



# 2021 POST-FIRE GRANT PROGRAM

## OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE

*Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*

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### Introduction

During the 2022 Oregon Legislative Session, OWEB received funding to provide grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2021 fire season. These grants are supported by General Funds and support on-the-ground implementation activities including soil stabilization and erosion control, detection and treatment for invasive species, reseeding and replanting, instream habitat restoration, and culvert repair or replacement.

### Program Structure

For additional information about eligible applicants, eligible costs, and budget development, refer to OWEB's GoBig document for OWEB Post-Fire Recovery Grants at [2021 Post-fire GoBig document](#).

Eligible geographies for this program are the 14 fire impacted areas listed below. This funding prioritizes work on non-federal lands (i.e., private, state, and tribal lands).

- Big Meadow Fire
- Black Butte Fire
- Bootleg Fire
- Cougar Peak Fire
- Devils Knob Complex Fire
- Elbow Creek Fire
- Grandview Fire
- Joseph Canyon Fire
- Patton Meadow Fire
- Rattlesnake Fire
- Rough Patch Complex Fire
- S-503 Fire
- Skyline Ridge Fire Complex
- Wrentham Market Fire

(Note: in areas where multiple eligible fires are adjacent to each other, applicants may apply for work to occur in more than one fire footprint.)

For 2021 Post-fire Recovery grants, applicants must demonstrate how proposed areas for natural resources recovery work have been identified and prioritized for restoration actions in assessments and/or analyses to address soil burn severity, vegetation mortality, erosion risk, habitat complexity, or fish passage barriers, to name a few. Examples of assessment and analyses with this information include federal, tribal, and local assessments that document the 2021 post-fire impacts.

- Eligible activities include restoration to aid post-fire natural resources recovery. Project activities that address soil stabilization and erosion control, detection and treatment for invasive species, reseeding and replanting, instream habitat restoration, and culvert repair or replacement are eligible under this grant offering.
- Late-stage project design and permitting is an allowable activity if paired with implementation of eligible restoration activities as part of the proposed work.
- Early detection surveys are allowed if paired with control and treatment of invasive species, but not as a standalone activity.

- If planting is occurring, modest costs for exclusion fencing are eligible under this grant offering. However, the applicant must clearly describe why the use of exclusion fencing is necessary to ensure the success of planting activities. Boundary or other fencing types are **not** eligible under this offering.
- Multiple sites within fire area(s) can be proposed within a single application. Applicants must describe in detail the restoration activities that will occur at each location in the fire affected area and include information such as detailed project maps and project designs as part of the grant application.

Applicants must demonstrate capacity to plan and implement successful restoration actions at scale and over a relatively short timeframe (i.e., potentially as few as 6 months and as long as 2.5 years).

A 25% match (cash and/or in-kind contributions) is encouraged. However, applications with less than 25% match will be accepted.

## Grant Cycles and Grant-Making Considerations

The 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program application will open September 1, 2022, with a deadline of 5 p.m. on October 20, 2022. Award decisions to be made within approximately 6 weeks following the application deadline.

Due to anticipated demand during the first grant cycle, it is not anticipated that funding for a second grant cycle will be available. However, determination of future grant cycles will be made following the close of the current offering.

**OWEB strongly recommends that applicants submit their grant applications at least 24 hours prior to the application deadline.** OWEB's online grant applications include a verification step that will flag missing and incomplete information in the application. Verifying and submitting your grant application at least 24 hours in advance allows time for applicants to correct errors that are found during verification. **All applications must be successfully submitted through OWEB's online grant application system by 5 p.m. on the application deadline. No exceptions will be made.**

The OWEB 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program recognizes the broad geographic scale of impacts from the 2021 fire season. However, equal distribution of funding may not occur across fire impacted areas, given differences in the scale and severity of impacts to natural resources, intent of the program funding, and other considerations.

The funding source for this program 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. During this biennium, grantees must demonstrate meaningful progress on late-stage planning and implementation of activities and early expenditure of funding.

OWEB's 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants cannot be applied to costs for activities that are required under existing regulations, such as the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

The expectation is that local partners coordinate activities to leverage strengths and maximize efficiency and effectiveness of on-the-ground work. To the extent possible, local partners should incorporate their collective activities into a single, comprehensive grant application that targets high-priority natural resources recovery actions.

Applicants should carefully review all guidance and information (including iButtons) in the online grant applications. This review will help applicants confirm before submission of their application that all questions are answered completely, based on the guidelines included in the application, and all required uploads are provided.

In addition to project completion reporting, grantees under this program will be required to complete quarterly billing and reporting for grants.

## Grant Program Evaluation Process

Evaluation of grant applications will be based upon the [OWEB Restoration Grants](#) evaluation criteria. Within that evaluation framework, grant applications will be assessed on the following:

- Demonstrated need for the proposed restoration activities per post-fire recovery priorities identified in assessments.

- Expected benefit(s) from the project in addressing post-fire impacts related to soil burn severity, erosion risk, vegetation mortality, encroachment of non-native species, flood risk, and/or fish passage barriers.
- Organizational capacity to successfully implement the proposed project during a limited timeframe.
- Demonstrated coordination among local partners working in the fire affected area.
- Coordination with federally recognized Tribes.

Finally, consideration will be given to applicants' responses to questions about equity and climate.

Grant applications will be reviewed by a technical review team comprising agency staff who are knowledgeable about natural resources impacts and recovery needs associated with the 2021 fire season, and who have experience with organizational capacity, coordination, and partnership considerations related to planning and implementation of successful restoration projects and programs. This team will coordinate with agency representatives in the fire affected areas to ensure understanding of local recovery needs.

### **Additional Resources for Applicants**

For additional information about applying for OWEB grants, see OWEB's Online Application Guidance at <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/Images/Online%20Application%20GuidanceV3.4.pdf>. While not specific to the 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program, this general guidance may provide helpful tips.

For information about grant budgets, getting access to OWEB's Grant Management System, understanding insurance requirements, or using OWEB's online applications, see the video resources at <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/manage-grant/Pages/videos-training.aspx>.

For information about post-fire impacts, see the OSU Extension Fire Program's 'After the Wildfire' Wildfire Map tool at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/after-wildfire>.

For eligibility questions, or other questions about OWEB's 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program, please contact Rachel Thompson, [rachel.thompson@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:rachel.thompson@oweb.oregon.gov) or 910-503-6433.