



2021 POST-FIRE GRANT PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Are design, permitting, and implementation considered eligible activities under these grants?

Design and permitting, as stand-alone activities, ARE NOT eligible for these OWEB grants. However, late-stage project design and permitting are eligible activities if proposed as part of an implementation project and are sufficiently developed so that the restoration actions can be planned and implemented over a relatively short timeframe (i.e., potentially as few as 6 months and as long as 2.5 years), due to the source of funding for these grants.

May the 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant funds be used for replanting on areas that received treatments as part of immediate fire response efforts, but require additional restoration work?

Yes, this funding may be used for post-fire recovery and restoration in areas where immediate post-fire recovery activities occurred previously. For example, immediate response activities that occurred within months following the 2021 fires may have experienced limited success for seeding and planting efforts due to drought impacts. This funding may be used to supplement those previous post-fire recovery activities or to address recovery needs in areas that have not yet been treated.

When must the grants be completed?

The funding source for these grants is General Funds provided during the 2022 Legislative Session. These funds typically have a 2-year lifespan. While OWEB will request authority from the Oregon Legislature to extend the lifespan for these funds, all funding must be obligated during the 2021-23 biennium (i.e., before June 30, 2023). During this biennium, grantees must be able to demonstrate meaningful progress on the implementation of activities and expenditure of funding. For this reason, grant applications must describe and demonstrate the applicant's (and partners') capacity to plan and implement successful restoration actions over a relatively short timeframe (i.e., potentially as few as 6 months and as long as 2.5 years). OWEB will keep grantees apprised of legislative budgeting discussions and decisions that ultimately will determine if grants are able to extend beyond June 30, 2023.

May the 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant funds be used on Federal lands? Is there a maximum tolerance for an application that proposes work on Federal land if it's in conjunction with work on private lands?

The legislative intent for these grants prioritizes work on non-federal lands (e.g., private, state, and tribal lands). County lands are eligible for this funding. On a case-by-case basis and in coordination with work on prioritized non-federal lands, the use of a very modest portion of funds on federal lands may be considered as part of an all-lands approach to address post-fire impacts. However, applicants must contact OWEB to discuss this topic prior to submitting a grant application.

Is culvert replacement and repair only for instream culverts?

No, culvert activities do not need to be for instream culverts only. Drainage or roadside culverts are eligible for replacement or repair under this grant funding. Applicants should describe the need for the culvert work and describe expected benefits (e.g., fish passage, water-quality improvement, etc.). In the application, culvert work appears under instream and wetland activities only. However, if this work is proposed to occur in upland areas, please describe this in the application so it is clear where the culvert replacement or repair is occurring.

Do replanting activities include site preparation (e.g., debris/burned tree clearing)?

Yes, site preparation is allowed if paired with replanting or other eligible activities. However, these cannot be standalone activities.

What activities may be paired with fencing?

Riparian exclusion fencing is an allowable activity if paired with other eligible activities, such as replanting. This cannot be a standalone activity. Boundary or other fencing IS NOT allowed under this grant.

OWEB understands needs around fencing and project site conditions may vary. If an applicant has a question about pairing fencing with other project activities, they should reach out to OWEB staff to discuss project specifics and eligibility.

May plant stewardship activities be included in project costs given the grant's short timeframe?

Yes, plant stewardship activities are considered an eligible project cost (i.e., these are not considered "post-grant costs"). Applicants should include plant stewardship in project costs if seeking OWEB funds for these activities. It is important to note that due to the funding source, project costs must be obligated by June 30, 2023. (For more information, see the question above, "**When must the grants be completed?**") Thus, plant stewardship activities may not be able to occur unless carryforward authority is granted.

My watershed was impacted by multiple fires. How does this influence my grant application?

Applicants may select multiple fire areas in their grant application. In areas where multiple fires occurred in close proximity, applicants may select more than one fire if work is proposed to occur on a landscape-level scale that touches on multiple fire areas. However, please don't select multiple fire areas that are not adjacent to each other in a single application. Proposed work in a single application should be focused on a single project area (i.e., projects should not be "statewide-type" projects). Be sure to describe in the application the fire impacts for each fire area. The application should also clearly describe proposed restoration activities for each respective fire area and include maps to show where proposed activities will occur. This will aid reviewers to have a deeper understanding of project activities across the fire areas.

What is the maximum grant amount that we may apply for per project?

No maximum amount has been set for these grants.

How will the funds be divided among the fire areas for these grants?

No specific allocation has been made for each of the fire areas. Due to the scope and scale of the 2021 fire season, equal distribution of funding may not occur throughout all the fire-impacted areas.