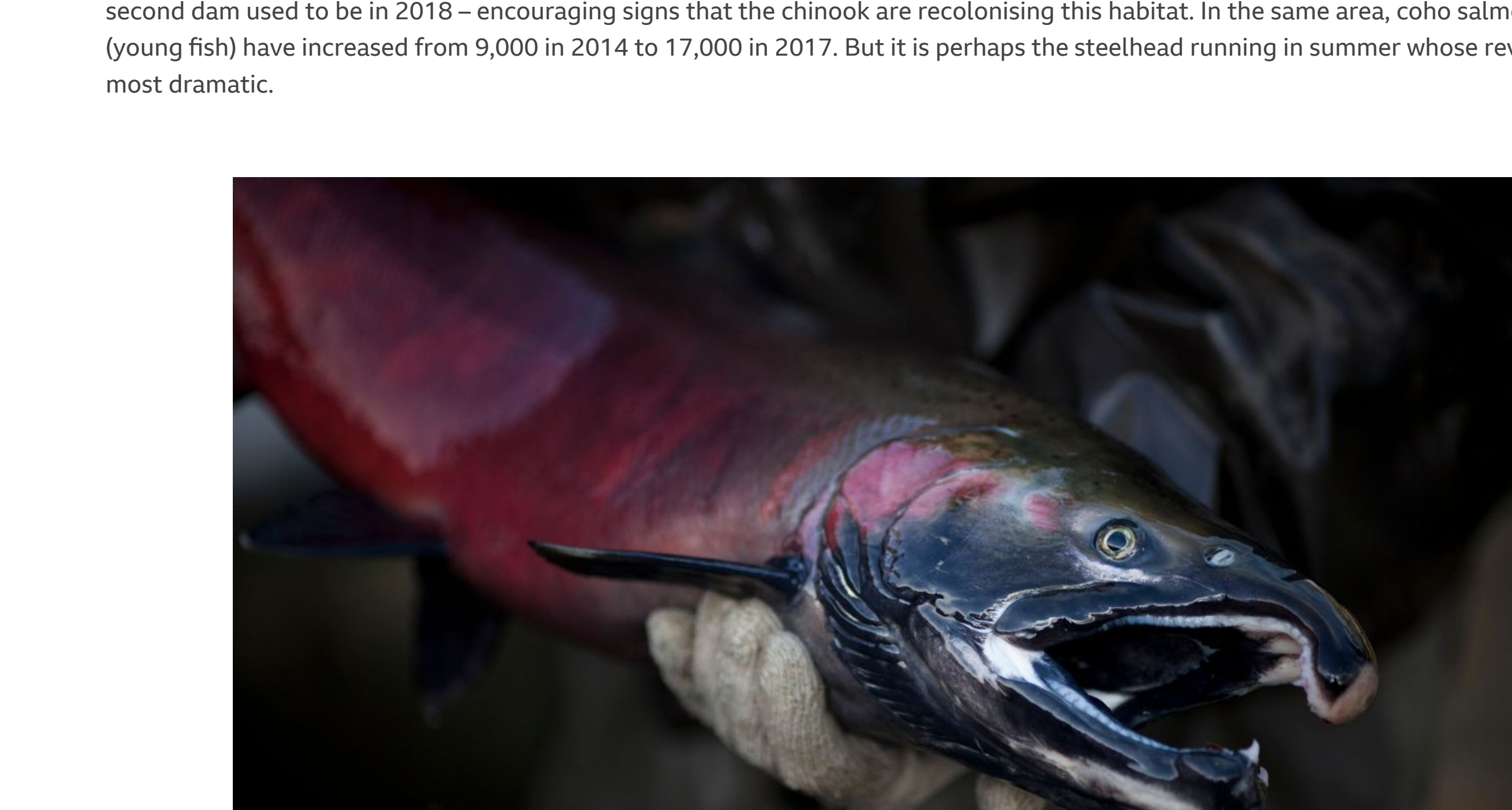
Opening up previously inaccessible spawning grounds will allow for greater genetic diversity and less crowding, says Belchik, which reduces the risk of disease transmission.

"I've spent my career helping design fish restoration projects of varying types," says Belchik. In terms of impact, "restoration of passage [projects] are always the most successful and most immediate".

By reconnecting springs and cold-water tributaries to the main Klamath River, Belchik says the water temperatures of the river as a whole would drop. This not only improves water quality (lower temperatures reduce the risk of algae blooms, which in turn increases dissolved oxygen and improves pH levels); it would also benefit the salmon whose spawning and migratory behaviour benefit from cooler water – and who are more vulnerable to disease when it's warmer. The return of cooler water, fed by snowmelt, will help make the fish more resilient in the face of climate change. And the return of naturally flowing sediment and a newly mobile riverbed would drastically reduce the habitat of the polychaete worms which release the salmon-killing *C. Shasta*.

With over 1,700 dams removed in the US – including 90 last year, according to American Rivers' database – there is a growing list of examples illustrating the benefits to ecosystems, especially for imperilled fish populations. The removal of two smaller dams and fish passage improvements on the Penobscot River in Maine, which were completed in 2016, **have restored 2,000 miles of habitat for Atlantic salmon and other species** compensating for lost power by improving output from other dams. The project **led to a rebound in alewife and blueback herring** returns have surged to 1.9 million compared to just 2,000 in 2011.

In the Olympic National Park in Washington State, **removals of two large dams on the Elwha River were completed in 2014**, restoring 75% of previously inaccessible spawning habitat. Just over 1,600 chinook salmon recolonising (spawning nests) were spotted upstream of where the second dam used to be in 2018 – encouraging signs that the chinook are redonating this habitat. In the same area, coho salmon smolts (young fish) have increased from 9,000 in 2014 to 17,000 in 2017. But it is perhaps the steelhead running in summer whose revival has been most dramatic.



On the Elwha River, numbers of salmon have recovered significantly since the removal of two large dams (Credit: Getty Images)

"Prior to dam removal snorkel surveys of the lower Elwha (2009-11) never revealed more than one or two summer steelhead," **writes NOAA fish biologist Sarah Morley and colleagues in a May 2019 paper**. "Sonar [research] estimated the 2018 summer run population to be at least 300 fish. Like the phoenix, summer runs have arisen from the ashes."

World precedent

To remove dams as large as those on the Klamath River will be a complex operation. In the Klamath River Renewal Corporation's **plan for the removals**, it will start with drawing down the water levels behind each dam wall. Demolition comes next – largely through drilling and blasting, with trucks removing the rubble. The newly exposed riverbed is then covered in mulch and indigenously seeded. Not only does this help restore this habitat to its natural state: both will be critical to reduce the amount of sediment washed down to the sea. **In experiments conducted by Ellen Mussman and others ahead of the Elwha dam removals**, plants reduced erosion by 33%, while mulch reduced it by 99%. Together, these could be a highly effective means to stop erosion, the researchers conclude.

And while it might seem counterintuitive that a power company would be in favour of dam removals, it actually makes good business sense for PacifiCorp. This is because to renew the operating licence for these dams, its ratepayers would have to foot an approximately \$400m bill for upgrades to ensure compliance with legislation (including the installation of costly **fish ladders** at each dam that would enable migration).

Removing the dams is a cheaper option: under the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA), customers will only have to pay \$200m, with an additional \$250m coming from the State of California. The removals have been endorsed by the Public Utility Commission of both Oregon and California as being in the interests of ratepayers. Bob Gravely, regional business manager of Pacific Power (the PacifiCorp subsidiary which runs the dams) says that the dam removals "became a better outcome for customers".

Overall, little will be lost in terms of renewable energy generation: **the dams represent less than 8% of PacifiCorp's 2,208 MW current renewable generation capacity**, and as of July 2020 a further 1,190 MW of renewable capacity was under construction. The utility anticipates **an additional 3,743MW of renewables coming on stream by the end of 2023**.

"I think one of the coolest parts about this whole project is we're setting a precedent for the world to follow," says Cordalis. "I think the approach of working together with the company, with states, with tribes, with environmentalists, to reach an agreement that allows these dams to be removed for the benefit of the dam and for the restoration of this river in a way that costs less money than it would be to relicense [the dams] – that's really a model of how you might approach sustainable river restoration across the world."

The dam removals were slated for 2022, though with negotiations still **ongoing between the company, the tribes and other stakeholders**, that date is still unconfirmed. But Cordalis says she still remains hopeful. "We're getting very close," she says.

"I think we all understand that there is an indigenous tribe [and] a culture at stake," says Myers. "I think it has held fast in these negotiations that these dam removal efforts are as much to remove the dams for the ecology and benefits of salmon restoration as they are to the wrongs that took place in this country for the last 150, 200 years against Native Americans."

For the Yurok, Myers says the dams are seen as "monuments to colonialism" and compares them to statues of Confederate generals. "These dams are statues of the war that we fought here on the Klamath River. And these statues destroy our river, the land and our culture. We have to deal with them every single day." In response to this, Pacific Power's Gravely says: "We are very pleased to be part of a settlement agreement that allows the desire of Klamath Basin Tribes and others for dam removal to move forward" while also ensuring protections for electricity customers in six states.

Myer says the treaty negotiated between Yurok and the federal government in the 1850s limited the tribe to their reservation in return for a good standard of living in perpetuity. Although, he says, the federal government failed to live up to its end of the bargain, dam removals would bring that goal closer.

Anticipating the return of healthy fish runs, the tribe has already built a salmon harvesting plant – both for commercial and subsistence fishing – done sustainably, just as Yurok have done for millennia.

"We have been surviving off the river's resources and living symbiotically with it since time immemorial," says Cordalis. "Our creation story talks about how the creator made the river, the land, the animals, the plants, and then made the people and said to the people, 'This will all be here for you and you won't need for anything as long as you live in a sustainable way with the natural environment, and as long as you don't take more than you want to support your family.' That initial religious principle informs how we interact with the river, how we interact with all of its resources and the natural world."

While the dams have increasingly threatened this symbiosis, their removal will once more enable the ancient connection between the Yurok people and the Klamath River to flourish.

Update

On 17 November 2020, a new agreement was signed between PacifiCorp, the Yurok and other stakeholders to facilitate the dams' removals. Should federal regulators approve, the project will begin in 2022, with the demolitions slated for 2023.)



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – FIP Program Monitoring
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will present Progress Tracking Reports for the Cohort 2 Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) and answer questions from board members. Cohort 2 FIPs include:

- Baker Sage-Grouse LIT – Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction Initiative
- Clackamas Partnership – Restoration for Native Fish Recovery Initiative
- John Day Basin Partnership – John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative
- Rogue Forest Partners – Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
- Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership – Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement Initiative

II. Background

In January 2019, the board selected the five partnerships outlined above for FIP funding beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium. These partnerships comprise OWEB's second cohort of FIP initiatives. FIP administrative rules require that FIPs report to the board on the progress of their initiatives at the end of each biennium (OAR 695-047-0130).

III. Implementation

Cohort 2 FIPs presented and discussed initiative progress with the board at the December 2020 meeting. The Progress Tracking Reports shared here provide a written and visual account of that progress (see Attachment A). Progress Tracking Reports are a tool to communicate the progress and evolution of each FIP initiative as they proceed with strategic action plan implementation, outcomes monitoring, and adaptive management of the partnership. The reports summarize context of each partnership's work and synthesize actions to provide a high-level portrait of progress.

Ideally, these reports would have been available at the December 2020 meeting in conjunction with the in-person partnership presentations; however, staff required additional time to complete them due to current limited staff capacity. Staff engaged with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation through the board's FIP Effectiveness Monitoring investment to coordinate with each FIP and develop these reports.

Progress Tracking Reports for Cohort 1 FIPs were shared with the board at the January 2020 meeting, and staff aim to share a second round of reports for those FIPs later in 2021.

Based on the Cohort 2 initiative progress reporting at the December 2020 meeting and the completion of these Progress Tracking Reports, staff have included the full biennium 2 funding requests for each of the Cohort 2 FIPs in the staff-recommended spending plan (see agenda item N-11).

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Cohort 2 Progress Tracking Reports, 2019-2021 Biennium



Baker Sage-grouse *Local Implementation Team*

Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

SAGEBRUSH/SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT

The Baker Local Implementation

Team (LIT) is working collaboratively with private landowners and managers to enhance sage-grouse habitat within Baker County to reverse local sage-grouse population declines.

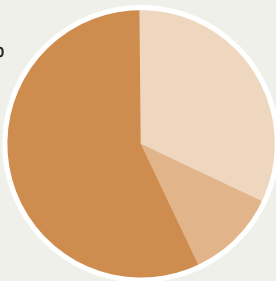


The Baker Priority Area of Conservation is considered to be the most strategically important area for sage-grouse conservation in Baker County and is the primary location of restoration efforts. Efforts also expand into general sage-grouse habitat throughout Baker County where restoration can help support thriving leks and habitat corridors.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,292,415 in funding that leveraged \$1,980,664 in matching funds

Restoration
\$735,904 / 56.94%



Stakeholder Engagement
\$407,426 / 31.52%

Technical Assistance
\$149,085 / 11.54%

Benefits

- Improvement to sage-grouse habitat quality and quantity
- Promoting wildfire prevention and restoration activities
- Improved understanding of sage-grouse threats including West Nile Virus, late season habitat, and more
- Grazing and land management to promote healthy sage-brush ecosystems

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in Baker LIT Planning Area. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS

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

Supporting Partners: Oregon State University Extension, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, The Nature Conservancy, Baker Valley Vector Control, Institute for Natural Resources, Agricultural Research Service, Rural Landowners

GOAL

Increase the quality and quantity of sage-grouse habitat and ultimately increase the Baker sage-grouse population.

STRATEGIES

- Promote awareness and enrollment in voluntary habitat conservation programs
- Prevent, treat, and adaptively manage invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds
- Protect, enhance, and expand extent and connectivity of areas with adequate sagebrush cover
- Address key information gaps

IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

Program Enrollment

28

LAND OWNERS
ENROLLED IN
HABITAT
PROGRAMS

Weed Treatment & Prevention

3,320

ACRES OF
ANNUAL GRASSES
TREATED

Restoration & Planning

3

PLANNING
MEETINGS
FOR STRATEGIC
FUEL BREAK
PLAN

Fill Information Gaps

15

WEST NILE VIRUS
HOT SPOT
SAMPLING SITES
IDENTIFIED
AND ADDED

2,635

ACRES OF
NOXIOUS WEEDS
TREATED

1

SITE-SPECIFIC PLAN
FOR THE CCAA IS
COMPLETED

5

ALTERNATIVE FORAGE OPTION
ANALYSIS MEETINGS HELD

1

OHV WASH STATION
PRELIMINARY PLAN
COMPLETED

1

SAGE-GROUSE
COMPATIBLE GRAZING
ANALYSIS COMPLETED

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-5 YEARS

- Extent and abundance of invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds is reduced
- Sagebrush/sage steppe plant communities including native bunchgrass and forb diversity and abundance are suitable to support all life history stages of sage-grouse

Mid-Term 5-10 YEARS

- Sage-grouse nest success increases

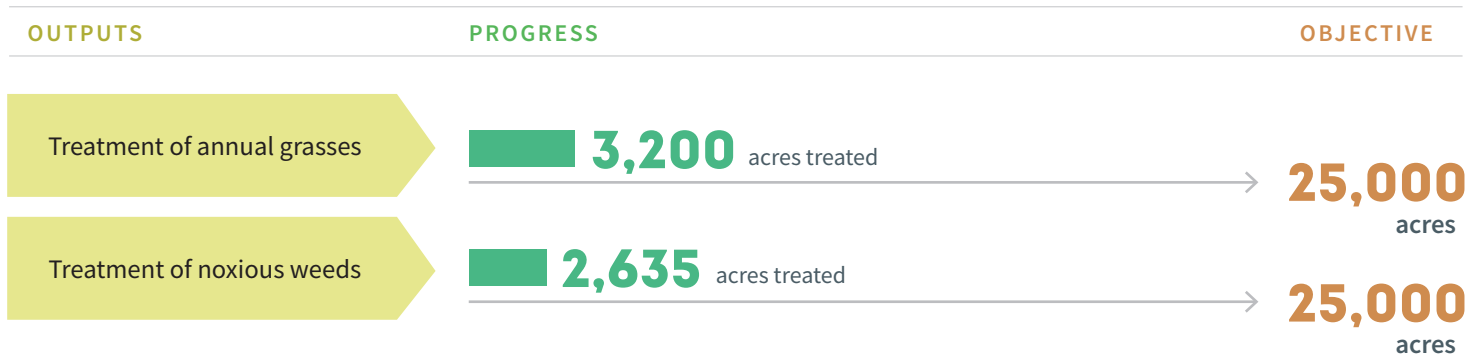
Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Sage-grouse population is stable or increases



FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

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



Monitoring Approach

The partnership will utilize existing sage-grouse habitat monitoring methods to ensure consistency with statewide data collection in order to allow collected data to inform overall monitoring goals of Oregon’s Sage-grouse Action Plan. The monitoring protocol has been developed and implemented.

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Understanding the need and realizing the logistics of establishing a permanent OHV wash station.



LESSONS LEARNED

Hurdles, including long-term maintenance, are issues that the FIP is working through with key partners. This has led us to explore temporary/portable options for a wash station.



ADAPTATIONS

Remaining flexible while maintaining the overarching goal of the project has been a beneficial exercise for key FIP partners. Working in this way ensures that the FIP is completing due diligence and exploring all options.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Determining in-house capacity for database development.



LESSONS LEARNED

Upon exploration of FIP database needs, contract capacity, and through communication with partners, we discovered that FIP partners may be best suited to develop the database in-house.



ADAPTATIONS

The FIP Coordinator and USFWS are collaborating to develop a database to track projects and cater to FIP needs in a workable and reportable database.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

Maintaining landowner engagement during COVID.



LESSONS LEARNED

The FIP had to adapt communication strategies. Prior relationship building with landowners and continuing engagement helped maintain open lines of communication and expand projects.



ADAPTATIONS

Increased virtual outreach through newsletters, virtual presentations, phone calls, fliers, and social media.

Undergoing leadership transitions at partnership organizations delayed some FIP priorities.



Strong collaboration and commitment from key FIP partners maintained momentum to initiate the project once leadership was back in place.



The FIP had to delay the hiring of a CCAA Coordinator for a year. The FIP will have to overcome this delay by hitting the ground running once a coordinator is hired, and have a high degree of coordination with other FIP partners to establish relationships.



Clackamas Partnership

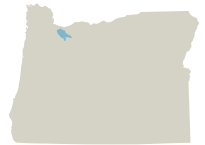
Restoration for Native Fish Recovery



Sidechannel Habitat at Eagle Creek Confluence

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

The *Clackamas Partnership's* Restoration for Native Fish initiative is built on the content and actions outlined in the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010) and contributes to the goals and objectives associated with the Clackamas Population area.



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

Upper Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

Clackamas River headwaters downstream to Oak Grove Fork (31.7 miles)

Middle Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

Confluence of Oak Grove Fork downstream to River Mill dam (29.3 miles)

Lower Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

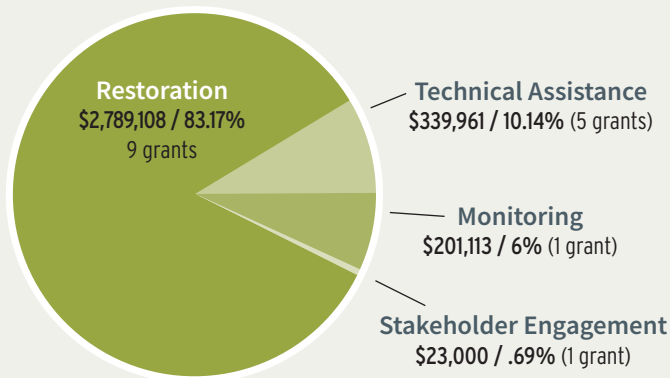
River Mill Dam downstream to the confluence of the Willamette River (23.3 miles)

Lower Willamette River and Floodplain Reach:

Willamette Falls downstream to and including the confluence of Johnson Creek (9.2 miles)

Funding

OWEB awarded \$3,353,182 in funding that leveraged \$2,376,354 in matching funds



Benefits

- Fish rearing and migratory habitat complexity and water quality in river corridors – channel floodplain, off channel, and tributary junctions improves
- Survival of downstream juvenile migrants increases
- Core native fish population performance at freshwater life stages improves
- Habitat quantity, quality, capacity, productivity, and diversity for all life stages of focal species improves

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Clackamas Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Clackamas River Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

CORE PARTNERS

Clackamas River Basin Council • Greater Oregon City Watershed Council • North Clackamas Watersheds Council • Johnson Creek Watershed Council • Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District • Metro

OTHER PARTNERS

Clackamas Water Environment Services • Clackamas River Water Providers • Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs • North Clackamas Park & Recreation • Oregon Department of Environmental Quality • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife • Oregon Parks & Recreation Department • Portland General Electric • USFS – Mt Hood, Clackamas Ranger District

GOAL

The goal of the initiative is to achieve targets specified by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery plan by increasing rearing and migratory habitat complexity and improving water quality in the river corridors.



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

STRATEGIES



- 1 Habitat Restoration
- 2 Habitat Protection
- 3 Promoting Land Use and Landowner BMPs

IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

Restoration



39
POOLS
CREATED

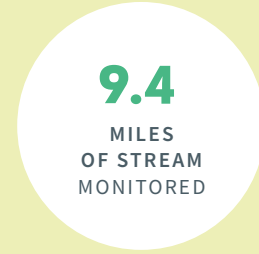


1
RIFFLE
CREATED



2
FISH PASSAGE
BARRIERS
REMEDIATED

Monitoring



8.3
MILES OF
SIDE CHANNELS
SURVEYED AND
SNORKELED

71
MACROINVERTE-
BRATE SAMPLES
COLLECTED

Technical Assistance

73
PROJECTS
IDENTIFIED &
PRIORITIZED

43.8
STREAM
MILES
ASSESSED

3
ACTION PLANS
DEVELOPED

Outreach & Engagement

1
STAKEHOLDER
PLAN COMPLETED

4
MEETINGS
HOSTED

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

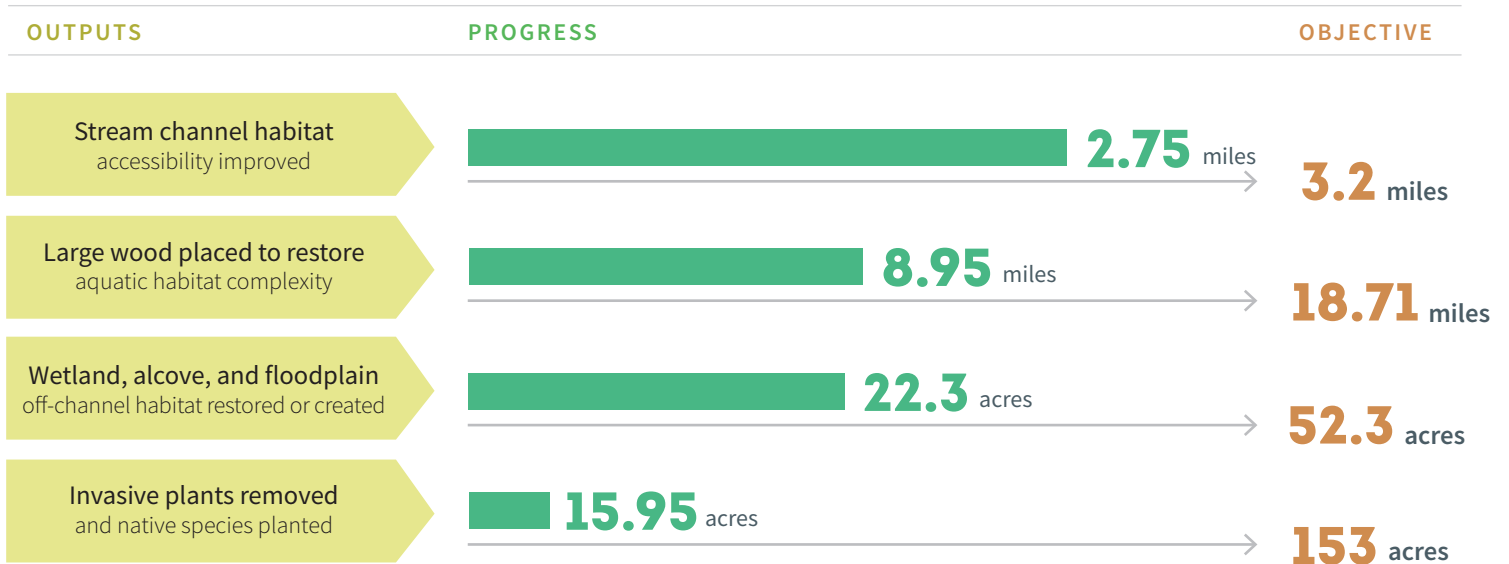
- Increased accessible habitat through enhanced passage at road crossings, small dams, and diversions.
- Channel structure and complexity including large wood is improved
- Reconnection of side and off-channel habitats
- Reduction of invasive plant species in riparian and upland habitats

Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Floodplain connectivity and function increases
- Increased large wood recruitment
- Increased habitat complexity, diversity, and persistence.

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

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



Monitoring Approach

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

Research, monitoring and evaluation (RM&E) of salmonid response to implemented projects are conducted by ODFW, PGE, the Corvallis Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) laboratory. OR DEQ has offered to assist the Partnership in the development of the macroinvertebrate sampling design, data collection approach, and data analysis methods.



Planting Volunteer



Constructed riffle and large wood at North Deep Creek



Chinook Salmon

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Implementation of 2019 projects did not occur due to application timing, TRT reviews, and funding agreements.	Project proponents observed procedures of the 1st application cycle and nearly all remaining project proposals were submitted in early 2020.	The Technical Advisory Committee strengthened its planning, review, and operational oversight in preparation for future project selections.
Project Tracker requires project proponents to complete proposal entries and update project information as progress is made.	Partners, motivated by the project solicitation process, learn the features of Project Tracker as they enter project proposals	Refined project tracker to improve functionality making it the primary tool for managing, reporting, and sharing project information.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Control reach identification presented both challenges and opportunities. COVID and fire restrictions hampered ability to conduct monitoring.	Control reaches are important for quantifying measured objectives relative to inter-annual variability.	Control reach criteria were developed to meet current and future monitoring needs.
Landowner agreements limited macroinvertebrate monitoring.	Landowner contacts need to happen much sooner.	Biennium 1 monitoring was reduced and monitoring effort will increase in biennium 2. More landowners will be contacted, and contacts will begin sooner.
Lack of project sites that received restoration to monitor.	Implementation of restoration projects remains uncertain due to issues beyond the control of the implementer.	Cost savings realized from postponement of initial monitoring effort rolled over to increase monitoring resolution of projects completed in the final biennium.

Engagement

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Traditionally underserved populations have not shared in the benefits of stream restoration.	Incorporating DEI requires new ways of thinking.	Incorporate lessons learned from partner organizations to deliver on DEI objectives for inclusion.
The COVID-19 pandemic protocols present challenges for in person meeting with landowners and partners.	Virtual meetings have been successful for the partnership and project implementation teams meeting with contractors.	Virtual meetings streamline processes precluding the need to meet in person, offering environmental benefits, and saving time.

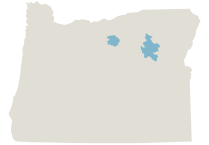


John Day Basin *Fish Habitat Initiative*

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP)

is focusing its FIP-supported native fish habitat initiative in three priority subwatersheds of the larger 8,100 sq. mi. John Day River Basin. These priority areas include Butte-Thirtymile Creeks in the Lower Mainstem John Day; North Fork John Day Headwaters; and the mid-upper Middle Fork John Day. Historic and present-day land and water use practices and a changing climate have altered the condition of aquatic habitat contributing to the reduction in productivity and abundance of native fish populations.



Funding

OWEB awarded \$4,000,000 in funding that leveraged \$6,366,819 in matching funds

Technical Assistance

\$951,506 / 23.78%
11 grants

Monitoring

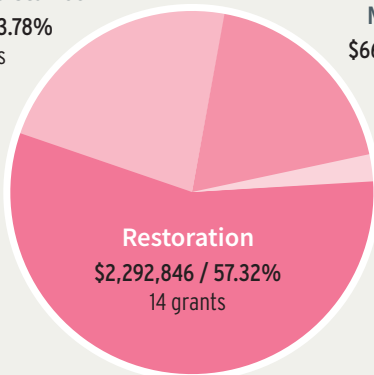
\$663,155 / 16.59%
4 grants

Stakeholder Engagement

\$92,493 / 2.31%
2 grants

Restoration

\$2,292,846 / 57.32%
14 grants



Benefits

- Protection of high-quality upland and aquatic habitat
- Increased stream flow during low water periods
- Increased connectivity and quantity of floodplain habitat
- Enhanced surface and ground water connections
- Improved juvenile salmonid rearing and overwintering survival
- Improved water quality
- Improved native plant communities in riparian areas
- Reduced erosion and sediment inputs
- Improved spawning gravel quality and spawning success
- Increased complexity of aquatic habitat

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the JDBP. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the John Day Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS

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

GOAL

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



STRATEGIES

- Dedicate land and water to restoration and preservation of stream habitat
- Reconnect floodplains
- Riparian restoration and management

- Channel modifications and side-channel/off-channel restoration
- Install large woody debris structures and rock weirs
- Fish passage restoration
- Water quality and water quantity impacts



IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

191

ACRES OF RIPARIAN HABITAT PROTECTED AND IMPROVED BY EXCLUDING LIVESTOCK

1490

LARGE WOOD AND BEAVER DAM ANALOG STRUCTURES INSTALLED

283

ACRES TREATED TO INCREASE RIPARIAN PLANT COMMUNITIES

138

FLOODPLAIN ACRES RECONNECTED

Restoration

13

MILES OF RIPARIAN FENCING INSTALLED

17

MILES OF STREAM TREATED TO INCREASE RIPARIAN PLANT COMMUNITIES

Planning

251 + 36

POOLS + RIFFLES CREATED TO INCREASE INSTREAM HABITAT COMPLEXITY

5

STREAM MILES OF HABITAT MADE ACCESSIBLE TO NATIVE FISH BY REMEDIATING FISH PASSAGE BARRIERS

6

INSTREAM HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT DESIGNS PRODUCED

46

MILES OF STREAM CONNECTED AND IMPROVED



OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10 YEARS

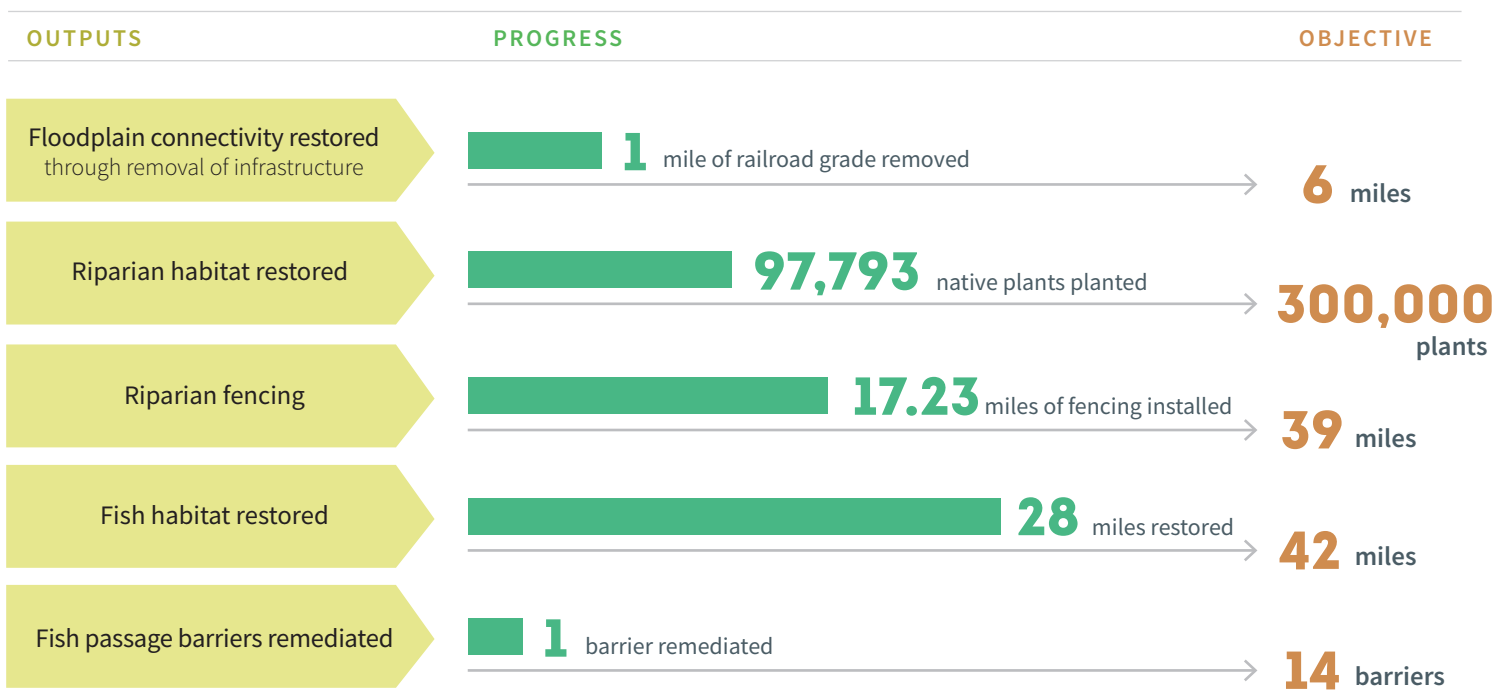
- Decreasing trend in summer instream water temperature
- Increasing trend in summer instream flow
- Improved habitat diversity index
- Increase in woody species density and stream shade potential
- Increasing trend in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Sustained increased productivity in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

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



Monitoring Approach

To evaluate progress, the Partnership will use an integrated restoration-monitoring approach based in an adaptive management context. JDBP will use existing data, new monitoring, and, when necessary (and appropriately documented, such as through the BPA “Atlas” process) professional judgement, to establish baseline conditions to judge progress towards basin-wide and sub-basin conservation targets.

The JDBP will group projects into three different monitoring tiers, with variable levels of monitoring effort for each tier. Communication between monitoring and restoration partners will continue to be instrumental to ensure the appropriate monitoring tiers and targets are applied to each project. Milestones will be set for each project to allow for cost effective monitoring which provides an assessment of progress and the ability to adapt subsequent implementation years if needed.

The Strategic Action Plan will be reevaluated every two years. Modifications will be based on progress towards milestones, ancillary considerations, and lessons learned.



Adaptive Management

Partnership

CHALLENGES

JDBP structure changed in the first biennium as two steering committee members stepped down to focus on other priorities



LESSONS LEARNED

Ample community support and strong partnerships enabled the JDBP to quickly replace the steering committee members who stepped down, and to add two new partner organizations.



ADAPTATIONS

Vacant steering committee positions were filled with eager, engaged and capable partners. Two new organizations also formally signed the JDBP MOU, bringing the number of total partners up to 30.

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Issues securing permits and cultural clearance resulted in delays in restoration project implementation



LESSONS LEARNED

The JDBP's Project Decision Making Framework was modified to require that all Special Use Permits and Section 106 (cultural) Clearance are obtained prior to applying for implementation funds.



ADAPTATIONS

Project implementers are encouraged to apply for technical assistance funds to help with permitting and cultural clearance planning activities. Ensuring these preparatory activities are completed is one way to keep individual projects and the larger initiative moving forward on the intended timeline.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

A diverse suite of restoration projects presents a challenge to maintaining consistency in what is monitored across projects



LESSONS LEARNED

Using the results chain to articulate relationships between habitat characteristics and fish production has helped to identify key parameters for monitoring across disparate FIP geographies.



ADAPTATIONS

Focusing monitoring on key parameters identified in the results chain can provide consistency across restoration projects and FIP geographies.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the JDBP cancelled in-person landowner assistance events that had been scheduled.



LESSONS LEARNED

Re-prioritizing activities within the stakeholder engagement campaign allowed the JDBP to proceed with actively engaging stakeholders despite restrictions on in-person meetings.



ADAPTATIONS

JDBP partners shifted their focus to implement other aspects of the stakeholder engagement campaign including outreach mailers, social media, and the JDBP newsletter, and modified projects which required in-person meetings or trainings.



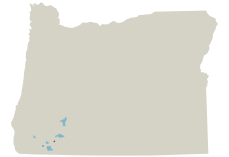
Rogue Forest Partners

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

DRY-TYPE FOREST HABITAT
OAK WOODLAND AND PRAIRIE HABITAT
AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

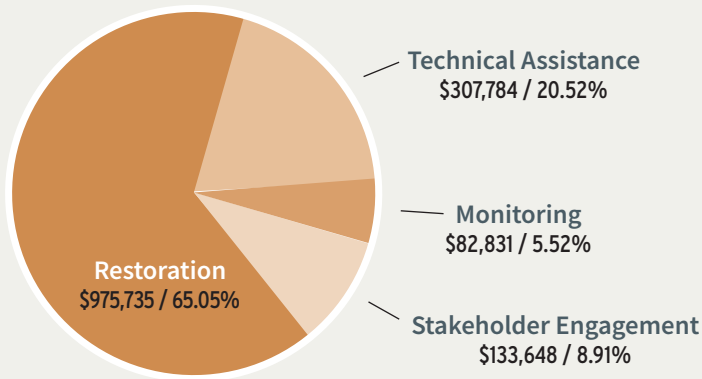


The Rogue Forest Partners are strategically implementing ecological thinning and prescribed fire in the Rogue River basin to restore forest species composition, reduce tree density and surface and ladder fuels, and prepare stands for fires that sustain forest biodiversity and ecosystem services. Disrupted fire regimes, historical clearcut timber harvest, land conversion, and recent severe wildfires have reduced old forest habitats, needed by northern spotted owls and other species, but led to excessively dense and homogenous forests. This altered landscape is at high risk from uncharacteristically severe wildfire, insects, and disease and these conditions are made worse by climate change.



Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,499,998 in funding that leveraged \$969,926 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires to restore forest landscapes are improved
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety are improved, along with increased options for managed fire
- Frequency and severity of fire and other disturbances are shifted toward the desired range of variability
- Threats of abrupt forest degradation and fragmentation catalyzed by climate change are reduced

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Rogue Forest Partners. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet their FIP Initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Rogue Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

ROGUE FOREST PARTNERS



Implementation Review Team: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Illinois Valley Fuels Resource Operations Group, Applegate Partnership Watershed Council, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Sustainable Northwest, American Forest Resources Council.

Monitoring Advisory Committee: Oregon State University, Southern Oregon University, Humboldt State University, retired - PSW Research Station, National Park Service, PNW Research Station

GOAL

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative strategic action plan identifies five strategic goals:

Improve landscape climate resilience by restoring natural range of variability in seral structural states +
 Reduce wildfire risk to people and nature +
 Increase public support for restoration thinning and beneficial fire +
 Increase the pace of restoration treatments in the Rogue Basin +
 Provide economic outputs and develop a skilled workforce

STRATEGIES

- Apply forest treatments
- Deepen partnerships among public and private land managers, tribes, local governments, and communities

- Foster development of engaged citizenry
- Improve socioeconomic conditions and workforce capacity

IMPLEMENTATION (2019-2021)

Restoration

4,350

LEGACY TREES RESTORED

1,426

ACRES OF MIXED CONIFER/HARDWOOD FOREST AND WOODLANDS TREATED TO RESTORE OPEN HABITAT

6,110

ACRES OF DRY FOREST HABITAT PROTECTED OR ENHANCED WITH LIGHT UNDERBURNING

765

ACRES TREATED TO RESTORE COMPLEX HABITAT

Stakeholder Engagement

240

CONTACTS IN MEETING WORKSHOPS AND MONITORING EVENTS

1

COMMUNICATION PLAN DEVELOPED + MONITORING PLAN DEVELOPED + WEBSITE PLATFORM DEVELOPED + MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FORMED + IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW TEAM FORMED

194

ACRES OF PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND TREATED THROUGH RFP AND NRCS RECRUITMENT

Economic Benefits

5.97

MILLION BOARD FEET OF BYPRODUCT TIMBER PRODUCED

8.35

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS HIRED AS RESTORATION WORKFORCE

6

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ENGAGED, EDUCATED, AND ENROLLED

Monitoring

3,703

ACRES MONITORED TO EVALUATE RESTORATION OUTCOMES

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

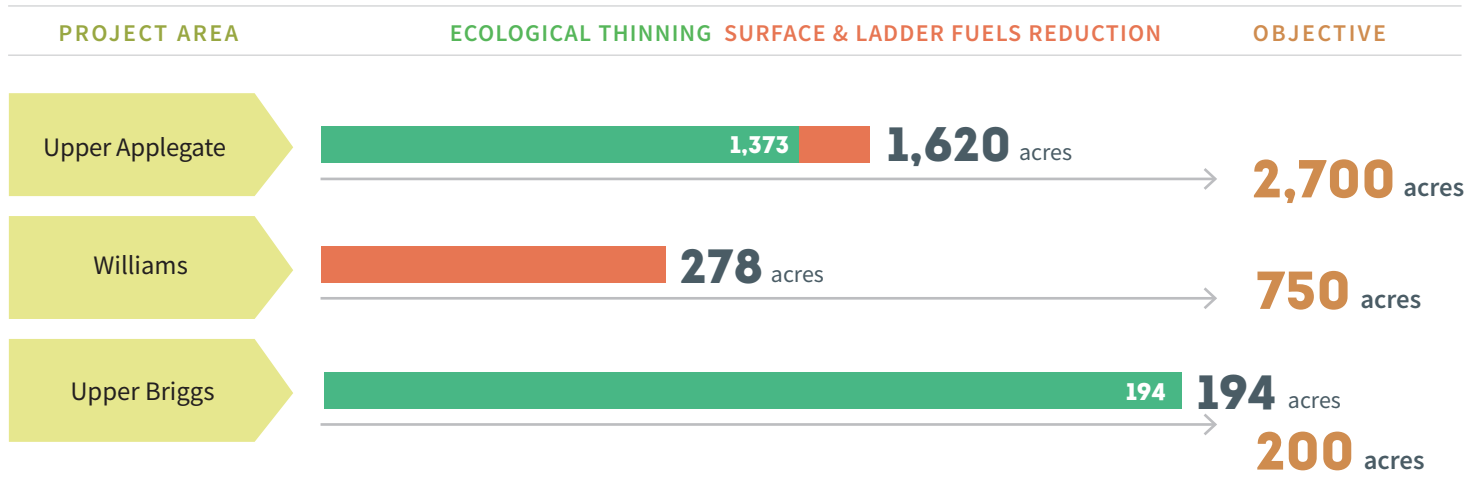
- Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires are improved
- Density of smaller ingrowth and encroachment is reduced
- Stand proportion and vigor of fire-resistant species is restored and maintained
- Songbird indicator species shift, consistent with the planned changes in seral structural states
- Future legacy trees are promoted by growing under more open environment
- Nonnatives are reduced
- Oak habitat is restored
- Meadows are opened and maintained
- Wildfire hazard is reduced

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Wildfire risks to forests and communities are reduced
- Risk from severe fire to critical late-successional habitat for critical species is reduced
- The proportion of open seral structural states is increased, consistent with adaptive range of variability
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety are improved, increasing options for managed fire

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

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



Monitoring Approach

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



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

COVID-19 impeded layout schedules for two projects because of a need to change practices and safeguard employees. Local fires burned homes of workers and families reducing ability to meet targets.



LESSONS LEARNED

Working with BLM vs. USFS requires different approaches. For example, BLM is more hierarchical about communications with partnerships.



ADAPTATIONS

Adjusted protocols consistent with CDC guidelines. Modified timelines and expectations.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Establishment of review teams was done entirely through email and phone calls. Songbird monitoring was delayed because of NEPA delays and layout delays.



LESSONS LEARNED

Well facilitated Zoom meetings with small breakouts can help

Adaptive management and treatment performance over time across a range of treatment types is enabled by monitoring, coupled with strategic outreach and engagement.



ADAPTATIONS

Plan Zoom meetings with small breakout rooms. Plan lots of time for modified, less efficient processes.

Adaptive management to-date has largely been preparation for external review through the development of an external review process and population of the implementation review team and monitoring advisory committee.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

COVID-19 made both field trips and meetings unadvisable. Learning how to use the more sophisticated features of zoom and other communication technologies was necessary.

Our communication plan was developed entirely through zoom. No outside events occurred.



LESSONS LEARNED

Field trips through zoom requires more preparation than an in-person field trip—assembling photos, preparing PowerPoints, rehearsals, timing. A good logo and communication plan takes time and investment.



ADAPTATIONS

Website and social media as a communication tools became more important.

Interest in expanding the work of RFP requires attention to governance through improvements in processes and clarification of roles.



Starveout Diversion Fish Passage Project

Warner Basin *Aquatic Habitat Partnership*

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

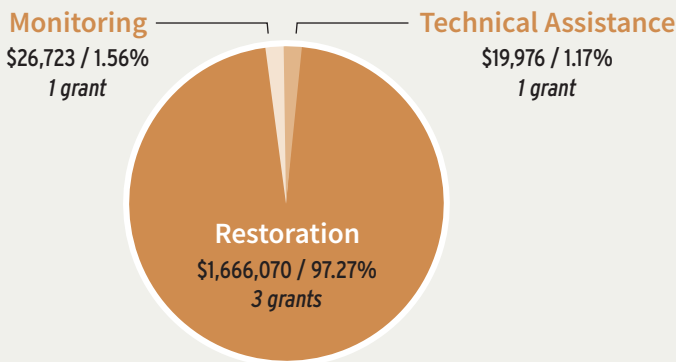
The initiative is focused on the three main tributaries (Twentymile Creek, Deep Creek, and Honey Creek) that support Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout, as well as Pelican, Crump, and Hart Lakes. The three tributaries represent over 45 miles of Warner sucker designated critical habitat and the primary stream habitat for the two species.



Addressing existing limiting factors will require a collaborative effort among WBAHP members, the local community, landowners, and water users. Recovery of Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout will preserve and ensure the continued existence of the valued fish community that is unique to the Warner Basin.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,712,769 in funding that leveraged \$556,672 in matching funds



Benefits

- Access to higher quality spawning, rearing, and refuge habitats for native fish species is improved
- Individual populations of native fishes become self-sustaining and function as a self-sustaining metapopulation
- Irrigation infrastructure is improved and enhances assurance of water availability for all needs

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded an Implementation Focused Investment Partnership grant to the Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated during the first biennium of the initiative (2019 to 2021) to meet FIP initiative objectives. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Warner Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS



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

GOAL

Streams and lakes in the Warner Basin are connected providing access to the high-quality spawning, rearing, and adult holding habitats that are necessary for Warner sucker and Warner Lakes redband trout to complete their diverse life-history strategies.



STRATEGIES

- Restore fish passage
- Screen unscreened diversions

- Increase the assurance of water availability
- Reduce non-native fish populations



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Fish Passage

4
PROJECTS
INITIATED

7
MILES OF HABITAT
WITH IMPROVED ACCESS

30
CFS OF FLOW
DIVERTED THROUGH
SCREENS

1
FISH SCREEN
INSTALLED

Habitat
Restoration

3
ACRES
OF RIPARIAN
ENHANCEMENT

Planning

3
IRRIGATION
INFRASTRUCTURE
REVIEWS
COMPLETED

Outreach

5
MEETINGS
WITH COMMUNITY
AND IRRIGATORS

Monitoring

2
FISH PASSAGE
PROJECTS
MONITORED



OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10 YEARS

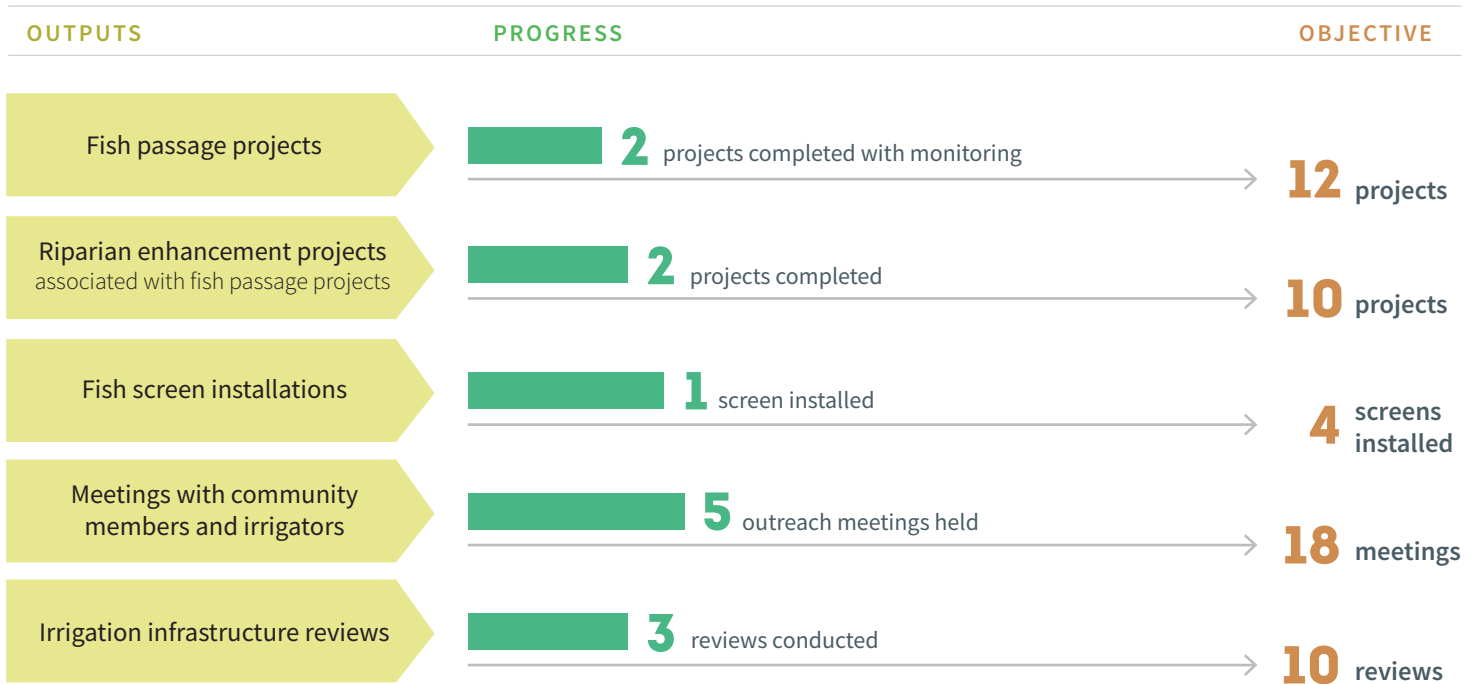
- Habitat connectivity and accessibility for native fish is restored
- Availability of water supplies is assured

Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Multiple age-classes including adults, juveniles, and young-of-year, are represented and approximate normal frequency distributions
- Population sizes of native fishes are stable or increasing

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennium 1

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



Monitoring Approach

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

Project-level monitoring may consist of:

- 1** as-built survey and project completion documentation to ensure the project was built as designed,
- 2** out-year monitoring including site visits and repeated photo points to see how the project site has changed, and
- 3** biological monitoring to be coordinated with ODFW, which may include documentation of fish passage.

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

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



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
<p>Understanding water rights and water use is critical for project designs.</p> <p>Meeting fish passage and water user needs in dynamic systems with variable flows.</p>	<p>Prepare diversion management documents that stakeholders agree to follow.</p> <p>Explore project alternatives with stakeholders and select alternative that achieves the most fisheries and water user benefits.</p>	<p>Coordinate diversion management plans with water users to ensure proper fish passage structure management as streamflow declines.</p> <p>Present design iterations and solicit input that is incorporated in subsequent designs. Hold both group and individual meetings with landowners.</p>

Monitoring

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
<p>Broad flow range requires strategic placement of fish monitoring equipment.</p> <p>Past restrictions to private properties limited understanding of Warner sucker populations.</p>	<p>Coordinate PIT tag antenna placement and water level loggers with design engineers to share effort and data.</p> <p>Information sharing with landowners and building trust has increased access to areas not previously sampled.</p>	<p>Fish and project performance monitoring dovetail to share data collection effort and information to improve designs and understanding of project performance.</p> <p>Sampling has resulted in increased population estimates and known Warner sucker presence. Fish passage monitoring will assess individual projects and reach-level passage.</p>

Engagement

CHALLENGES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
<p>Leadership transition at partnership organizations offers new opportunities.</p>	<p>A strong commitment to the FIP by WBAHP partners and emergence of new leaders have contributed to smooth transitions.</p>	<p>WBAHP continues to hold quarterly meetings and there is frequent interaction among members. Communication ensures support and understanding.</p>



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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Salem OR 97301-1290
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(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 2: Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Tide Gate Coordinator
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Coby Menton, Regional Program Representative
SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Food Security and Farmworker Safety Update

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program (FSFS), including quantitative results of the grant offering, a summary of lessons learned from program staff, and a summary of results from the survey of grant program participants.

II. Background

In June of 2020, the legislature allocated \$16 million in federal funding to OWEB to administer a COVID-19 response program to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers. OWEB entered into an interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and Oregon Housing and Community Services (OHCS) to help develop and communicate the program. Five OWEB staff developed and administered the grant program from May 2020 through December 2020.

The FSFS program was developed in response to safety needs for farmworkers who harvest Oregon's agricultural products, and to the temporary rules enacted by Oregon Occupational Safety Healthy Administration (OR-OSHA) in response to COVID-19. These requirements come with an increased cost to agricultural producers in providing farmworker housing, field sanitation, and transportation.

The goals of the program were to: 1) deploy rapid support and resources to Oregon's agricultural growers to meet harvest demands and ensure the protection of migrant and seasonal farmworkers during the COVID-19 emergency; 2) Reduce the potential for illness and death associated with COVID-19 among farmworkers, their families, employers, and other residents in rural and urban communities; and 3) enhance the public health of the state and educate Oregon's agricultural industry to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

III. Program Implementation

OWEB staff worked with ODA, OHCS, and other agency partners to develop the FSFS grant program, which went live on June 10, 2020. The grant program included Farmworker Housing (temporary modifications to existing housing, temporary alternative housing, hotel/motel assistance), Field Sanitation (toilets/handwashing stations, face coverings), and Transportation (rental vehicles, mileage reimbursement).

Final payments were reviewed and approved in December 2020, and staff completed final program reporting in early January 2021.

IV. FSFS Grant Program Outcomes

The FSFS program served 228 producers, resulting in 305 individual grant projects. In total, \$5.1 million in federal funding was spent, with over \$1.85 million in direct payments to producers, \$3 million in the purchase and distribution of 4.2 million KN95 masks to farmworkers across the state, and \$335,000 (<7% of the total program cost) to administer and deliver the program. Producers estimated that over 21,000 farmworkers benefitted from the enhanced safety measures that were supported by FSFS program funding. More information including the number of projects by fund type, the number of applications and funding awarded by county, the number of applications by farm size, and the primary crops by county are included in the *Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Report* in Attachment A.

V. FSFS Lessons Learned

Participating in the FSFS program was a unique job rotation for OWEB staff and presented many opportunities for learning and professional growth that translate well to OWEB's traditional programs and grant-making processes. These lessons have been documented by FSFS staff in an after-action review and shared broadly with agency partners. In addition, FSFS program staff developed and distributed a survey to grant program participants after the program ended. The survey had a 46% response rate and offered insights into the producer experience that can help OWEB improve our programs as well as help other agencies continue to support producers through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attachments

Attachment A. Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Report



PROTECTING THE HARVEST - WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP FARMWORKERS HEALTHY IN OREGON

Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety (FSFS) Program provided \$5.1 million in CARES funding to Oregon's agricultural producers in order to help secure Oregon's food supply chain and protect essential agricultural workers from COVID-19 exposure and illness during the 2020 harvest season.

The FSFS Program provided financial assistance to comply with increased safety measures during peak harvest. This report describes the program's highlights and outcomes.



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Over \$1.85 million in direct payments to producers during the 2020 harvest season (Jun – Nov 2020)
- Coordinated with local partners to distribute 4.2 million KN95 masks, and invested \$3 million in FSFS funding for mask purchases
- 228 producers participated, resulting in 305 FSFS projects
- Producers estimated 21,000+ farmworkers benefitted from the enhanced safety measures
- Assistance for housing, transportation, and field sanitation to protect farmworkers from COVID-19, including face coverings
- Coordinated inter-agency approach to develop the program, informational resources, and provide information under the emerging COVID-19 pandemic
- 33 agricultural producers were connected with Oregon Health Authority coordinators/Community Based Organizations through the FSFS Program
- Cost to deliver program < 7%. Total administrative costs: \$335,000

STATE AGENCIES AND NON-PROFITS WORK TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE RESULTS

The COVID-19 emergency caused Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OR-OSHA) to issue temporary rules requiring increased field sanitation measures and more stringent labor housing and transportation regulations.

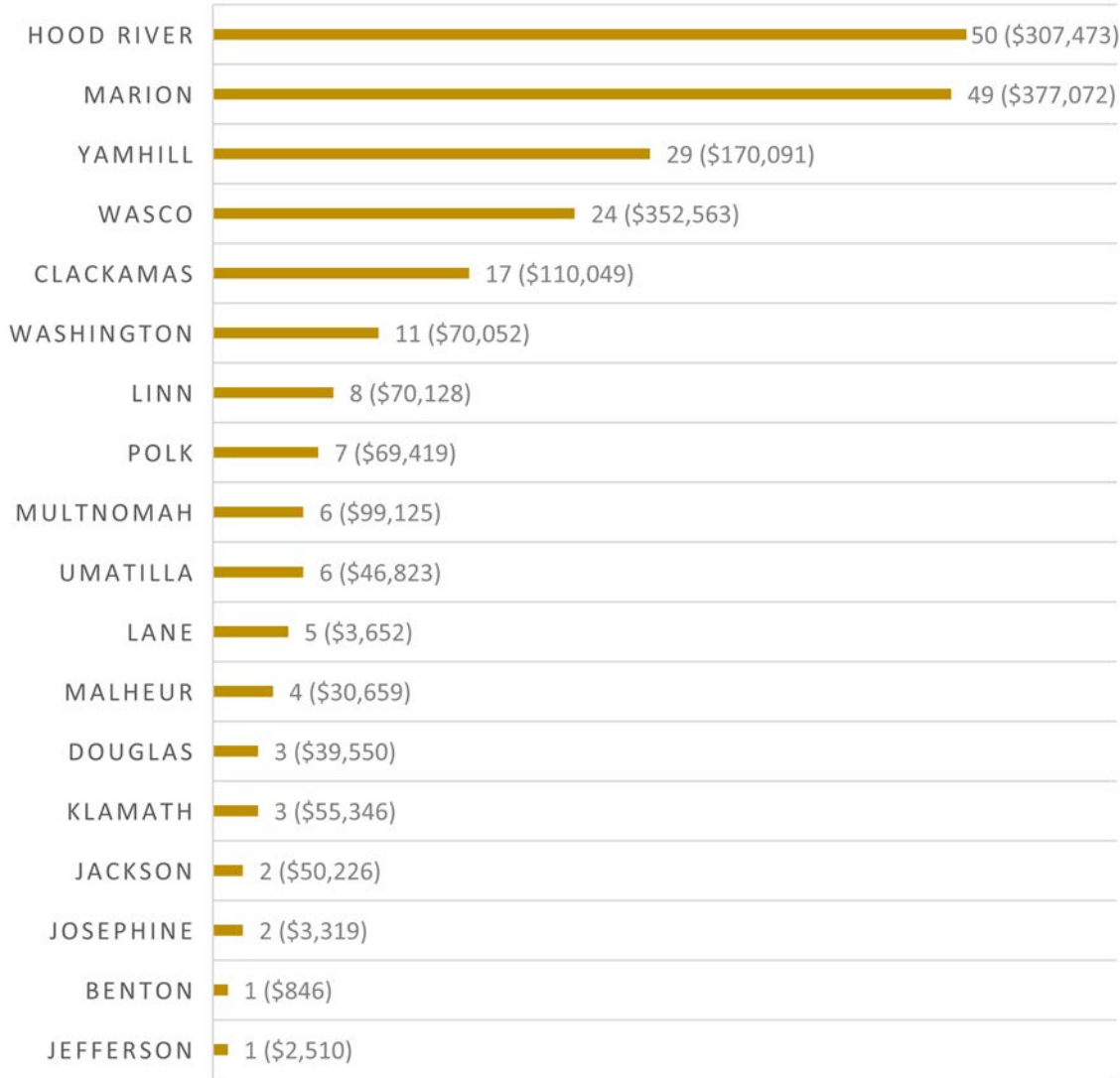
When Governor Kate Brown announced the temporary OR-OSHA rule, five state agencies came together to proactively help Oregon's agricultural producers have the resources they needed to comply and keep farmworkers healthy.

Led by the Office of Governor Kate Brown, these state agencies rapidly developed a financial assistance program for Oregon's agricultural producers.

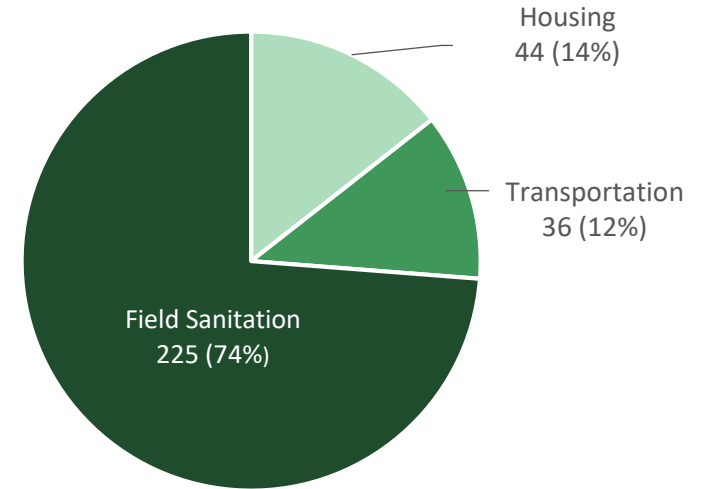
Agencies worked with farmworker advocates, Community Based Organizations, and Oregon Health Authority's Community Partner Outreach Program to identify priority needs and respond with information and resources.



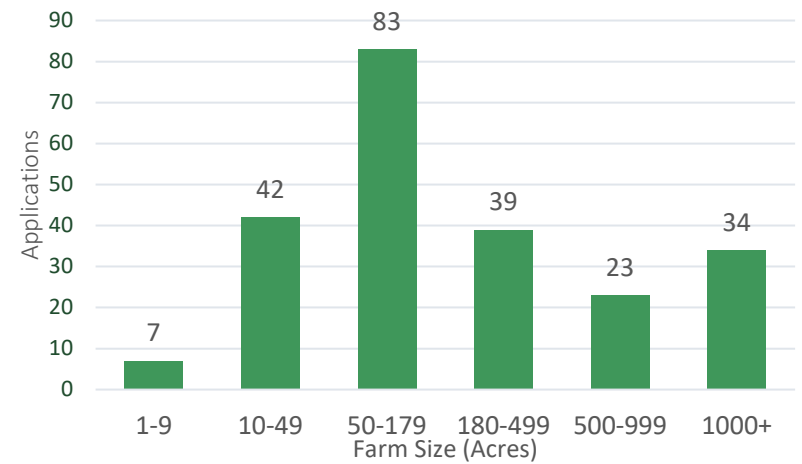
NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS & FUNDING AWARDED BY COUNTY



NUMBER OF PROJECTS BY FUND TYPE (Total Projects: 305)



NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS BY FARM SIZE





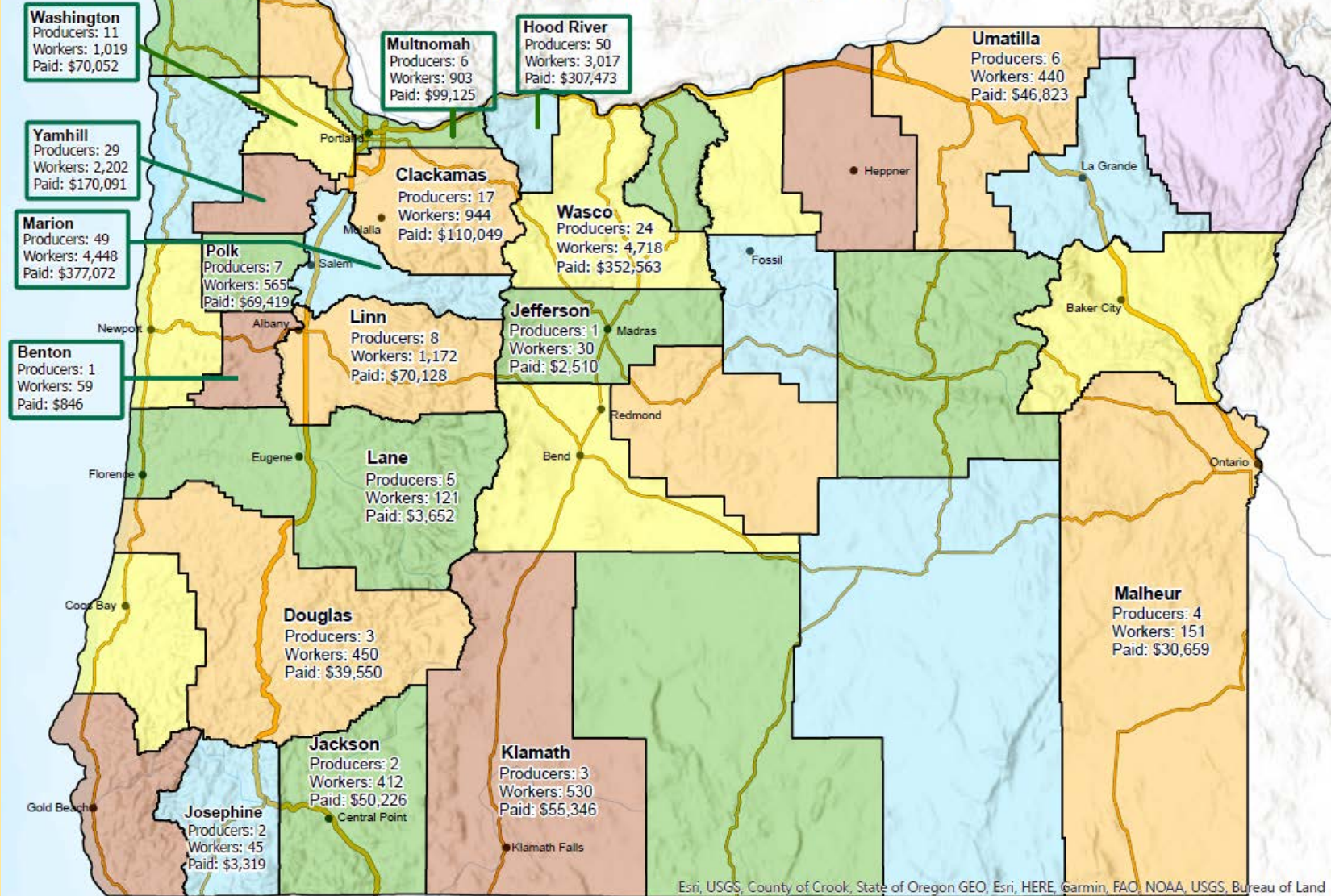
Oregon's Food Security and Farmworker Safety Program Report

January 2021

PRIMARY CROPS BY COUNTY

- BENTON**
Christmas trees, berries
- CLACKAMAS**
Berries, mixed vegetables, nursery stock
- DOUGLAS**
Grapes, berries
- HOOD RIVER**
Cherries, pears, apples
- JACKSON**
Pears, grapes, mixed vegetables
- JEFFERSON**
Carrot seed, grass seed, nursery stock
- JOSEPHINE**
Grapes, herbs
- KLAMATH**
Grains, potatoes, mixed vegetables
- LANE**
Grapes, berries, mixed vegetables
- LINN**
Hazelnuts, berries, mixed vegetables, grass seed
- MALHEUR**
Asparagus, sweet potatoes, onions, corn, beets

Number of Producers and Workers Served by County Grant Funds Paid out by County



Esri, USGS, County of Crook, State of Oregon GEO, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

MARION
Berries, grapes, hazelnuts, hops, mixed vegetables, nursery stock

MULTNOMAH
Trees, shrubs, hemp, berries, mixed vegetables

POLK
Berries, grapes, grass seed hazelnuts

UMATILLA
Apples, pears, grapes, nursery stock

WASCO
Cherries, pears

WASHINGTON
Berries, grapes, nursery stock, hazelnuts

YAMHILL
Grapes, hemp, berries, hazelnuts



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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – ODOT Fish Passage
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend an agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to provide grant-making services for habitat restoration projects by adding up to an additional \$100,000 in funds to the agreement.

II. Background

ODOT manages a \$4.2 million per year Fish Passage Program to improve fish habitat in streams impacted by state transportation infrastructure. This program is in addition to, and falls beyond the scope of, required mitigation programs. Under the program, ODOT can allocate resources internally, hire contractors, or work with partner agencies to implement projects. Occasionally, the most suitable entity to carry out a habitat improvement project is the local watershed council. Since ODOT does not have granting authority to provide funds to councils, it entered into an Agreement with OWEB to provide grant-making services on a case-by-case basis.

In October 2016 the board authorized the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (Agreement) with ODOT to provide grant-making services to watershed councils for habitat restoration projects up to \$250,000. The board authorized an additional \$250,000 to be added to the Agreement in January 2019. All the funding has been encumbered for eligible fish passage projects. Under the agreement, ODOT and OWEB execute work order authorizations for specific projects. OWEB requests a grant application, completes technical review, and awards funds to the local watershed council.

III. Projects to Date

The following projects totaling \$500,000 have been allocated funding under the Agreement:

- a. **Highway 36 Cleveland Creek Culvert Fish Passage Design, Siuslaw Watershed Council, \$11,633:** This technical assistance grant enabled the Siuslaw Watershed Council to contract with an engineering firm to complete a Right of Way Retracement analysis for a bridge to replace an undersized and misaligned culvert delivering Cleveland Creek, a salmon-bearing stream under Highway 36 near Tide, Oregon. This right of way analysis helped determine the exact boundary of ODOT's property in the bridge construction area which will assist in building this bridge in the future.
- b. **North Fork Johnson Creek Crossing Fish Passage Improvement Project, Johnson Creek Watershed Council, \$88,709:** This restoration project retrofitted a culvert on the North Fork of Johnson Creek at Highway 26 to eliminate a barrier and slow velocity, allowing fish to pass through the culvert on this salmon-bearing stream.
- c. **Cleveland Creek Bridge Replacement Advance Design, Siuslaw Watershed Council, \$257,514:** This technical assistance project will result in a 95% design for a 70-foot span bridge to replace the current culvert at Cleveland Creek. When constructed, the project will result in access to 1.5 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat and provide cold water refugia from the mainstem Siuslaw River.

ODOT has indicated that it expects to have more projects eligible for funding, including the next phase of the Cleveland Creek Bridge design, under the Agreement in 2021.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request that the board authorize the Executive Director to amend the Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement (#217-901) with Oregon Department of Transportation by increasing ODOT's contribution from \$500,000 to \$600,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement.



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – *Telling the Restoration Story* Grants Update
March 9, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Telling the Restoration Story is a targeted grant offering that helps OWEB and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by OWEB. At the March 2021 board meeting, staff will share information about Willow Creek to learn what emerged from the board's investment in that effort. This is an information item.

II. Background

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products aim to reach a broad audience, including board members and legislators. Grantees also identify specific audiences, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Eight projects have been funded under this offering so far. An online map provides short summaries and links to completed products as they become available:

<https://geo.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7bc381f4422944778431a65f2b9b7fd6>

III. *Telling the Restoration Story: Willow Creek*

Willow Creek is a 57-mile tributary to the Malheur River near Vale, Oregon. Irrigated farming in the basin produces sugar beets, onions, potatoes, corn, mint, grain, alfalfa seed, vegetable seed, and hay. Between Brogan and Vale, the creek has been turned into a drainage and irrigation canal. The Malheur Watershed Council (MWC) selected Willow Creek as a focus area after conducting water quality monitoring throughout the Malheur Watershed in the 1990s. Water quality data identified Willow Creek as one of the most impaired tributaries to the Malheur River. Flood and furrow irrigation systems can create water quality and water quantity concerns because as irrigation water moves over the surface of cropland or pasture, it picks up bacteria and nutrients from manure, and additional nutrients and sediment from cropland soils.

Furrow irrigation also is water intensive, requiring large quantities of water to provide sufficient infiltration in the lower part of the field.

Since the 1990s, the MWC has worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, irrigation districts, the Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District, landowners and other partners to implement projects to address these water quality concerns. Some of the main conservation projects implemented have included piping irrigation water laterals, conversion to sprinkler irrigation, fencing livestock out of the creek, and conversion to no-till cropping systems to reduce runoff. Monitoring has shown these practices to be highly effective in reducing sediment and nutrient runoff from reaching the creek. Water quality monitoring results has shown that on average phosphorus, sediment and E.coli have been reduced by 30% in Willow Creek since 1997.

With *Telling the Restoration Story* funds, the MWC hired contractors to assist in developing an outreach plan and a suite of products to reach a variety of audiences. OWEB staff advised the grantee on communication product design, graphics, and the story line for a video. Outreach products include 1) a two-page brochure (Attachment A), 2) a power point slide deck to deliver presentations to local groups, and 3) a short produced video sharing the accomplishments from over 20 years of watershed restoration.

The short video is available online at: <https://vimeo.com/488240406>. The fact sheet, PowerPoint slide deck, and video describe the formation of the Lower Willow Creek Working Group by local landowners and irrigation districts to address the water quality concerns. All the products quantify implemented actions and the funding contributions by the state and federal agencies. The piping canal piping efforts to conserve water and improve water quality also have resulted in lower carbon emissions by reducing reliance on diesel fuel to pump water. The MWC estimates that the cumulative investments have resulted in 15 new jobs across the local economy and involved the participation of at least 23 Oregon businesses.

IV. Recommendation

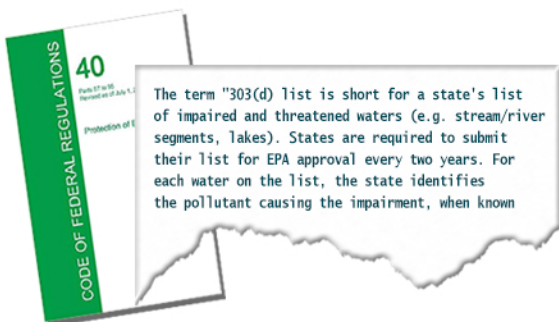
This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Willow Creek Brochure

The Problem

In the late 1990s, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began water quality monitoring in the Malheur Watershed that includes Willow Creek. The tests found nutrients, E.coli and sediment creating poor water quality resulting in a DEQ-303(d) listing.



Lower Willow Creek Working Group

Due to the poor water quality and the DEQ 303(d) listing, residents of the area established a proactive task force to begin to restore the watershed area. To address the water quality and pollution, the Lower Willow Creek Working Group was established.



Project Accomplishments

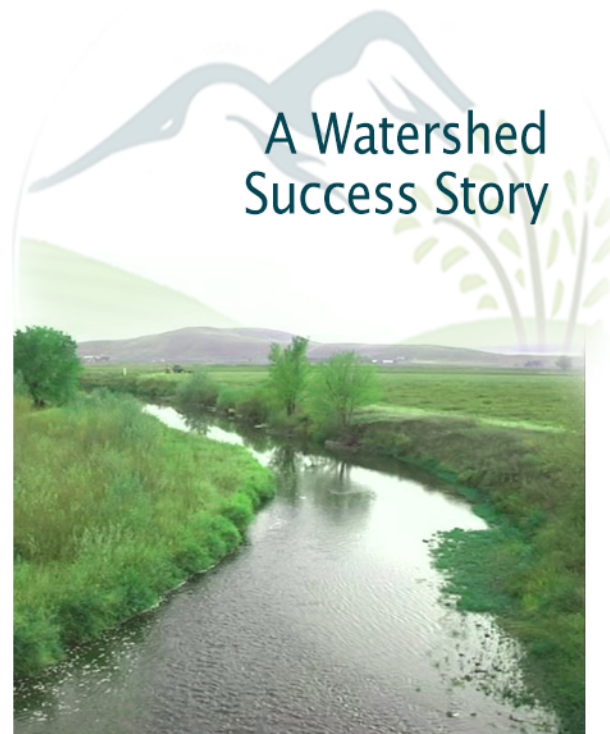
- ✓ 400,000 pounds of CO² emissions eliminated annually.
- ✓ 36,000 pounds of phosphorous runoff prevented annually.
- ✓ 120,000 tons of annual soil loss ceased.
- ✓ 183.5 billion colonies of E.coli per acre prevented from leaving the fields.
- ✓ Virtually all seepage and evaporation was eliminated.
- ✓ 2 to 3 million Kilowatt hours of electricity saved annually.
- ✓ 25,000 gallons of diesel fuel conserved annually.
- ✓ Water conservation benefits amount to more than 12,000 acre feet of irrigation water savings annually.

Economic advantages of this project :

- 15 new jobs ✓
- \$81,000 per year in fuel costs saved ✓
- \$115,000 in electrical pumping costs saved annually ✓
- Participation of at least 23 Oregon businesses ✓
- \$1.8 million generated for the economies of Ontario and Vale, Oregon ✓



WILLOW CREEK
WATERSHED RESTORATION



www.malheurwatershed.org

Willow Creek Watershed



The Willow Creek Watershed area is a tributary of the Malheur River located north of Vale, Oregon. The Malheur river drains into the Snake River at the border between Oregon and Idaho. . It is made up of 32,000 acres used for irrigated farmland and 10,000 acres of dry rangeland for cattle, wild game and upland game birds. It has a history rich in early western settlement, gold mining, agriculture, and ranching.

THE PLAN

The Willow Creek Working Group identified the following plan to deal with the environmental problems

Convert Open Ditches to Pipe



Help farmers enhance irrigation



Prevent livestock waste from entering Willow Creek



Repair and replace natural plant growth



\$5+ million invested by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

\$2+ million invested by private landowners in projects

\$2+ million invested by Vale Oregon Irrigation District



1998 - 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

95 Individual projects

2,500 acres converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation

755 acres of rangeland improved

31 water troughs for cattle

25+ miles of irrigation mainline piped

4000 native plants, like willows, planted along Willow Creek

3 sites monitored **12** times per year

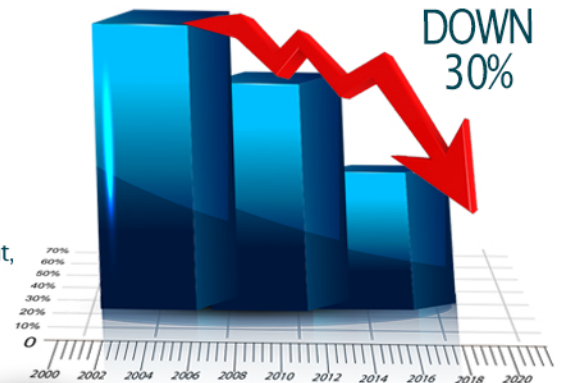
48+ miles of laterals piped

16 pump-back systems serving **1,240** acres

16+ miles of riparian fencing to protect Willow Creek

Phosphorus
Sediment
E.Coli

Monitoring shows that, on average, Phosphorus, Sediment, and E. Coli bacteria are down by 30%.





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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Climate Considerations in OWEB's Grant-making
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Since July of 2020, work has been underway by the board's climate committee to explore how OWEB can incorporate climate considerations into grant-making. This report provides a high-level overview of work to date and articulates the intent to engage with stakeholders about this work in the coming months. Staff requests the board indicate their support for outreach to and communication with applicants, grantees, and partners, to ensure the agency understands needs and opportunities on the ground and uses this information to inform OWEB's efforts to more fully address climate considerations across its grant programs.

II. Background

In April of 2020, OWEB updated its board committee structure, including creating a new board-level Climate Committee. The role of the committee is to help identify ways to more meaningfully incorporate climate change into OWEB's grant programs.

To date, the Climate Committee has been in a 'learning' mode, discussing such topics as:

- How OWEB addresses climate in its current grant-making processes and criteria, focusing on open solicitation grants and Focused Investment Partnerships;
- Increasing carbon sequestration benefits while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions associated with a range of restoration and conservation actions; and
- Climate adaptation co-benefits from restoration and conservation actions.

The committee is discussing how climate considerations could be reflected and integrated into OWEB's grant programs. Given this, outreach to applicants, grantees and stakeholders will be important, so that partners are aware of the committee's and Board's interest in and work related to climate and understand potential implications of more explicitly incorporating climate considerations into OWEB's grant-making.

III. Outreach to Stakeholders in the Coming Months

Staff propose that OWEB initiate outreach to stakeholders about the agency's climate related work following the March 2021 board meeting. Initial outreach will come in the form of a 'heads up' letter to applicants, grants, and partners about the work of the board's climate committee. This letter will include information such as:

- Background about the committee's work to date and coordination with other board-level committees.
- Notification that, beginning with the Summer 2021 open solicitation grant solicitation, OWEB will add a small number of questions to grant applications asking applicants about climate considerations they may be including in their project designs (e.g., qualitative information about projected effects of climate change on species, habitats and/or water quality and quantity in their regions; and anticipated climate related benefits from the proposed project). These questions are intended to prompt thinking by applicants about climate considerations but will not be assessed via formal evaluation criteria at present.
- Work by staff to compile some resources for grantees about regional climate effects and restoration and conservation related climate benefits.
- Potential future outcomes of OWEB's climate related initiatives.

As is standard practice for OWEB, the agency is committed to regularly communicating with OWEB stakeholders about climate related work. Staff propose that this communication occur via periodic e-mail updates (e.g., the 'heads up' letter) quarterly written updates to the OWEB board, and opportunities for engagement—for example, listening sessions—in the coming months, with timing dependent on staff capacity.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request the board signal support for initiating outreach to applicants, grantees, and stakeholders about the agency's climate related work, with the first step being a 'heads up' letter that will be circulated following the spring 2021 board meeting.



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Acting Business Operations Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Strategic Implementation Area Grants
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the status of the 2020 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) and requests technical assistance, stakeholder engagement, and monitoring funding for the remaining 2020 SIAs.

II. Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program leads the SIA program, under which select areas around the state receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring funding to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address issues, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

The pause on grant funding implemented by the board in June 2020 included nine pending 2020 SIA grants. At the September board meeting staff shared with the board a plan for OWEB and ODA to work together to refine the funding approach and bring requests for SIA funding to the board as local partners are ready to begin implementation.

III. Current Status

The nine remaining SIAs are in various stages of preparing for and beginning implementation. ODA has completed the remote evaluation of all nine SIAs. Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, field evaluations have only been completed for three of the nine. ODA is working to schedule the remaining field evaluations but has determined that the remote evaluation data provided to the SWCDs provides enough information to begin SIA implementation, including developing an outreach plan and beginning landowner engagement.

IV. Next Steps

SIA applications for technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funding will be reviewed by the SIA review team, made up of ODA, ODFW, DEQ and OWEB. After the

initial grants are awarded OWEB and ODA staff will begin working with the local partners to convene a local monitoring team for the development of the monitoring plan. Once developed the monitoring plan will be submitted to the Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group for review and approval. The group meets quarterly and includes representatives from ODA, OWEB, DEQ, and ODFW.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board amend and increase 220-8010-17550 by \$1,125,000 for nine SIAs and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute the funds, through appropriate agreements with an award date of March 10, 2021.



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment D to the staff report, including funding for 52 restoration grants, 24 technical assistance grants, and 9 stakeholder engagement grants.

II. Spring 2020 Grant Offering Background and Summary

Due to the pandemic and the subsequent spending plan rebalance, the application deadline was extended from April 27, 2020 to July 27, 2020. A total of 143 applications were received requesting \$18.8 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

III. Review Process

Staff adapted to a virtual review process where all eligible grant applications were reviewed by the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled virtual site visits for as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited to these visits.

OWEB then facilitated RRT meetings in each region for all grant types offered. Reviewers considered the likelihood of success of the proposed project based on evaluation criteria in rule, which are provided in Attachment B. After classifying applications as "Fund" or "Do Not Fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRT evaluations and recommendations, along with staff recommendations, were distributed to all applicants. Attachment C includes the number of applications recommended by RRTs and staff for each region by project type, as well as staff-recommended award totals by application type and region. Prior to the board meeting, staff will forward to the board any written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

IV. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 meeting, the board adopted a policy to make available at least \$10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon’s sage steppe ecosystem that improve greater sage-grouse habitat. The Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering includes 2 projects that meet this criteria, 221-5017, Addressing the Gaps in Sage-grouse Habitat, \$74,876, and 221-5023, Burns/Lakeview Local Implementation Team Coordinator, \$70,802. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects in all categories since April 2015 is \$9,396,918.

V. Salmon Plate Projects

Using the board’s 2015 policy related to projects funded with Salmon License Plate dollars, staff recommend distributing \$253,655 for this offering to projects shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Salmon Plate Projects

Project Number and Name	Salmon Plate Funds Recommended
221-1000 Seeley Creek Habitat Project	\$100,000
221-1005 Coal Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase 1	\$49,987
221-2000 Tenmile Lakes Watershed Beaver Analogue Project	\$53,668
221-3004 Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project	\$50,000

VI. Funding Recommendation

Staff considered the RRT recommendations and funding availability in developing the staff funding recommendations provided in Attachment D, which includes the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and grant type. The funding recommendations for the Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offering are summarized in Table 2. When the spending plan was rebalanced in June to account for lottery revenue reductions, the board acknowledged that additional funds would likely accrue in sufficient amounts to award one more grant cycle this biennium. In addition to funding recommendations, Table 2 includes recommended additions to the spending plan based on available revenue.

Table 2: Spending Plan and Funding Recommendations for Spring 2020 Grant Offering

Grant Type	Current Spending Plan Balance	Additional Spending Plan Funds Requested	New Spending Plan Balance	Staff Recommendation
Restoration	\$3,257,000	\$5,031,000	\$8,288,000	\$8,287,060
Technical Assistance	\$525,000	\$774,000	\$1,299,000	\$1,298,917
Stakeholder Engagement	\$248,000	\$262,000	\$510,000	\$509,704

TOTAL	\$4,030,000	\$6,067,000	\$10,097,000	\$10,095,681
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Staff recommend the board increase the spending plan by the amounts shown in Table 2 and award funds for the staff-recommended projects listed in Attachment D.

Attachments

Attachment A. Grant Applications Submitted

Attachment B. Evaluation Criteria

Attachment C. RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations

Attachment D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board July 27, 2020 Open Solicitation Offering

Applications Received by Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	2	11	14	27
Region 2	2	13	13	28
Region 3	4	5	16	25
Region 4	2	5	9	16
Region 5	3	7	16	26
Region 6	2	5	14	21
Totals	15	46	82	143

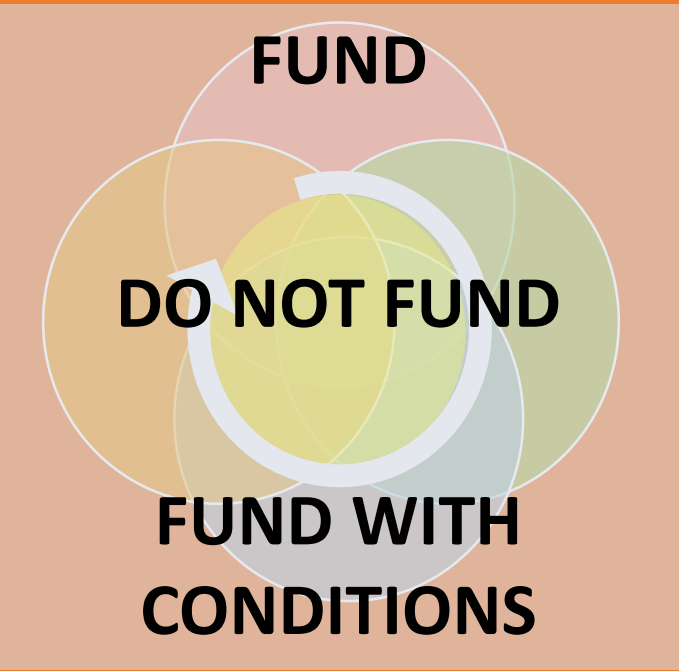
Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Stakeholder Engagement	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	97,409	558,362	2,287,018	\$2,942,789
Region 2	55,090	740,447	4,178,470	\$4,974,007
Region 3	293,319	266,070	3,903,334	\$4,462,723
Region 4	68,813	286,181	2,466,756	\$2,821,750
Region 5	207,454	300,767	1,563,326	\$2,071,547
Region 6	46,030	237,900	1,214,095	\$1,498,025
Totals	\$768,115	\$2,389,727	\$15,612,999	\$18,770,841

Open Solicitation – Restoration Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



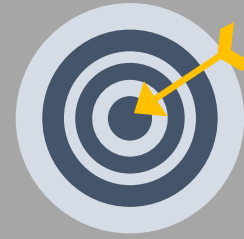
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA
 How well project meets criteria for project evaluation & preferences, including:

- Causes over symptoms of disturbance
- Whole watershed approach over site-specific
- Collaboration over single-party



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS
 Certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives



BENEFIT TO OREGON PLAN
 Benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality



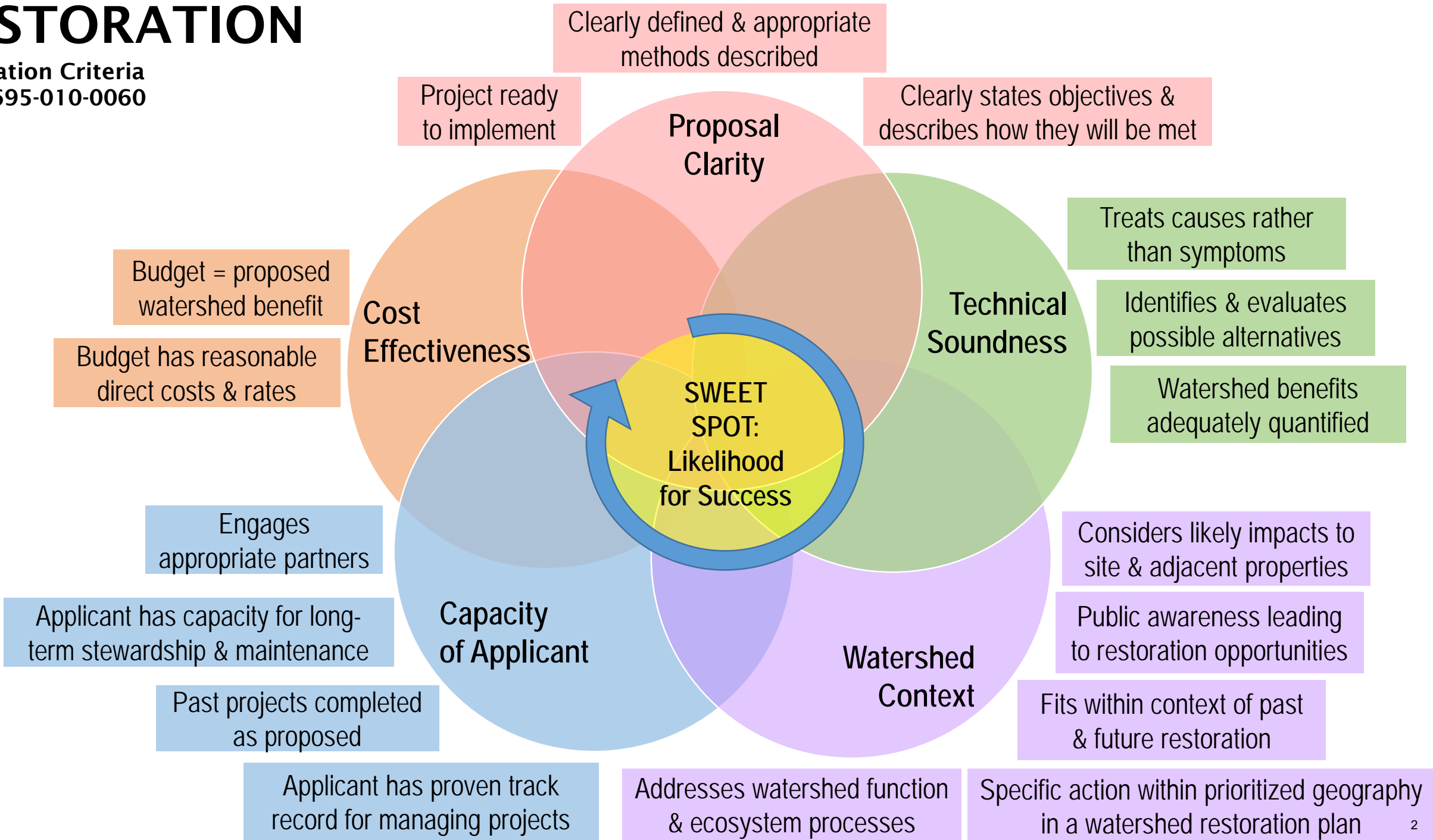
COST BENEFIT
 Project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits

Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

RESTORATION

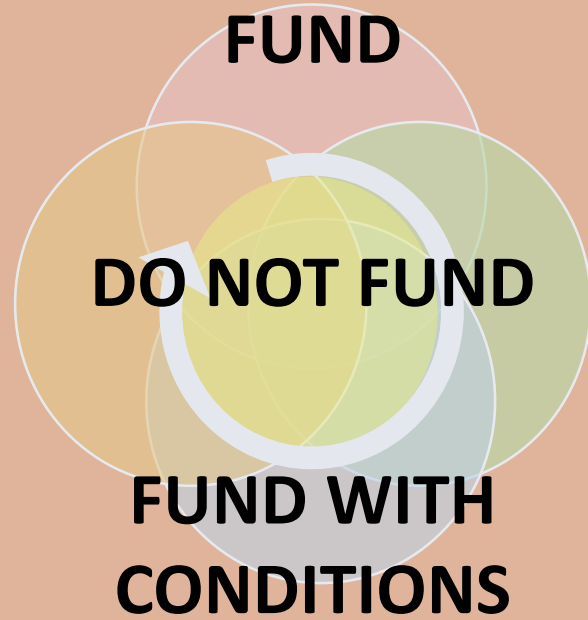
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-010-0060



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



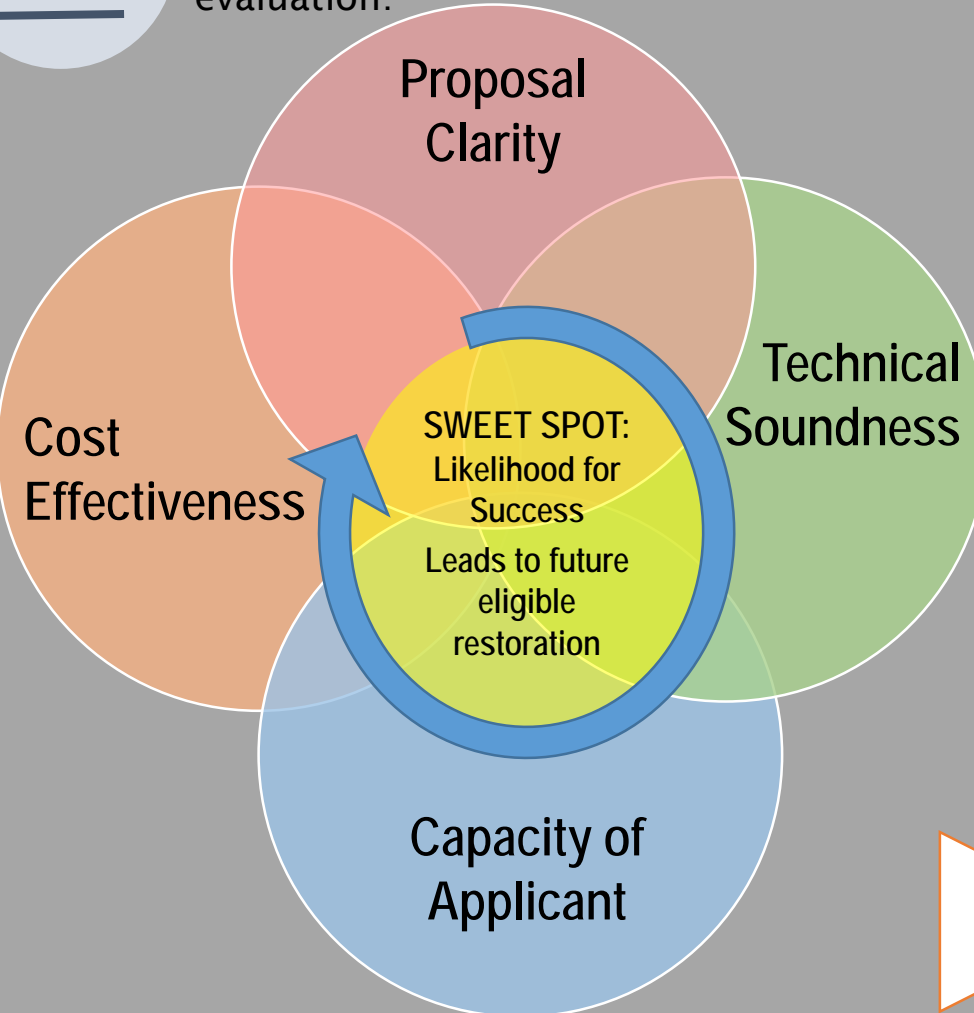
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-030-0045

Technical Design & Engineering = project feasibility reports, designs, or engineering materials that directly lead to site-specific restoration or acquisition projects within a specified timeframe

Resource Assessment & Planning = information about existing water quality or habitat conditions and processes at an identified scale, and relates those conditions and processes to actions that will directly lead to desired future conditions within a specified timeframe

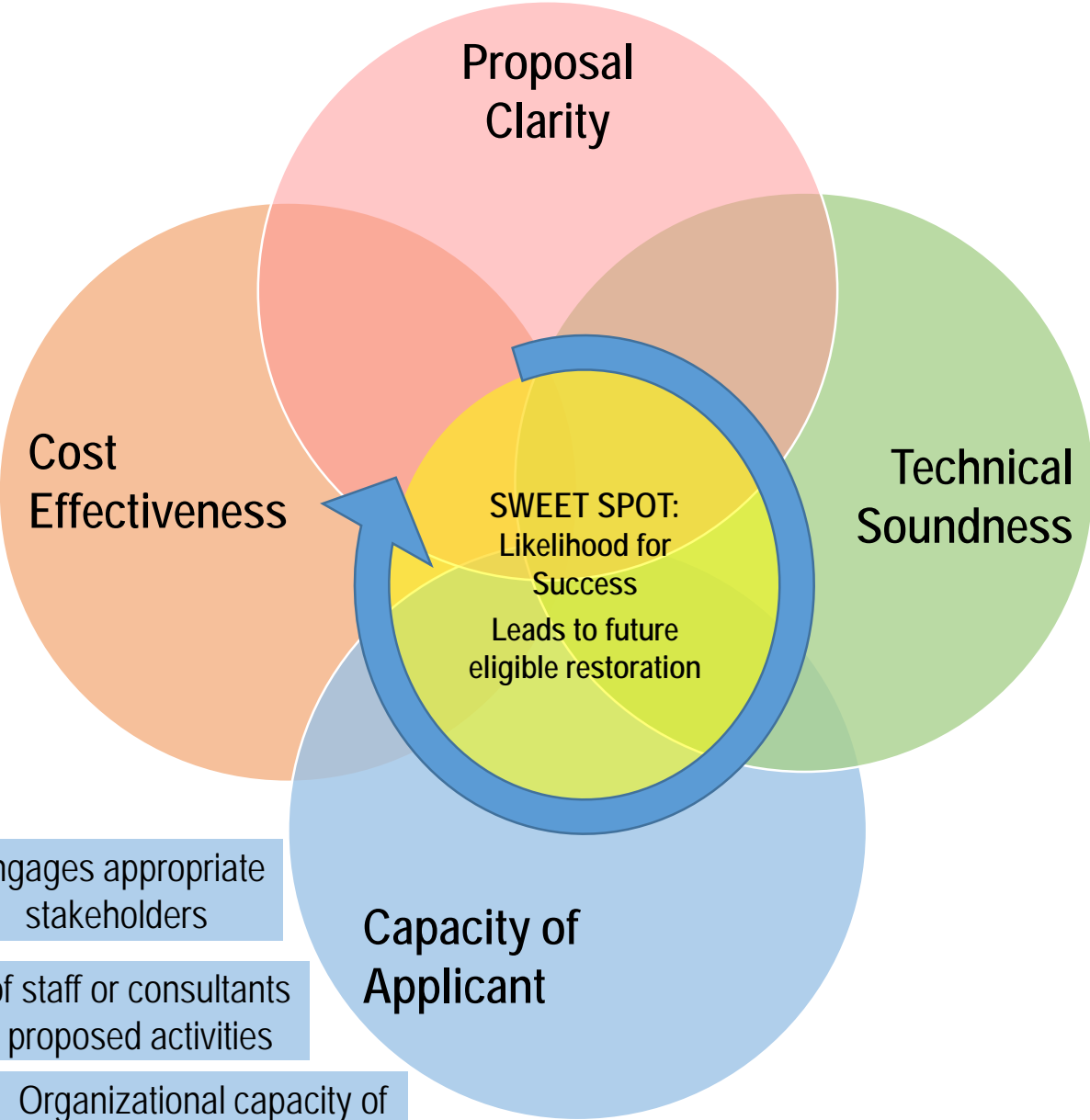
Describes a clear need

Cost aligns with work necessary to accomplish project objectives

Engages appropriate stakeholders

Qualifications of staff or consultants to accomplish proposed activities

Organizational capacity of applicant



Technical Design & Engineering

- Addresses limiting factors in existing conservation or recovery plan
- Describes alternative analysis that demonstrates a range of options were considered
- Appropriate data will be collected to inform designs
- Professionally accepted technical or engineering approaches will be used

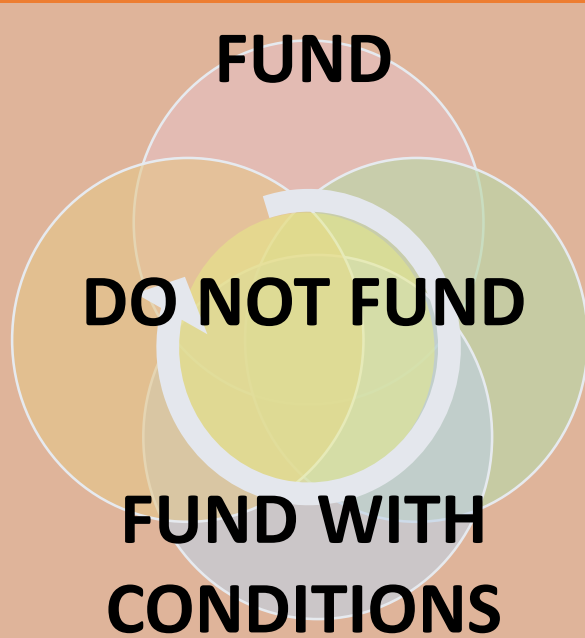
Resource Assessment & Planning

- Scope & scale is feasible, & partners have demonstrated ability in collaborative work at this scale
- Process by which data will be managed & shared with partners
- Professionally accepted methods & parameters will be used

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement Grants

PROVIDE PUBLIC BENEFIT FOR WATER QUALITY, NATIVE FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT, OR WATERSHED/ECOSYSTEM FUNCTION

Recommend



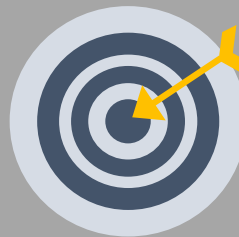
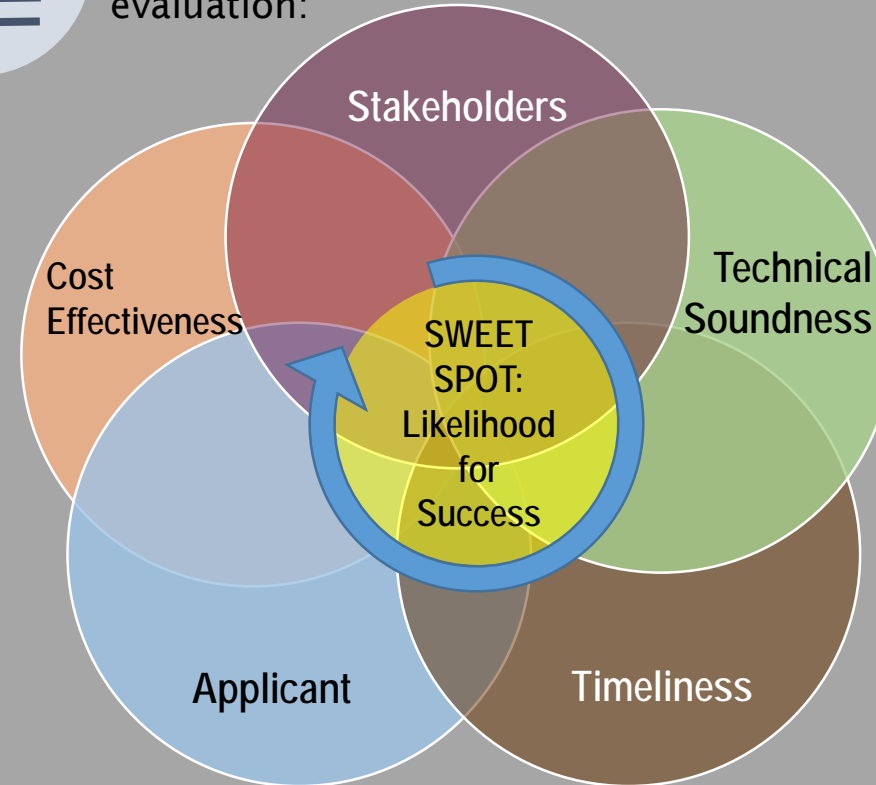
Regional team reviews & evaluates each project individually based on how well project meets criteria

Prioritize



CRITERIA

How well project meets criteria for project evaluation:



CERTAINTY OF SUCCESS

Based on the organizational capacity of the applicant & likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives


Recommendation to Staff

Staff review recommendations from each regional review team & make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period & type.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

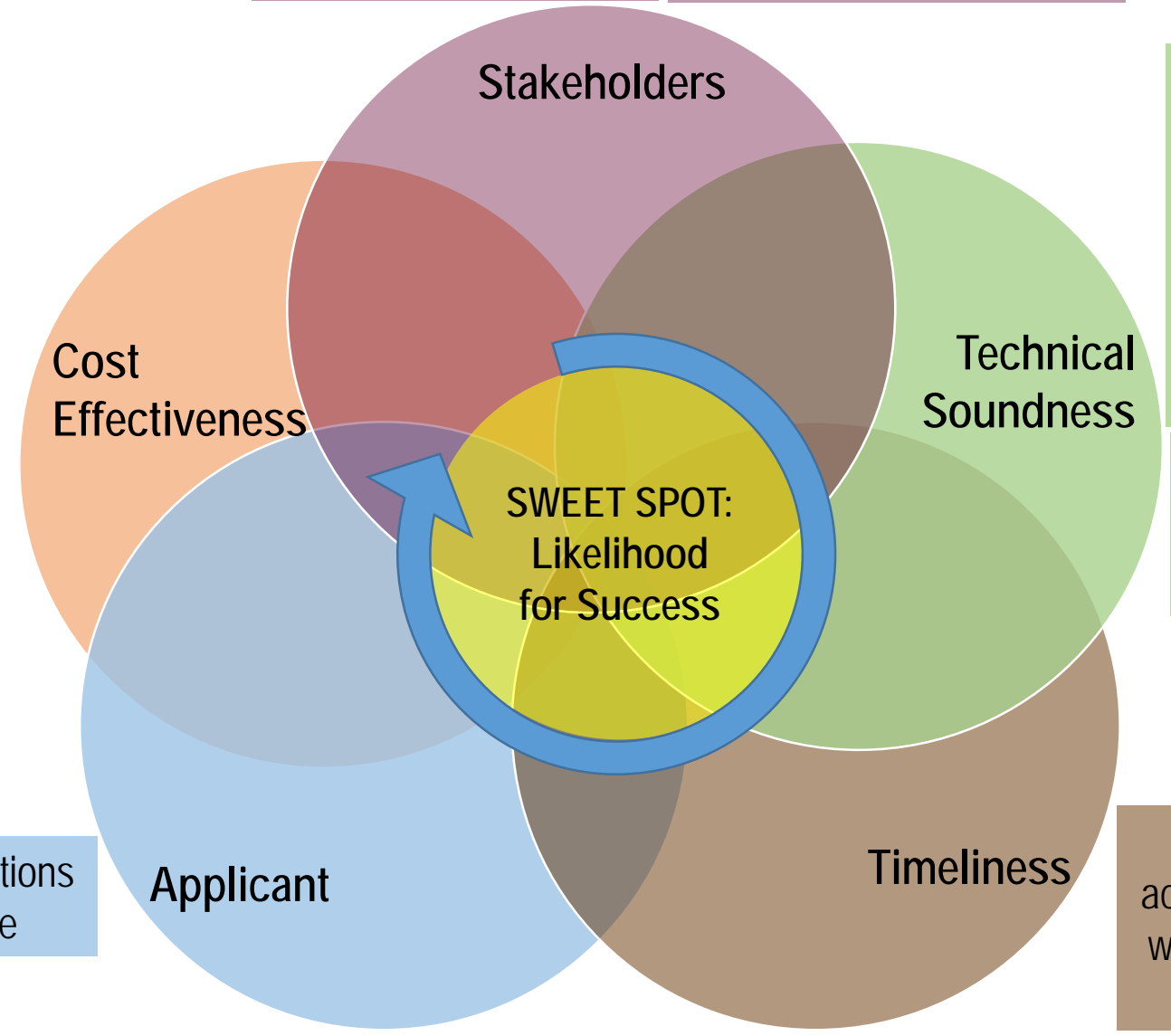
Evaluation Criteria
OAR 695-015-0070

“Stakeholder Engagement Project” means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefit of a specific eligible restoration or acquisitions project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are  NOT ELIGIBLE

Applicants engage with appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography

Likely effectiveness of multidirectional communication among the applicant & stakeholder



Shows qualifications & experience

Expected outcomes of resulting restoration or acquisitions include protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and or water quality or quantity

Evidence base linking engagement to eligible project types

Resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program will lead to timely development of eligible projects

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the Spring 2020 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Restoration

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	11	11	100%
2	13	6	46%
3	14	10	71%
4	5	5	100%
5	11	11	100%
6	9	9	100%
Total	63	52	83%

Technical Assistance

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	8	8	100%
2	12	3	25%
3	4	4	100%
4	4	4	100%
5	3	2	67%
6	3	3	80%
Total	34	24	71%

Stakeholder Engagement

Region	RRT	Staff	%
1	2	2	100%
2	2	2	100%
3	2	2	100%
4	1	1	100%
5	3	1	33%
6	2	1	50%
Total	12	9	75%

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Stakeholder Engagement
1	\$1,397,072	\$ 395,919	\$ 97,409
2	\$ 1,720,064	\$ 224,339	\$ 55,090
3	\$ 2,004,762	\$229,342	\$ 215,664
4	\$ 1,201,955	\$ 211,700	\$31,513
5	\$ 1,111,694	\$ 102,398	\$70,802
6	\$ 851,513	\$ 135,219	\$39,226
Total	\$8,287,060	\$1,298,917	\$509,704



Kate Brown, Governor



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Agenda Item N supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Spending Plan
March 9-10, 2021 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on OWEB's 2021-2023 Spending Plan. This item is for discussion only; no board action will be taken at this time. However, the board will be asked to provide direction to staff for moving forward with final options for the July 2021 meeting.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plates. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery funds and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

At its July 2019 meeting, the board adopted a 2019-2021 Spending Plan totaling \$104.8 million. In June 2020, the board updated the spending plan because of precipitous declines in Lottery funding, resulting in a final 2019-2021 spending plan of \$76 million. Attachment A shows the 2019-2021 Spending Plan, total board awards to date, and funds remaining in each line item as of March 2021.

III. 2021-23 Spending Plan Development

Based on the February 2021 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined approximately \$104.5 million will be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received. For PCSRF funding, this amount will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through the competitive federal grant process. If Congressional funding is available, PCSRF provides an opportunity for

eligible applicants—including OWEB on behalf of the State of Oregon—to submit grants each year. It should be noted that there are limitations on eligible uses of the available PCSRF funds, such that these funds cannot be used for all aspects of OWEB’s grant program.

In November 2020, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2021-23 Spending Plan and discussed spending plan categories and proposed percentages allotted to each category. Between December 2020 and March 2021, staff discussed funding options for specific grant types within each category. Based on board feedback and staff discussions, a draft 2021-23 spending plan is provided as Attachments B (percentages) and C (spending plan detail).

IV. Spending Plan Line Items

The spending plan contains a range of items. Some are frequently discussed (for example, restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring grants; focused investments; and council capacity), while others (for example, weed grants, small grants, district capacity, and CREP) are less frequently on the board’s agenda. At the March 2021 board meeting, staff will present on each line item to give the board a better sense of what is funded in each area. Subsequent attachments to the staff report provide summaries of the spending plan line items. Staff will present information to the board at the March meeting to provide additional details about the programs and answer any questions the board may have about those programs. These presentations are in advance of the July 2021 board meeting, at which decisions will be made on spending plan amounts for the 2021-23 biennium.

V. Recommendation

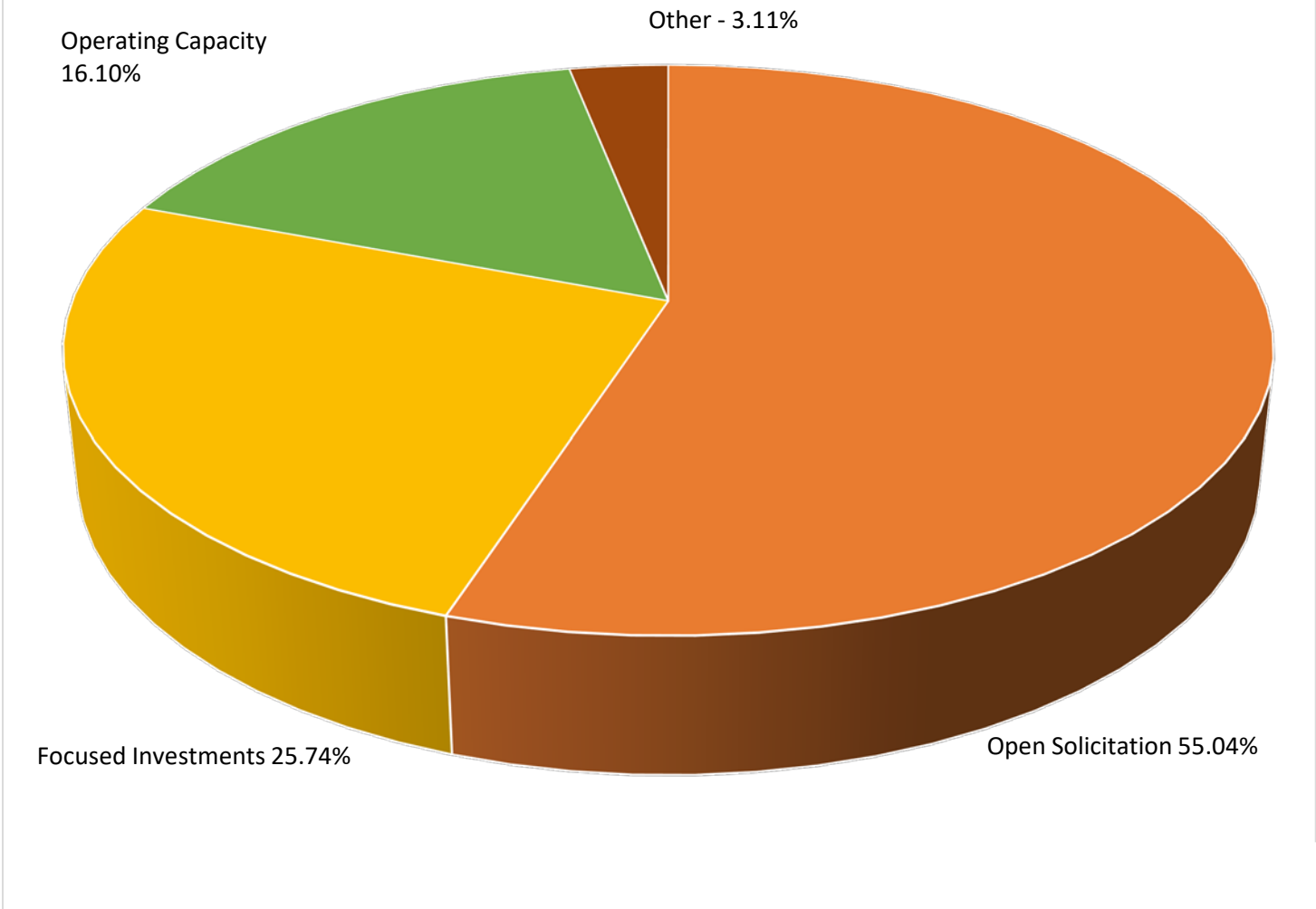
This is an information item only. Staff will be seeking feedback on spending plan line items for development of a final proposal for board consideration in July 2021. No final decisions will occur at the March 2021 meeting.

Attachments

- A. 2019-2021 Spending Plan
- B. Draft 2021-2023 Spending Plan Percentages
- C. Draft 2021-2023 Spending Plan
- D. D-1 through D-18 Spending Plan Line Item Summaries

	2019-21 SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	Mar 2021 additions	Spending Plan as of Mar 2021	TOTAL Awards To- Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date	Mar 2021 Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Mar 2021 awards
1	Open Solicitation:						
2	Restoration	5.031	24.233	15.945	8.288	8.288	0.000
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	0.774	3.265	1.966	1.299	1.299	0.000
5	CREP TA		1.163	1.163	0.000		0.000
6	Stakeholder Engagement	0.262	1.007	0.497	0.510	0.510	0.000
7	Monitoring grants		1.753	1.753	0.000		0.000
8	Land and Water Acquisition						
9	Acquisition		4.905	4.905	0.000		0.000
10	Acquisition TA		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
11	Weed Grants		1.631	1.631	0.000		0.000
12	Small Grants		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
13	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes		0.760	0.760	0.000		0.000
14	TOTAL	6.060	40.217	30.120	10.097	10.097	0.000
15	% of assumed Total Budget		48.79%				
16	Focused Investments:						
17	Deschutes		2.085	2.085	0.000		0.000
18	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		0.780	0.780	0.000		0.000
19	Harney Basin Wetlands		2.400	2.400	0.000		0.000
20	Sage Grouse		0.474	0.474	0.000		0.000
21	Ashland Forest All-Lands		2.000	2.000	0.000		0.000
22	Upper Grande Ronde		2.311	2.311	0.000		0.000
23	John Day Partnership		4.000	4.000	0.000		0.000
24	Baker Sage Grouse		1.343	1.343	0.000		0.000
25	Warner Aquatic Habitat		1.713	1.713	0.000		0.000
26	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp		1.500	1.500	0.000		0.000
27	Clackamas Partnership		3.354	3.354	0.000		0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.150	0.150	0.000		0.000
29	TOTAL	0.000	22.110	22.110	0.000	0.000	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget		26.82%				
31	Operating Capacity:						
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		14.330	14.330	0.000		(0.000)
33	Statewide org partnership support		0.425	0.425	0.000		0.000
34	Organizational Collaborative		0.100	0.100	0.000		0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance		0.779	0.779	0.000		0.000
36	TOTAL	0.000	15.634	15.634	0.000	0.000	(0.000)
37	% of assumed Total Budget		18.97%				
38	Other:						
39	CREP		0.750	0.750	0.000		0.000
40	Governor's Priorities		0.793	0.793	0.000		0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.125	1.925	0.800	1.125	1.125	0.000
42	Natural Resource Emergency		1.000	1.000	0.000		0.000
43	TOTAL	1.125	4.468	3.343	1.125	1.125	0.000
44	% of assumed Total Budget		5.42%				
45	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	7.185	82.429	71.207	11.222	11.222	0.000
46	OTHER DIRECTED						
47	ODFW - PCSRF		11.690	11.690	0.000		0.000
48	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.321	0.321	0.000		0.000
49	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.000	0.000	0.000		0.000
50	TOTAL	0.000	12.011	12.011	0.000	0.000	0.000
51	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	7.185	94.440	83.218	11.222	11.222	0.000

Proposed 2021-2023 Spending Plan Percentages



	2021-2023 Proposed SPENDING PLAN for M76 & PCSRF Funds	2021 Spending Plan	2022 Spending Plan
1	Open Solicitation:		
2	Restoration	30.000	31.500
3	Technical Assistance		
4	Restoration TA	3.000	3.500
5	CREP TA	1.200	1.200
6	Stakeholder Engagement	1.750	1.750
7	Monitoring grants	2.000	3.750
8	Land and Water Acquisition		
9	Acquisition	7.000	9.000
10	Weed Grants	3.000	3.250
11	Small Grants	2.800	2.800
12	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	0.750	0.750
13	TOTAL	51.500	57.500
14	% of assumed Total Budget		55.04%
15	Focused Investments:		
16	Deschutes	1.915	1.915
17	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habi	1.400	1.400
18	Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100
19	Sage Grouse	0.000	0.000
20	Ashland Forest All-Lands	0.000	0.000
21	Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466
22	John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000
23	Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435
24	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293
25	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700
26	Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082
27	New FIP Solicitation	8.000	8.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500	0.500
29	TOTAL	26.890	26.890
30	% of assumed Total Budget		25.74%
31	Operating Capacity:		
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	15.121	15.121
33	Statewide org partnership support	0.225	0.400
34	Organizational Collaborative	0.300	0.300
35	Partnership Technical Assistance	1.000	1.000
36	TOTAL	16.646	16.821
37	% of assumed Total Budget		16.10%
38	Other:		
39	CREP	0.750	0.750
40	Governor's Priorities	1.000	1.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500
42	TOTAL	3.250	3.250
43	% of assumed Total Budget		3.11%
44	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	98.287	104.462
45	OTHER DIRECTED		
46	ODFW - PCSRF		12.883
47	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.330
48	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.500
49	TOTAL	0.000	13.713
50	TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Directed Funds	98.287	118.175

Attachment D1-D18 Spending Plan - Summaries



Kate Brown, Governor



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Governor's Priorities (other than Harney CREP)

Recommended Amount: \$500,000

I. Summary

The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically these investments address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor's Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work. These types of investments are unique in that they address both technical assistance and restoration needs while focusing on areas of importance to the Governor.

II. Program History

Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

These investments have varied over time and include support for initiatives such as: a) Initial work of forest-health collaboratives, including statewide coordination, technical support for local collaboratives, and planning and implementation support for these groups; b) Partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that led to development Coastal Coho Business Plans through a partnership with NFWF, the Wild Salmon Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; c) Oregon's Sage-Grouse Plan, including convening partners to develop strategies for successful restoration programs, as well as data integration work; d) Initial scoping of agricultural working lands easements that evolved into the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; e) Tidegate Partnership that supports resilient coastal communities by reducing risks from coastal hazards, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife; f) Post-fire recovery work related to the Chetco Bar fire in 2017 and fires in the mid-Columbia region in 2018; and g) Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision that helps ensure a secure and resilient water future for all Oregonians.

III. Demand

Investments have totaled \$1 million in each of the last two biennia. Because this program operates as a proactive grant-making item, the demand does not exceed the funding available.

IV. Future Need

OWEB staff worked with the Governor’s office to identify focus areas for this funding for the 2021-23 biennium as follows:

\$375,000 for Immediate Response Grants for the 2021 and 2022 Fire Seasons – Based on experience from the unprecedented 2020 fire season, when OWEB provided grants up to \$75,000 to support immediate post-fire recovery work in 13 wildfire areas, grants will be made available should the need arise in 2021 and 2022. Eligible implementation actions include soil stabilization efforts and log salvage for future restoration. Funding could also be used for stakeholder engagement to aid landowners in accessing fire-response funding along with technical assistance for fire impact assessments.

\$125,000 for Climate-Related Initiatives – The funding will support work that is mutually agreed upon by OWEB and the Governor’s Office, and could relate to such activities as: a) follow-up on natural and working lands efforts related to OWEB’s climate initiatives and Climate Executive Order (EO) 20-04, b) climate equity and justice considerations related to OWEB’s diversity, equity and inclusion work and the Impacted Communities work group under EO 20-04, and c) exploration of existing estimation and quantification tools for use in OWEB and other agency programs, among others.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Though not part of the original Governor’s Priorities request, the board invested \$1 million to support post-fire recovery work from catastrophic wildfires of 2020. Grants of up to \$75,000 were made available for collaborative efforts in each of thirteen fire areas. Grantmaking is ongoing.

In addition, through the Governor’s priorities funding, investments were made to continue partnerships including the Tide Gate Partnership, the Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership and Oregon’s 100-Year Water Vision. Each of these partnerships has helped the state to move forward critical discussions to help improve native fish and wildlife habitat, and address key water quality and quantity issues.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$1.000	\$0
2017-2019	\$1.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.793	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.000	

*Full biennium data not available



Harney Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

Recommended Amount: \$500,000 from Governor's Plan Priorities

I. Summary

The Harney Basin has national and international significance for migratory water birds as a critical stopover on the Pacific Flyway. Faced with declining groundwater and a state designation of the area as a "Groundwater Area of Concern", irrigators in the area are working on solutions to reduce their demand for groundwater to obtain sustainable levels.

The primary goal for the Harney Valley Groundwater Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is to reduce groundwater use to sustainable levels when coupled with other strategies of groundwater use reduction. The CREP area is the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern (GHVGAC), a 2,386 square mile portion of the Harney Valley that encompasses nearly all groundwater irrigated lands. This area includes some 87,264 acres that are permitted for groundwater irrigation, containing nearly all the groundwater irrigated lands in the basin.

Full implementation of the CREP project is expected to result in the conservation of approximately 40,000-50,000-acre feet of groundwater annually (up to 60,000-acre feet permitted use). Ecological outcomes are anticipated to be improved groundwater conditions and restored dryland ecosystem conditions. Direct results of full enrollment will be a decrease in the rate of decline of groundwater levels, reduced threat to domestic and stock water users who rely on groundwater as their only source of water, reduced threat to groundwater dependent ecosystems, and increased sustainability of the remaining groundwater irrigated agricultural production in the basin.

The State of Oregon seeks to develop a partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to fund and implement CREP in the basin. Through voluntary enrollment, the program would provide conservation rentals with state enhanced payments in identified areas that will contribute the most to reducing groundwater use. The program will be managed in coordination with the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD).

Oregon will enroll up to 20,000 acres of actively irrigated land within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern for 15-year contracts. Conservation rental payments for irrigated land will be at irrigated land rental rates.

The proposal will need to be submitted to USDA for national approval, and an application is being developed by local partners to ensure it will meet the needs of local irrigators and result in groundwater use reductions. Once agreed upon by the community, the application will be submitted by OWEB. In total, approximately \$9.4 million in state funds will be matched with some

\$43,000,000 over 15 years or approximately \$5,770,000/biennium of federal dollars through the Farm Service Agency.

II. Program History

This is a new program. Funding is being requested from the Legislature in the 2021-23 legislative session to both manage the program and to provide the \$500,000 in cost-share match for the federal investment. OWEB funding will serve as a backup if funding is not made available through the legislature. However, given the intensive nature of the technical assistance needed, the program cannot move forward if the legislature does not provide funding for the technical support staff at WRD to manage the program locally.

III. Demand

Because this is a new program, there is not an existing demand.

IV. Future Need

The estimated initial signup need is for \$500,000 of state funding to match with roughly \$2.2 million in federal dollars. This is only an estimate, based on the best assumptions of the community for landowner participation in the program. Program objectives include:

1. Enroll a maximum of 20,000 groundwater irrigated acres into CREP. The reduction will amount to an approximately 20% reduction in groundwater irrigated agricultural land in the basin.
2. Reduce use of groundwater by between 40,000- and 50,000-acre feet annually
3. Reduce the rate of groundwater level decline in areas of rapid decline.
4. Reduce the rate of groundwater level decline throughout the rest of the Harney Basin aquifer in cooperation with OWRD.
5. Reduce energy consumption by approximately 3.44 million kW-hr/year at full enrollment.
6. Target permanent groundwater use reduction by state payment of incentives above USDA irrigated rental rates to reduce the rate of groundwater level declines across the basin.
7. Target groundwater use reduction where benefits to groundwater dependent ecosystems are expected (proximity to springs).

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
SEE Governor's priorities for full history		



Kate Brown, Governor



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Title: Strategic Implementation Areas

Recommended Amount: \$1.500 million

I. Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, is leading the “Strategic Implementation Area” (SIA) initiative, where select areas around the state will receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, monitoring, and where necessary, compliance follow-up to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA providing a regulatory backstop when needed.

During the 2019-2021 biennium, 17 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) were originally identified by ODA. Eight of the SIAs were able to submit applications and receive \$100,000 in technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement funding, and \$25,000 in monitoring funding prior to OWEB’s April 2020 pause in funding. In October 2020 OWEB again began accepting applications for technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funding from the remaining nine SIAs. Due to staffing changes and COVID-19 challenges, only three of the nine have applied for funding. The other six will be applying for funding in March 2021. OWEB and ODA staff will work with the SIA leads to develop monitoring proposals and apply for funding later in 2021.

This funding supports the SIA lead and local partners to development outreach plan and work with landowners to develop restoration projects within the SIA geography. Any restoration projects developed from SIAs as a result of OWEB’s funding may be submitted either through OWEB’s other grant programs or in partnership with other agencies for implementation.

The monitoring funds provided to each SIA support baseline and long-term monitoring with the SIA geography. Each SIA convenes a local monitoring team to provide guidance and feedback on local monitoring objectives and the development of a monitoring proposal. Prior to implementation, all monitoring plans are reviewed by a Statewide Monitoring Advisory Group made up of representatives of OWEB, ODA, ODFW, and DEQ.

II. Program History

Beginning with the 2017-2019 biennium, the OWEB board awarded \$100,000 of technical assistance and stakeholder engagement funds for each SIA identified through ODA to support stakeholder engagement and project development. The funds, which are available for up to four years, help SIA partners engage stakeholders, plan and develop future conservation actions to address impacts on Oregon’s water quality standards, and/or to address goals identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans. The board also awarded an additional \$25,000 in monitoring funds for each SIA. These funds are available for monitoring work after an approved monitoring proposal has been

developed. The purpose of SIA monitoring is to measure change in landscape and/or water quality resulting from the implementation of projects that improve agricultural management practices. Detecting a signal in water quality and landscape conditions takes time, which is why the monitoring funds are available for up to 10 years.

At the conclusion of the SIA grant period, local partners are expected to have worked with landowners within the targeted geography to address agricultural water quality concerns and limiting factors identified in salmonid conservation and recovery plans and complete the necessary monitoring.

III. Demand

ODA has developed a five-year schedule around the state that assumes 9 SIAs per year. Due to COVID-19 and the impacts to ODA resources and our local partners, demand is likely to be closer to 12-16 SIAs during the 21-23 biennium. In each SIA area, ODA and local partners will estimate the OWEB funds needed for local technical assistance and tailor local partners’ SIA technical assistance request to the amount of funding needed.

IV. Future Need

It is anticipated that SIAs will continue to be selected using a robust prioritization approach based on data from multiple sources including state and federal agencies. Funding will continue to be needed to assist in providing stakeholder engagement/technical assistance and monitoring in selected SIAs.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Several soil and water conservation districts have developed projects as a result of the SIA program and OWEB technical assistance funds and have submitted applications to OWEB’s small grant and open solicitation grant programs. In addition, nine groups have developed monitoring plans and in various stages of data collection.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$1.000	\$0
2017-2019	\$1.200	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.700	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.125	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.500	

*Full biennium data not available

Attachment D3-D10 Open Solicitation - Restoration



Kate Brown, Governor



Open Solicitation - Restoration

Recommended Amount: \$31.500 million

I. Summary

Open solicitation restoration grants are OWEB's primary method of delivering support for watershed projects that restore watershed functions. Open solicitation restoration grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program.

II. Program History

Open solicitation restoration grants aid landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board. Initial investments were modest and focused on restoration demonstration projects. The number of projects and level of investment quickly increased as the Oregon Legislature and the public supported OWEB through Ballot Measures 66 and 76. At the same time, organizational capacity within watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other groups to plan and implement projects grew, and landowners became engaged in implementing voluntary projects.

Restoration accomplishments in Oregon, including those funded by OWEB, have been reported through the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI). From 1999 through 2020, OWEB invested \$386 million in 6,644 OWEB restoration projects that have reported their accomplishments to OWRI. Riparian, road, upland, fish passage, and instream restoration activities make up the largest number of projects, respectively. These projects have resulted in:

- 6,144 linear stream miles treated through instream and riparian activities
- 6,812 miles of habitat made accessible for fish
- 1,305,742 acres treated through upland activities
- 58,257 acres of wetland/estuarine habitat restored/created/enhanced.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, spending plan reductions resulted in three award cycles instead of the usual four. The board awarded only 57% of requested funds, or \$24.6 million out of \$43.3 million requested. The board awarded 71% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

IV. Future Need

Even with 5 additional FIPs operating during the biennium, demand for open solicitation restoration funds remained high. Eliminating an award cycle in 2019-21 will likely result in additional demand for restoration grants in the next biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The integrity of the application review process was maintained during the necessary conversion to a virtual format for site visits and review teams caused by the pandemic. Video conferencing tools allowed for presentation of graphic materials as well as “face-to-face” discussion. Staff developed tools using available technology for review team voting and ranking.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$25.982	\$0
2017-2019	\$33.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$32.200	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$24.233	\$*
2021-2023	\$31.500	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$3.500 million

I. Summary

Open solicitation technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program for watershed assessments and designs that lead to eligible restoration projects. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at \$75,000 per grant.

II. Program History

Since 1999, OWEB has been awarding technical assistance grants. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination and permitting. There are two types of technical assistance grants offered through the open solicitation program:

- Technical Design and Engineering: Development of technical design for a restoration project; and
- Resource Assessment and Planning: Development of an implementation plan for restoration activities.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the board awarded 51% of requested funds, or \$3.2 million out of \$6.4 million requested for eligible projects. The board awarded 64% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

IV. Future Need

Even with 5 additional FIPs operating during the biennium, demand for open solicitation technical assistance funds remained high. Eliminating an award cycle in 2019-21 will likely result in additional demand for restoration grants in the next biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Increased funding for technical assistance grants in 2019-21 was met with increased demand. More applicants are taking a deliberate approach to restoration projects where they can eliminate uncertainty in a restoration application by taking the time to develop project designs with technical assistance funds. This has also led to higher quality restoration applications.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$3.060	\$0.169
2017-2019	\$4.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$4.100	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$3.270	\$*
2021-2023	\$3.500	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants

Recommended Amount: \$3.750 million

I. Summary:

Prior to 2021, Open Solicitation (OS) monitoring grants were solicited during the fall grant cycle. Beginning in 2021, OS monitoring grants will be solicited during the spring grant cycle, with board awards in the fall.

Eligible monitoring activities include describing current watershed conditions and establishing trends about watershed conditions by gathering and analyzing data. Applicants also can request funding for evaluating the specific effects of a restoration or acquisition project or program by comparing similar watershed components before and after implementation of restoration or acquisition. Effectiveness monitoring is not a requirement of any OWEB grant, and is above and beyond compliance monitoring/implementation reporting. Monitoring information can assist restoration practitioners and OWEB in determining the biotic and abiotic changes due to restoration actions and inform future restoration design. Monitoring grant applications must articulate the monitoring question to be answered and provide information about complementary monitoring that is occurring in the watershed, among other monitoring grant application requirements. Monitoring projects must make their monitoring results publicly available.

Open solicitation monitoring grants differ from OWEB's Quantifying Conservation Outcomes and Outputs line item in the spending plan in that the open solicitation monitoring grants are proposed by local partners to OWEB as part of the agency's responsive grant-making process. The monitoring projects funded in the open solicitation grant program are designed and led by grantees, and typically are smaller in scope and effort than effectiveness monitoring projects funded by OWEB in the Quantifying Conservation Outcomes and Outputs.

II. Program History:

As a part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, OWEB and other state natural resources agencies developed an associated monitoring strategy. This strategy described an overall framework for structuring coordinated monitoring and provided direction to help integrate Oregon Plan programs and monitoring with region-wide watershed enhancement and salmon recovery efforts. OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on Oregon Plan progress.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the board awarded 46% of requested funds, or \$1.75 million out of \$3.79 million requested. The board awarded 93% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams (RRTs). The total allocation to open solicitation monitoring grants in the 2019-2021 biennium was reduced from previous biennia due to the downturn in Lottery revenues, resulting in only one OS monitoring cycle being funded. The total allocation to open solicitation monitoring grants in the 2021-2023 was increased from the previous

biennium. It is likely that high demand exists due to OWEB not offering monitoring grants in the Fall 2020 cycle. By shifting OS monitoring grants to the spring 2021 cycle, the agency is helping to address the anticipated high demand for monitoring funds.

IV. Future Need

It is anticipated that a consistent and significant need for monitoring funds will extend into the next biennium, given that 24-35 monitoring applications have been received each year since 2015. Alternate sources of funding for monitoring are limited, and in some cases other funding sources have seen reductions in available funds in recent years. For example, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)’s Clean Water Act Section 319 grants can only fund a limited number of monitoring projects statewide due to limited funding. In addition, recent budget cuts from in Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA) Research, Monitoring and Evaluation Program have resulted in OWEB receiving more monitoring applications from entities in the Columbia Basin.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

During the Fall 2019 OS grant cycle, OWEB’s effectiveness monitoring coordinator and regional program representatives continued to offer informal pre-application consultations with potential monitoring applicants. These consultations allow the applicant to describe their monitoring interest and provide an opportunity for OWEB staff to advise them on integral components of a successful monitoring project. OWEB staff convened the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) to discuss the technical merits and potential benefits of monitoring applications received during the Fall 2019 cycle, then provide these reviews to inform funding recommendations by regional review teams.

In 2019, OWEB initiated rulemaking for monitoring grants. A rules advisory committee was established and met four times between August and December of 2019 to help draft revised rule language. Following a public comment period that included Oregon Department of Justice review, the OWEB Board approved the revised administrative rules on April 21, 2020. Staff has subsequently revised the online monitoring grant application to ensure the new evaluation criteria in rule can be applied. Staff has developed a plan to provide training opportunities for OWEB staff, interested applicants and review team members in preparation with the 2021 monitoring grant solicitation.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$2.120	\$0.024
2017-2019	\$3.100	\$0
2019-2021	\$3.500	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.753	\$*
2021-2023	\$3.750	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes

Recommended Amount: \$0.750 million

I. Summary

Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a broad geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. This program-level monitoring and evaluation—such as monitoring of restoration approaches that aim to achieve Stage 0 conditions—that is supported through targeted investments is different from open solicitation monitoring grants, which are proposed by local partners and considered through OWEB's responsive grant program. Funds also have supported the 'Telling the Restoration Story' initiative, which helps local partners compile and report existing data to highlight progress towards meeting ecological outcomes and communicate lessons learned.

Supporting the goals of this funding item, OWEB staff participate in cross-agency teams to evaluate programs and projects that share common objectives. For example, OWEB also has convened an interagency team consisting of ODA, DEQ and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to provide oversight and guidance for Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) monitoring. OWEB staff also participate in the inter-agency Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) and Oregon's Strategic Enterprise Approach to Monitoring (STREAM Team).

II. Program History

In September 2004, the board authorized the initial concept of an effectiveness monitoring program. Since that time, staff have worked with the board's monitoring committee to build the program. This approach included the identification of specific scales at which to conduct monitoring, such as at the watershed-scale Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). In September 2016, OWEB filled a new position, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, which assists OWEB with quantifying outcomes associated with collective conservation actions.

III. Demand

Demand for Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes increased in both the 2017-19 and 2019-21 biennia. However, due to reductions in Lottery revenue, the funding for this line item in OWEB's 2019-21 spending plan was reduced from \$1,278,000 to \$0.760. This reduction coincided with a reduction of staff to focus on work to quantify conservation outputs and outcomes, when both the conservation outcomes coordinator and specialist were shifted to other positions due to budget challenges.

IV. Future Need

Staff continue to work with the board’s monitoring committee to identify priority needs under this spending plan. The committee supports ongoing investments in programmatic monitoring that evaluates restoration actions at a broader space and/or time scales. Strong support continues to be expressed for ‘Telling the Restoration Story,’ which would enable staff to reinvigorate discussions with local partners about promising story ideas that were identified prior to the revenue downturn, along with exploring emerging topics such effects of the 2020 fires on restored areas. The line item also could continue to support ongoing investment in SIA monitoring as part of the Coordinated Streamside Management initiative, and possibly enable paired restoration and monitoring investments, providing for monitoring over the full life of a restoration project.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Example highlights are described below (not an exhaustive list):

- ‘Telling the Restoration Story’ - These grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project to tell the story of quantitative restoration effects. Seven retrospective projects have been funded by OWEB, each producing a suite of a suite of outreach and technical communications products.
- Coordinated Streamside Management/SIA monitoring - The inter-agency approach includes providing monitoring funding to each SIA, which identifies restoration work to address agricultural water-quality issues. The statewide monitoring team has developed guidance for use by local partners and is working with current SIAs to help develop and implement local monitoring plans.
- Monitoring of Stage Restoration and Stage 0 Monitoring Workshop – OWEB awarded funding to Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and the McKenzie Watershed Alliance to implement the first phase of the effectiveness monitoring of Stage 0 restoration actions in the Whychus Creek and South Fork McKenzie River, respectively. In November 2020, practitioners, researchers, regulators and other stakeholders convened at the Stage 0 Monitoring Workshop to discuss current topics and identify data gaps related to implementing and monitoring restoration projects intended to achieve a Stage 0 condition. Needs identified included a more regular means of communication among practitioners, scientists, and stakeholders on this topic.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.500	\$0.287
2017-2019	\$1.587	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.200	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.760	\$*
2021-2023	\$0.750	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement

Recommended Amount: \$1.750

I. Summary

Open solicitation stakeholder engagement projects include outreach efforts that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to eligible projects.

II. Program History

From 1999 to 2011, OWEB awarded outreach and education grants. Under Measure 66, these activities were funded through non-capital funds, which could be used for a variety of purposes that furthered the goals of improving water quality, recovering fish and wildlife, and enhancing watershed health.

Measure 76 changed the constitutional language regarding education and outreach grant offerings. Due to these changes, beginning with the October 2011 grant cycle, OWEB only offered outreach grants that are necessary for activities to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows. Grants for education only are not eligible under Measure 76. In 2017, the board adopted rules for the new stakeholder engagement offering that provided further guidance for the program.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the board awarded \$1 million of the \$1.8 million requested, or 55% compared to the requested amount. The board awarded 77% of the funds requested in applications recommended for funding by regional review teams.

IV. Future Need

Eliminating an award cycle in 2019-21 will likely result in additional demand for stakeholder engagement grants. This offering has not been accessed to its potential for the land trust and water acquisitions communities. There are essential project development activities that could be funded through stakeholder engagement, including engaging landowners interested in land or water acquisition as well as communities to gage support for such projects. Increased demand is also anticipated from grantees interested in engaging underserved communities in eligible grant projects.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The first stakeholder engagement grant in support of a future land acquisition project was funded in 2020. The purpose of the project is to engage the community and potential funders to support a landscape scale land acquisition project.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.650	\$0.003
2017-2019	\$0.700	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.007	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.750	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Land and Water Acquisition

Recommended Amount: \$9.000 million

I. Summary

OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts.

OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, water leases, and contractually protected instream flow.

II. Program History

Land Acquisition: The board began making land acquisition grants in 1998. Several grants were awarded during the first few years of the program. In 2000, interest in the program began growing, and grew significantly over subsequent biennia. During the 2017-2019 biennium, OWEB convened a rules advisory committee to recommend program rule changes for board consideration in April 2019. To date, the board has awarded over \$55 million in land acquisition grants, leveraging \$96 million in matching funds and protecting over 87,000 acres.

Water Acquisition: The board awarded its first water acquisition grant in 2001. Until 2010, only five grants were awarded, with a relatively small award amount for each project (i.e., under \$40,000). Beginning in 2010, interest in water acquisition grants began to grow as a result of increased organizational capacity in select areas of the state to carry out water acquisition projects and programs and increased concern about instream flow issues. Since 2010, the board has awarded over \$5.01 million for water acquisition grants, resulting in the short-term transfer of over 103 cubic feet per second (cfs), or 17,987 acre-feet and the permanent transfer of about 33.5 cfs, or 6,477 acre-feet to instream use. To date, funding requests to OWEB have come from three primary locations in the state: the Deschutes, Klamath, and mid-Columbia basins. In addition, OWEB is now seeing more applications from the Rogue Basin. These awards have supported a range of activities from permanent transfers and temporary leases of instream water rights to incentivizing voluntary curtailments by irrigators.

III. Demand

Land Acquisition: In the 2019-2021 biennium, spending plan reductions resulted in only one award cycle instead of two. Six applicants requested approximately \$6.5 million in funding through the

Land Acquisition open solicitation program, with two projects awarded \$4.7 million. In addition, two land acquisition projects that are part of Focused Investment Partnerships were awarded \$1.24 million.

Water Acquisition: In the 2019-2021 biennium, the only award cycle resulted in two applicants being awarded \$157,000 in Water Lease and Transfer grants.

IV. Future Need

The June 2020 spending plan rebalance eliminated the planned second solicitation for both land and water acquisition grants in the 2019-21 biennium. Increased interest in these programs is expected in the next biennium. The board expressed a desire to offer solicitations for both program earlier than usual to accommodate the expected demand.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Land Acquisition: In the lone award cycle, the board awarded grants to two landscape-scale projects that will result in the permanent protection of key large parcels in the north coast and the Deschutes basin. The scope and scale of these two projects, and the significance of the protected habitat, are the type of signature project envisioned in the board’s established principles for the program.

Water Acquisition: A Rules Advisory Committee was convened to review and update the water acquisition program rules, which were adopted by the board in 2020. Significant changes include elaboration of eligible projects, including those regulated by Oregon Water Resources Department as well as contractually protected instream flows, inclusion of ODFW instream flow priorities, and expansion of evaluation criteria to include ecological outcomes, cost effectiveness, watershed context, and organizational capacity. Staff began discussions with National Fish and Wildlife Federation to continue our partnership in application review by focusing on organizational capacity, transaction soundness, and water rights valuation.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$6.675	\$.659
2017-2019	\$10.500 **	\$0
2019-2021	\$8.750	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$4.905	\$*
2021-2023	\$9.000	

*Full biennium data not available **includes federal coastal wetlands funds



Kate Brown, Governor



Small Grant Program

Recommended Amount: \$2.95 million (includes \$.150 small grant program recapture)

I. Summary

OWEB small grant program (SGP) funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. These small grant teams (Teams) form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams select from an OWEB rule-defined list of actions when identifying priority watershed concerns for their small grant area. Priority concerns include: fish passage; urban impact reduction; road impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function. Teams set application cycles, review submitted proposals, and submit recommended projects to OWEB.

II. Program History

In 1999 OWEB investigated ways to be more responsive to small restoration projects. During this time the Oregon Legislature encouraged the agency to initiate a county-based, local cost-share program through a budget note in OWEB's legislative adopted budget.

In January 2002, the board adopted administrative rules establishing the SGP with the goal of supporting implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by funding small, straightforward restoration projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. Such projects are to include, but are not limited to, those developed to address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's), Agriculture Water Quality Management Plans, urban non-point source pollution management plans, and the Board of Forestry's Forestry Program for Oregon.

The board set boundaries for 28 geographic areas throughout the state. Within each area a team may form comprised of representatives from local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Teams are guided by self-defined operating procedures, along with a list of watershed priorities and eligible project types revisited biennially. Historically the board has awarded \$2.8 million (\$100,000 per team) per biennium to the program.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, all 28 Teams successfully reorganized and were awarded \$100,000 each. Funding was then reduced in the spending plan rebalance caused by pandemic-related lottery revenue reductions. As of February 11, 2021, 157 project grants have been awarded utilizing more than \$1.84 million of the available \$2.127 million in SGP funding this biennium. Remaining funds are available to the Teams through June 30, 2021. In the 2017-19 biennium, the board approved an incentive for Teams with high demand for funds where unexpended small grant funds from the

previous biennium are provided to Teams who allocate 95% of available funds by the midpoint of the biennium. In 2017-19, \$350,000 were allocated to 12 Teams, who successfully allocated the additional funds.

IV. Future Need

The biennium spending plan need is expected to remain stable at \$2.8 million. The continuation of unspent program funds carryover is requested to allow high-performing Teams access to additional funding when their original funding award has been exhausted. While this option was not available to Teams this biennium due to the spending plan reductions, it is expected that this will create even greater need for small grant funds next biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

SGP processes provided flexibility when adapting to the spending plan adjustments described above. When the pause on new grant agreements lifted, Small Grant Team Contacts were able to quickly submit proposals reviewed and recommended by the Teams. Several project grant agreements were fully executed within a week of lifting the pause. This agility in the face of unusual circumstances provided the opportunity to get on-the-ground restoration work started and project dollars into communities quickly.

This biennium saw the development of an online application, and accompanying processes, for the SGP. Staff anticipate the launch of the online application for the program beginning in 2021-2023 biennium. Small Grant applications will be submitted via the online application system and Small Grant Teams will have the ability to review submitted applications through the application review module (ARM).

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$2.800	\$.404
2017-2019	\$2.800	\$.350**
2019-2021	\$3.300**	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.500**	\$*
2021-2023	\$2.950**	

*Full biennium data not available **includes previous biennia recapture



Kate Brown, Governor



Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

Recommended Amount: \$3.25 million

I. Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish, and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. Under the OSWB Grant program, the OSWB works to fund as many high priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance, or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project.

The prevention and control of State Listed noxious weed species are critical elements of watershed protection and enhancement. To address this issue, ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

II. Program History

The OSWB Grant Program was established in the 1999-2001 biennium after the passage of Measure 66. Until 2010 and the passage of Measure 76, the fiscal responsibilities for Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB) grants were administered through ODA. The passage of Measure 76 in 2010 started the partnership between OWEB and ODA for OSWB grants. The ballot measure changed the language within the constitution, designating OWEB as the single granting agency for State Lottery funds designated for watershed restoration. This change resulted in a move of OSWB grant funding under OWEB's budget, rather than being transferred directly to and administered by ODA.

The 2011-2013 biennium was a transition period for the OSWB grant partnership. A Lean-Kaizen process was completed to identify strengths, challenges and redundancies in the process, and refinements to the process were made based on the lessons learned.

III. Demand

Due to spending plan reductions in the 2019-2021 biennium, there was only one OSWB Grant Program grant cycle instead of two, with 90% of applicants receiving funds: 65 projects secured full funding, 5 obtained partial funding, and 7 were not funded. The first cycle has historically had a

higher award rate due to available funding and sound project applications. As mentioned above, the second grant cycle was cancelled.

Funding to the OSWB Grant Program provides cooperators resources that are important for protecting Oregon’s natural resources, treating priority state listed invasive noxious weeds and maintaining weed control activities in small communities. Many cooperators around the state depend on OSWB Grant Funding to pay for priority invasive noxious weed project work, match other federal or private grants and keep staff funded to do invasive noxious weed work.

IV. Future Need

Due to the missed grant cycle, it is expected that demand for weed grants will remain high. OSWB Grant Funding will focus on:

- Treatments on priority state listed noxious weeds,
- Areas impacted by wildfire or COVID-19,
- Funding essential to support local noxious weed staff, for weed survey, monitoring, or treatments.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Completed projects reported leveraging 142% match with OSWB/OWEB funding, and treated over 23,700 acres, 25 instream miles, and 147 riparian miles, and surveyed 726,091 acres.

ODA worked with OWEB staff and moved the OSWB Weed Grants into the OWEB online application system during the biennium. ODA hosted trainings for grantees to learn the OWEB online application system. Online applications have helped to streamline work between the agencies in generating Agreements and approving Time Extensions in OGMS for Grant Project Managers.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$2.500	\$0
2017-2019	\$3.000	\$0
2019-2021	\$3.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.630	\$*
2021-2023	\$3.250	

*Full biennium data not available

Spending Plan - Focused Investments



Kate Brown, Governor



Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Recommended Amount: \$26,391,262

Components of recommended amount:

Cohort 1 'make whole' request	\$3,880,907
Cohort 2 'make whole' request	\$761,131
Cohort 2 FIP 2021-23 request	\$13,749,224
New FIP Solicitation	\$8,000,000

I. Summary

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) investments address a board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships

II. Program History

In June 2013, the board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Effectiveness Monitoring. At that time, no formal definition, process, or solicitation approach for the FIP program existed. In October 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program structure (including solicitation approach and process) for the FIP category in the Long-Term Investment Strategy. This was followed by initiation of an 18-month process to set board priorities and solicit for investments within the program.

Following an extensive public process, the board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

- 1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
- 2) Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitat
- 3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
- 4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- 5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
- 6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- 7) Coastal Estuaries

To date, OWEB has funded 11 FIP initiatives. Six partnerships were awarded FIP funding for 6-year initiatives (i.e., 3 biennia) in 2016 as Cohort 1, and another 5 partnerships were awarded FIP funding in 2019 as Cohort 2.

III. Demand

OWEB initiated a FIP solicitation in January 2020 with the intent of conducting the same process for awarding FIPs as in previous biennia. As a result of the impacts of the state’s response to Covid-19 on Oregon lottery revenue, the board postponed that solicitation to at least July 2021. Prior to that decision, staff conducted required pre-application consultations with 10 partnerships in March-April 2020, representing the full suite of 7 board-identified FIP priorities. Despite the postponed solicitation, some partnerships reportedly went on to complete their initiative applications, while others put their efforts on hold until a solicitation would be announced in the future.

IV. Future Need

Two of the six Cohort 1 FIPs have now obligated all their FIP awards, while four others have ‘make whole’ funding pending from the current biennium’s spending plan reductions, totaling \$3,880,907. All five of the Cohort 2 FIPs have requested funding for the 2021-2023 biennium, totaling \$13,749,224. Three of these FIPs also have ‘make whole’ funding included in the 2021-23 request, totaling \$761,131. The total 2021-2023 funding request for Cohort 2 FIPs is \$14,510,355.

Details on 2019-2021 and 2021-2023 FIP budgets are found in Attachment A. Project work plans for the Cohort 2 FIPs for the 2021-2023 biennium are available upon request.

Additional future need will be determined by the board’s level of investment in a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation. In 2018, the board signaled an interest in investing up to \$10M in the Cohort 2 FIPs. Given that context, and if budget allows, staff recommend \$8M for a 2021-2023 FIP solicitation.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The 11 partnerships awarded FIP funding have made measurable progress toward their initiative goals. An update on progress for each Cohort 2 initiative was provided at the December 2020 meeting, and progress tracking reports are provided in agenda item G. The Cohort 1 FIPs will report to the board on their full six-year initiatives later in 2021. The solicitation that was postponed in 2020 elicited significant interest from partnerships around the state. Pre-application consultations made evident that the Partnership Technical Assistance grant offering (formerly Development FIP) continues to foster committed and focused partnerships that are well-positioned to seek FIP funding to implement restoration work under their strategic action plans.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$10.250	\$0
2017-2019	\$15.527	\$0
2019-2021	\$26.601	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$21.960	\$*
2021-2023	\$26.391	

*Full biennium data not available

Attachments:

- A. FIP Initiatives 2019-2021 Budgets and 2021-2023 Estimated Budgets

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) 2021-2023 FIP Budget Tables

Table 1: Cohort 1 FIPs 'Make Whole' Funding

FIP	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	Adjusted Spending Plan	2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding
Deschutes	\$4,000,000	\$2,084,836	\$1,915,164
Willamette	2,180,000	\$780,158	\$1,399,842
Harney	\$2,500,000	\$2,399,710	\$100,290
Grande Ronde	\$2,777,000	2,311,389	\$465,611
TOTAL	-	-	\$3,880,907

Table 2: Baker Sage-Grouse LIT

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$150,000	\$552,386
Stakeholder Engagement	\$563,628	\$56,380
Technical Assistance	\$0	\$0
Restoration	\$1,001,372	\$1,285,833
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$0	\$168,125
Subtotal	-	2,062,724
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$372,431
TOTAL	\$1,715,000	\$2,435,155

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) 2021-2023 FIP Budget Tables

Table 3: Clackamas Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$155,000	\$140,000
Stakeholder Engagement	\$23,000	\$23,000
Technical Assistance	\$245,000	\$0
Restoration	\$2,821,580	\$2,607,500
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$210,000	\$210,000
Subtotal	-	\$2,980,500
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$101,469
TOTAL	\$3,454,580	\$3,081,969

Table 4: John Day Basin Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$389,957	\$187,717
Stakeholder Engagement	\$92,493	\$0
Technical Assistance	\$503,254	\$202,115
Restoration	\$2,351,141	\$2,304,942
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$800,000
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$65,000
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$663,155	\$440,226
Subtotal	-	\$4,000,000
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$0
TOTAL	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) 2021-2023 FIP Budget Tables

Table 5: Rogue Forest Partners

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$92,170	\$27,583
Stakeholder Engagement	\$133,947	\$149,391
Technical Assistance	\$188,682	\$362,850
Restoration	\$1,002,235	\$2,063,425
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$82,966	\$96,751
Subtotal	-	\$2,700,000
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$0
TOTAL	\$1,500,000	\$2,700,000

Table 6: Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

OWEB Grant Category	2019-2021 OWEB Investment	2021-2023 OWEB Request
Partnership Capacity	\$19,976	\$30,000
Stakeholder Engagement	\$0	\$0
Technical Assistance	\$0	\$390,000
Restoration	\$1,920,024	\$1,526,000
Land Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Water Acquisition	\$0	\$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	\$60,000	\$60,000
Subtotal	-	2,006,000
2019-2021 'Make Whole' Funding	-	\$287,231
TOTAL	\$2,000,000	\$2,293,231



Kate Brown, Governor

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Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: \$.500 million

I. Summary

The approach employed by the Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) evaluates the dedicated FIP funding to help board, staff, and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

II. Program History

In January 2016, the board awarded its first six Implementation FIPs. Recognizing the need to understand how FIPs are achieving their intended ecological and programmatic impacts, the board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) in April 2016 to help OWEB establish a structure for evaluating progress towards ecological outcomes and program-level impacts, based on theory of change approaches. The resulting progress monitoring framework helps OWEB and local implementers evaluate progress toward outcomes for each of the board-identified ecological priorities. Key elements include a results chain and a cross-walk matrix. BEF and OWEB have worked with all 11 FIPs to develop a progress monitoring framework for each six-year initiative. The process includes outlining the habitat threats/limiting factors, restoration strategies, and existing monitoring plans of each FIP and identifying potential monitoring gaps, based on the framework.

In April 2018, the board awarded supplemental funding to fill the top priority monitoring gaps identified by the first cohort of FIPs. Also in April 2018, additional funding was provided to support BEF's ongoing engagement in the FIP monitoring effort, including: working with the second cohort of FIPs to complete progress monitoring frameworks as described above; creating 'generic' results chains for each board-approved FIP ecological priority to communicate with less-technical audiences; and developing adaptive management guidance for partnerships pursuing collaborative-based restoration. These products are presented in Agenda Item G.

III. Demand

During the previous two biennia and the 2019-21 biennium, funding allocated via this spending plan line item supported activities (see "Highlights" section below). However, the downturn in Lottery revenues that occurred during the current biennium resulted in remaining funding being removed from this line item and, thus, Cohort 2 FIPs not receiving supplemental monitoring funding. This reduction limited the ability of those five FIPs to bridge from results chains outlined in their progress monitoring frameworks to filling high-priority monitoring gaps identified for their monitoring plans and pursuing on-the-ground monitoring activities accordingly.

IV. Future Need

During the 2021-23 biennium, the intent of the Focused Investment EM line item is to provide some level of supplemental monitoring funding to Cohort 2 FIPs. FIPs awarded in future biennia will have incorporated theory of change approaches into their FIP initiative proposals, per refined guidance on strategic action planning from OWEB. However, Cohort 2 FIPs were awarded prior to this requirement. Providing funding for supplemental monitoring support will help round out monitoring gaps identified through their progress monitoring frameworks. In addition, a modest amount of funding is requested to continue BEF’s involvement in helping OWEB and the FIPs to track program and partnership progress. At present, OWEB’s anticipated budget for 2021-23 does not include key staff positions that assisted with progress tracking, thus BEF’s ongoing assistance likely will be important to evaluate interim results of FIPs, apply adaptive management within the FIPs, and assess overall FIP program effectiveness. Finally, staff have discussed with the board’s monitoring and focused investment committees the concept of post-FIP reporting, which would support tracking and reporting of ecological outcomes beyond the life of a six-year FIP initiative. This spending plan line item would support piloting of this concept with a subset of Cohort 1 FIPs. Over the long term, the FIP monitoring results will help the board understand the outcomes and impacts of this investment approach and lessons learned from these partnerships.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Accomplishments include: a) Development of generic results chains for the board’s FIP ecological priorities to fill a communication need for less technical audiences to understand how restoration actions result in near- and long-term ecological outcomes; b) Creation of progress monitoring frameworks for all Cohort 2 FIPs, thus providing a consistent approach to tracking outputs, outcomes and lessons learned over time, and sharing insights learned from implementing a FIP initiative; c) Ongoing monitoring by Cohort 1 FIPs via previous supplemental monitoring funding; and d) Other program support by BEF, such as FIP Gatherings, which bring together all FIP partnerships from around the state to discuss challenges and opportunities and share lessons learned.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.500	\$0
2017-2019	\$0.750	\$0
2019-2021	\$0.700	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.150	\$*
2021-2023	\$0.500	

*Full biennium data not available

Spending Plan - Operating Capacity



Kate Brown, Governor



Partnership Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$1.0 million

I. Summary

At the start of the 2019-2021 biennium OWEB announced the first Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) grant offering (formerly Development FIPs) and awarded grants in January 2020. These grants support the operations of existing partnerships, or collaborating groups of organizations, in enhancing partnership capacity, developing a strategic action plan, stakeholder engagement related to strategic action plan development, and partnership capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation. Applications are not required to fall under Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) OWEB board-identified Priority areas.

II. Program History

OWEB awarded the first grants under the predecessor to this program in January 2016, with eight grants to partnerships totaling \$937,369. Since the time of the initial offering, this grant offering has evolved based on lessons learned from our grantees and partners. Beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium the program was moved from the Focused Investment Partnership spending plan category and into the Operating Capacity category. At the same time the offering was expanded to allow for geographies outside the FIP board identified ecological priorities and to allow applicants to apply for both strategic action plan development as well as partnership capacity for the coordination and implementation of existing strategic action plans. In October 2019, fifteen organizations applied for new Partnership TA grant offering requesting a total of \$1,707,202. In January 2020 the board awarded six projects for \$779,222. The second scheduled offering for the biennium was canceled when the board rebalanced the budget in June 2020.

III. Demand

Oregon is a leader in collaborative approaches to restoration. After several biennia of offering grants to support partnership development and development of a strategic action plan, there is now a diversity of partnerships operating in Oregon working collaboratively on ecological outcomes that desire support for the development of a strategic action plan or support for partnership capacity for the coordination and implementation of existing strategic action plans.

IV. Future Need

Partnerships have continued to develop and evolve despite the challenges of the last year. OWEB staff have been in conversations with many of the organizations that were not funded in January 2020 as well as new partnerships that are anxious to apply for future funding opportunities.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

Despite the many challenges of COVID-19 and the severe wild fire season, many partnerships have continued to make progress on project deliverables. Several partnerships completed drafts of final strategic action plans. Partnerships also developed new ways to engage with stakeholders, using technology and one-on-one conversations to connect. One partnership discovered that by slowing down and connecting with stakeholders individually instead of in large groups they were able to connect in more meaningful ways resulting in deeper and more lasting connections which will have lasting impacts on how the strategic action plan will be implemented.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$1.039	\$0
2017-2019	\$1.150	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.000	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.779	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.000	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



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Council Capacity

Recommended Amount: \$7.56 million

I. Summary

Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows of watersheds.

II. Program History

OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 20 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), “designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed.”

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has statutory discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

In the 2019-2021 biennium, 59 councils submitted council capacity applications and 57 councils were funded. Staff used the merit criteria and evaluation process adopted by the board in July 2014 to determine funding levels, including full funding, reduced funding, and do not fund.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, of the 58 councils mentioned above, 57 councils received full funding for the biennium and one received reduced funding. Two councils did not receive funding. The two councils that did not receive funding can apply for council capacity grant funding again in the future and are still eligible to apply for OWEB’s other grant programs.

IV. Future Need

The council capacity grant program is seeking to include a 3% cost-of-living increase for councils in the 2021-2023 biennium. Applications are due March 11 and funds will be awarded at the July 2021 board meeting.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

During the 2019-2021 biennium, watershed councils faced many challenges including disruptions in operations due to COVID-19 and the historic wildfire season. Despite these challenges councils continued to engage their communities, many in new and creative ways. Many councils put outreach events online, held virtual site visits, and online speaker events. Councils moved to online council meetings, forged new partnerships, and implement restoration projects under COVID-19 protocols.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$6.250	\$0
2017-2019	\$6.848	\$0
2019-2021	\$7.129	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$7.129	\$*
2021-2023	\$7.56	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



District Capacity

Recommended Amount: \$7.56 million

I. Summary

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

- 1) Scope of Work funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
- 2) District Operations Fund supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and provide assistance to landowners and partners.

II. Program History

SWCDs have an over 75-year history in Oregon. South Tillamook became the first official Soil Conservation District in 1939. In 1963 the Oregon Legislature added the “and Water” to the district title. The 1997 legislature added a budget note for SWCD funding: *“The Subcommittee expects the grant funds to be available in the following amounts through the Governor’s Watershed Enhancement Board: \$2,400,000 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Funding for positions in each of the eight existing areas and for watershed assessments and management plans; half of the funding would be distributed through an application process.”*

SWCDs are not state agencies but political subdivisions of state government known as municipal corporations. They are governed by enabling legislation under ORS 568. The five to seven members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials.

Implementation of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is guided by legislative direction and budget notes. The annual work plan, commonly known as the Scope of Work (SOW), is built on the following principles:

- 1) ODA is responsible to develop, periodically modify, and implement Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans that are sufficient to meet water quality standards as described in statute.
- 2) SWCDs are the Local Management Agencies that assist ODA in implementing the Area Plans. SWCDs are to be involved in timely, effective implementation of Area Plans to the fullest extent practical.

3) Legislative budget notes (1997, 2007) provide direction on the use and purpose of funds allocated to SWCDs, as further refined in the Intergovernmental Agreement between ODA and OWEB.

4) Legislative direction is to use these funds to implement the agricultural portion of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds as administered by ODA.

5) In June 2012, ODA began working with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, SWCDs, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) to develop a new annual work plan or SOW process. The result was the Focus Area initiative, where 75% of the SOW funds are used for district-wide tasks while requiring 25% of the funds to be used for a specific geographic area (Focus Area). The Focus Area process is a consistent approach to assess change over time in riparian and land conditions, target on the ground projects to improve water quality, and demonstrate effectiveness of the conservation work SWCDs achieve on a statewide basis. ODA is currently gathering input from SWCDs and the SWCC regarding the future of the Focus Area initiative.

III. Demand

In the 2019-2021 biennium, 40 SWCDs received full capacity grant funding. Four Baker County SWCDs split two full shares of capacity grant funds. One SWCD did not receive any capacity grant funding.

IV. Future Need

The district capacity grant program is seeking to include a 3% cost-of-living increase in the 2021-2023 biennium.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

SWCDs continue to work directly with ODA, watershed councils, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other partners in implementing Oregon’s 38 Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans, and assist landowners in conducting conservation work on agricultural lands. SWCDs are also vital to assisting ODA in implementing the Strategic Implementation Area Initiative, and capacity funding provides the means to allow SWCDs to engage in the program at the current levels.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$6.250	\$0
2019-2019	\$6.750	\$0
2019-2021	\$7.129	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$7.129	\$*
2019-2021	\$7.560	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



Statewide Organizational Partnership Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$.400 million

I. Summary

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (Partnership) includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their more than 150 conservation organizations. For the 2021-2023 biennium, the partnership plans to continue to current level of services and offerings to their stakeholders.

II. Program History

Since 2007, the board has approved grants to support the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-ground work. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables in past biennia, including conferences, trainings, webinars, regional and local media assistance, and one-on-one work with local organizations.

In 2012, OWEB, NOWC and OACD began meeting to discuss ways to further advance collaboration among the organizations. This resulted in NOWC and OACD taking steps to formalize a partnership that included shared office space and staff resources, allowing them to reduce overhead and expand capacity. In recent years, the organizations' work has expanded to include COLT and OCEAN. This expanded effort resulted in a Partnership request to the board for the 2015-2017 biennium that included funding for partnership focused deliverables in each of the four organizations. In July 2015, 2017 and again in 2019, the board approved grants for joint programming that serves the collective and complementary missions of the councils, districts, and land trusts.

In June 2020, when the board rebalanced the 2019-2021 budget, the board also reduced the Partnership's funding from \$500,000 to \$425,000. In repose to this reduction the Partnership reduced office and administrative expenses and reevaluated grant deliverables.

III. Demand

The Partnership has focused its recent efforts on providing support and resources to its partner organizations in response to COVID-19 and the severe wildlife season through increased webinar offerings and communications support.

IV. Future Need

The increase in funding from \$0.33 million in 2015-2017 to \$0.500 million in recent biennia made a significant impact in the partnership's ability to delivery programs and provide support to their

collective stakeholders. While the funding is lower this biennium, the partners have identified a number of efficiencies to be gained that will help lower the impact of the reduced funding amount.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The Partnership continues to meet monthly to increase coordination and communication, and the boards of the four organizations are meeting annually. The Partnership has delivered monthly webinars, reaching more than 400 stakeholders. The 2020 CONNECT conference was canceled due to COVID-19 and the Partnership is currently planning for a virtual conference in 2021.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.334	\$0
2017-2019	\$0.500	\$0
2019-2021	\$0.500	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.425	\$*
2021-2023	\$0.400	

*Full biennium data not available



Kate Brown, Governor



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Organizational Collaboration Grants

Recommended Amount: \$.300 million

I. Summary

Organizational Collaboration grants support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners to support improved delivery of actions to protect and restore native and wildlife habitats and water quality and stream flows. Change can happen in many forms such as mergers, formal alliances (i.e. administrative consolidation, fiscal sponsorship, joint programming, and joint fundraising), or action networks (organizations aligning around specific objectives and common purpose and goals). The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organizations.

II. Program History

OWEB announced this grant offering for the first time in July 2013. Since its inception, eight grants have been awarded for a little over \$450,000. Grants have supported a diversity of organizations working together including watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land trusts, and nonprofits. Activities have included a merger, fiscal sponsorship, development of a co-location and shared services models, and development of an approach among partners to improve restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color. More and more partnerships are expressing interest in this grant opportunity in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities.

III. Demand

As expected, staff have seen the interest in this grant offering grow over time. In the first two biennia of this offering there was limited interest and not all of the grant funds allocated by the board were awarded. In the 2017-2019 biennium OWEB awarded all of the available funds and received many additional inquiries from organizations that were interested in applying. There are currently three groups of organizations that have reached out and expressed interest in applying for Organizational Collaboration grants in the coming year.

IV. Future Need

Many local partners are facing new and unforeseen challenges due to COVID-19. Staff believe the interest in this program and demand for funding organizational collaboration will grow as local organizations explore new opportunities for collaboration to build resilient, sustainable, local partners.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

In January 2020 the board awarded funds to the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network. The Network has made progress on their collaborative goals despite the challenges of COVID, including advancing a collective DEI plan and developing work plans for subgroups. In addition, OWEB staff worked with four existing collaborative groups, Rogue River Watershed Council, Upper Willamette Stewardship Network, Confluence and Wasco Area Watershed Councils to present a webinar through the Oregon Conservation Partnership highlighting the variety of approaches to organizational collaboration. The webinar was attended by more than 30 attendees.

Investments by Biennium (in millions)		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2015-2017	\$0.400	\$0
2019-2019	\$0.400	\$0
2019-2021	\$0.200	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$0.100	\$*
2019-2021	\$0.300	

*Full biennium data not available

Spending Plan - Other



Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost Share & Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: \$750,000 for CREP Cost Share, \$1.2 million for CREP TA

I. Summary

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency (FSA), with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), state agencies, and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

II. Program History

In 1998, Oregon CREP was established to support implementation of approved conservation practices aimed at improving riparian function on private lands throughout Oregon. The State of Oregon contributes 25% of the eligible cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices, 75% of eligible cost-share (minus available federal cost-share) for certain water developments, and 100% of costs for heavy-duty tree protectors. FSA contributes federal cost-share, rental payments, incentive bonuses, and administrative oversight. NRCS and the Oregon Department of Forestry provide the majority of the necessary technical assistance, with Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others providing in-kind technical assistance. Since 1998, Oregon CREP has grown from a relatively small, experimental program into a robust statewide program that provides important, unique financial incentives and continues to be a leader in enrollments nationwide.

The board has supported CREP technical assistance with funding since 2001, beginning with SWCDs. In 2011, in consultation with CREP agency partners, funding eligibility expanded to include multi-county, multi-organization proposals. In that same year, OWEB and NRCS joined to invest over \$1 million in CREP TA grants independent from the funding for SWCD capacity and OWEB's regular technical assistance grant program. These two-year grants aimed to address critical technical assistance needs for Oregon CREP.

III. Demand

The agency is on track to expend all CREP funds by the end of the biennium. For the TA portion of the program, 12 organizations secured funding through CREP TA grants, utilizing the full funding available.

IV. Future Need

The CREP cost-share program is seeking to make available \$750,000 in the 2021-2023 biennium. Staff estimate 12 organizations will apply for CREP TA funding in the 2021-2023 biennium. In the past, NRCS has contributed to the CREP TA program, and OWEB staff are in conversations to continue that investment this biennium. If that occurs, the number will be increased in July.

V. Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium

The CREP TA funding supported 12 programs in the 2019-2021 biennium. These programs provide critical technical assistance for Oregon CREP, covering 21 counties statewide. In 2020, OWEB funded CREP Technicians (11 of 12 grantees) have implemented a monitoring approach to track contract performance and inform management of CREP buffers. 7,090.29 acres were enrolled into CREP, 4,157.67 newly enrolled while 2,932.62 were re-enrolled. Farmers who participated in CREP received a total of \$767,320 in payments during the 2020 federal fiscal year. Of that, 38% came from OWEB funding and the remaining 62% was paid by USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Investments by Biennium (in millions) – CREP Cost Share		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2017-2019	\$.750	\$0
2019-2021	\$.750	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$.750	\$*
2021-2023		
Investments by Biennium (in millions) – CREP TA		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after any additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2017-2019	\$1.375	\$0
2019-2021	\$1.375	\$*
2019-2021 (adjusted)	\$1.375	\$*
2021-2023	\$1.200**	

*Full biennium data not available **If available, NRCS funding will be added