Kate Brown, Governor

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
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Agenda Item G supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Stephanie Page, Deputy Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
Jessi Kershner, Water and Climate Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Climate Resolution Public Engagement Process Report
July 26-27, 2022, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board on the climate resolution public engagement process, including providing an overview of engagement opportunities, participants, and key findings. Depending on the outcome of discussion, the board may consider whether to authorize associated rulemaking.

II. Background

In January 2022, the board passed Resolution 01-2022 ("Climate Resolution"), which commits OWEB to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into funding and policy decisions through an inclusive and equitable process (Attachment A). Following the adoption of the Climate Resolution, OWEB staff led a public engagement process to gather feedback on how best to implement the resolution, including identifying potential challenges and opportunities as well as resources needed to help grant applicants integrate climate considerations into their projects.

III. Public Engagement Process

The public engagement process extended from mid-March to early June 2022, and included:

- A kick-off webinar with the Oregon Conservation Partnership in March;
- Six virtual listening sessions held in April and May;
- A tribal virtual listening session held in May;
- An online survey, open from mid-March to early June;
- Individual conversations with OWEB staff, as requested by partners; and
- Interviews with non-traditional partners (conducted by ECONorthwest).

In total, 77 unique participants attended the public listening sessions, with some of those participants attending multiple sessions. Sixteen representatives from eight tribes attended the tribal listening session, including the Burns Paiute Tribe; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower

Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Coquille Indian Tribe; and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. A total of 44 online survey responses were received.

The public engagement process focused on the following four questions:

1. What opportunities and challenges do you see with building greenhouse gas emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage into your projects?
2. What opportunities and challenges do you see with building climate-smart adaptation and resilience into your projects?
3. What can OWEB do to help current and prospective grantees build climate considerations, such as impacts, adaptation, and mitigation, into their projects?
4. What's one important thing that OWEB needs to know as they think about rulemaking to include climate-focused evaluation criteria in grantmaking?

Key findings from the process were grouped according to rulemaking considerations, broader concerns and opportunities, and summary input on specific climate resolution bullet points. This information is found in the OWEB Climate Resolution Public Engagement Summary Report (Attachment B). All input received from the public engagement process is included in Attachment C.

Rulemaking considerations include:

- Develop broad evaluation criteria
- Maximize all project benefits
- Start qualitative and move to quantitative in grant applications and evaluation criteria
- Consider tradeoffs associated with mitigation-based criteria
- Re-examine potential project longevity and/or modify projects using a climate lens
- Flexibility is key
- Be clear about definitions and expectations of grant applicants
- Put traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities at the table with decision-making power
- Develop and apply a predetermined equity lens

Broader concerns and opportunities identified include:

- Restoration equipment transitions will be challenging
- Applicant capacity varies
- Be aware of unintended consequences
- Emissions reductions opportunities may be possible
- New funding opportunities could arise
- Best practices, case studies, and demonstration projects are effective tools to help applicants integrate climate-smart considerations into projects
- Invest time in developing long-term relationships

IV. Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Grants Rulemaking

Should the board desire incorporation of climate criteria into restoration grant rules, staff will convene a rules advisory committee (RAC) for Division 10 composed of grantees and other stakeholders in accordance with the draft schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	July 2022
Draft Rules Developed	September 2022
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	October 2022-January, 2023
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	February1, 2023
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	February15, 2023
Public Comment Materials posted online	March 1, 2023
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	March 1, 2023
Notice to Oregon's Tribes	March 1, 2023
Secretary of State's Bulletin	March 1, 2023 (published)
Public Comment Period	March 1-31, 2023
Public Hearing(s)	March, 2023
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	Early May, 2023
Board Adoption of Rules	July 25-26, 2023

V. Potential Action

After discussion of the input from the climate resolution public engagement process as presented in Attachments B and C to the staff report, the board may authorize rulemaking in OAR 695-010-0060 to develop climate-related evaluation criteria.

Attachments

A. Climate Resolution
B. Climate Resolution Public Engagement Process - Summary Report
C. Climate Resolution Public Engagement Process – All Input Received

Climate Resolution
OWEB Resolution 01-2022

Background

WHEREAS, Oregon's watersheds will continue to experience the impacts of significant climate changes, including but not limited to increased water temperatures, altered streamflows (e.g., decreased summer flows, earlier timing of flows), increased extreme events (e.g., drought, heat, flooding), and increased wildfires.

WHEREAS, these changes will affect fish and wildlife populations and may lead to changes in species distribution; reduced population sizes; decreased extent, availability, and quality of habitat; displacement of native species by invasive species, and other impacts.

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are affecting the quality and quantity of ground and surface water that is critical for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.

WHEREAS, the impacts of a changing climate may disproportionately affect impacted communities, such as Native American tribes, communities of color, rural communities, coastal communities, lower-income households, and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes.

WHEREAS, investments in fish and wildlife habitat and watershed restoration and health can aid in mitigating for and adapting to the impacts of climate change on our state, by sequestering and storing carbon, maintaining and improving water quality and quantity, and building resiliency in fish and wildlife populations, ecosystems, and communities.

WHEREAS, restoration project components, including fuels, equipment, materials, and transportation, among others, will generate greenhouse gas emissions which may require acceptable tradeoffs in order to achieve the desired long-term net gains for communities and ecosystems.

WHEREAS, Oregon state agencies have been directed by Governor Brown (Executive Order 20-04) to address climate change in a comprehensive and urgent manner and, to the full extent allowed by law**,** shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgeting, investing, and policy making decisions.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will:

- Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation in their budgeting, investing and policy making decisions by:
    - Funding climate-smart adaptation and resilience for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.

    - Funding projects that include meaningful emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, and protection of carbon storage in enhancing watershed health and habitat restoration.
    - Valuing project co-benefits and assessing long-term sustainability of projects and acquisitions.
- Learn and apply diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles when making funding decisions to address challenges arising from climate change to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities.
- Engage traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities in processes to craft meaningful solutions that are integrated into funding decisions.

It is further resolved that the above resolutions will be implemented through applicable strategies within OWEB's authorities. Strategies include but are not limited to:

- Rulemaking to include OWEB Climate Lens of climate-focused evaluation criteria
- Developing agency level goals and metrics for climate adaptation and mitigation to track progress
- Identifying opportunities for and collaborating with climate-focused partners and staff in other agencies to increase efficiencies and share expertise
- Supporting and assisting grantees and partners by providing funding for technical resources and guidance to improve understanding of climate considerations and criteria
- Supporting and funding continued learning and development of climate-smart strategies in watershed restoration and habitat improvement
- Employing a continuous improvement approach in the integration of climate considerations in the agency's grant programs

Definitions

Adaptation: the process of modifying and adjusting to a new or changing environment

Climate lens: project ranking criteria designed to determine the relative value of proposals according to how they address climate action

Climate-smart: the intentional consideration of climate change, and application of strategies that improve resilience, increase carbon sequestration, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Mitigation: a human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance greenhouse gas sequestration and storage

Resilience: the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions

OWEB CLIMATE RESOLUTION
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS
SUMMARY REPORT

July 2022

In January 2022, the OWEB Board passed Resolution 01-2022 ("Climate Resolution"), which commits OWEB to integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into funding and policy decisions through an inclusive and equitable process (Box 1). Following the adoption of the Climate Resolution, OWEB staff led a public engagement process to gather feedback on how best to implement the resolution, including identifying potential challenges and opportunities as well as resources needed to help applicants integrate climate considerations into their projects. The following report summarizes the public engagement process and organizes feedback into key findings related to rulemaking as well as broader concerns and opportunities and provides summary input on resolution bullet points related to mitigation; adaptation; diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles; and engagement of traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities.

Box 1. Excerpt from Climate Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will:

- Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation in their budgeting, investing and policy making decisions by:
  - Funding climate-smart adaptation and resilience for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.
  - Funding projects that include meaningful emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, and protection of carbon storage in enhancing watershed health and habitat restoration.
  - Valuing project co-benefits and assessing long-term sustainability of projects and acquisitions.
- Learn and apply diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles when making funding decisions to address challenges arising from climate change to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities.
- Engage traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities in processes to craft meaningful solutions that are integrated into funding decisions.

Overview of Public Engagement Process

The public engagement process extended from mid-March to early June 2022, and included:

- A kick-off webinar with the Oregon Conservation Partnership (OCP) in March to share opportunities for engagement (e.g., listening sessions, survey) and the goals for the process;
- Six virtual listening sessions held in April and May;
- A tribal virtual listening session held in May;
- An online survey, open from mid-March to early June;

- Individual conversations with OWEB staff, as requested by partners; and
- Consultant interviews with non-traditional partners[1].

Public listening sessions

The agenda for the two-hour, virtual public listening sessions consisted of an opening presentation that provided an overview of the Climate Resolution, public engagement process including goals and opportunities to provide input, and rulemaking; an open opportunity to share concerns and opportunities presented by the Climate Resolution; small breakout group discussions to identify challenges and opportunities associated with resolution implementation as well as resources and support needed to successfully integrate climate considerations into projects; and breakout group report-back to share key points.

Small breakout group discussions focused on 4 questions:

1. What opportunities and challenges do you see with building greenhouse gas emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage into your projects?
2. What opportunities and challenges do you see with building climate-smart adaptation and resilience into your projects?
3. What can OWEB do to help current and prospective grantees build climate considerations, such as impacts, adaptation, and mitigation, into their projects?
4. What's one important thing that OWEB needs to know as they think about rulemaking to include climate-focused evaluation criteria in grantmaking?

In total, 77 unique participants attended the listening sessions, with some of those participants attending multiple sessions. The majority of those in attendance identified their role as Executive Director/Coordinator or Project/Program Manager (Figure 1) and affiliation as Soil & Water Conservation District/Watershed Council or Non-Profit Organization (Figure 2). Participants from all 6 of OWEB's regions attended, with the majority attending from Region 3 – Willamette Basin (Figure 3).

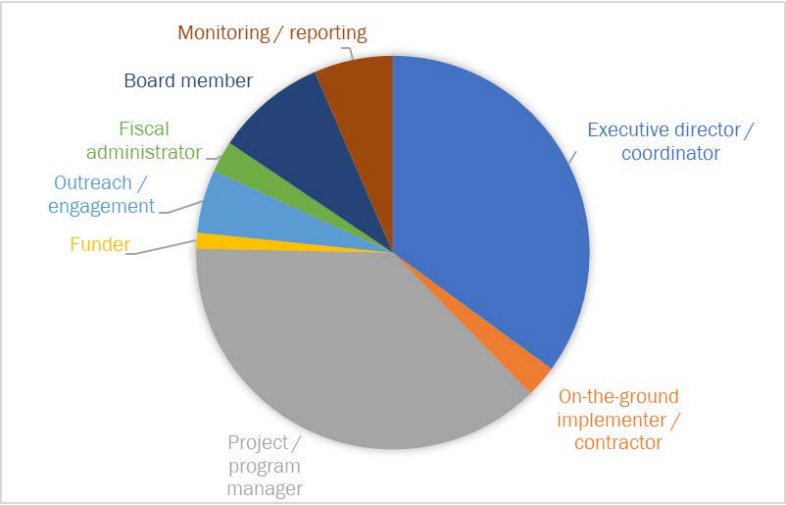

Figure 1. Role as selected by listening session participants.

[1] Input from these interviews is included in this report as part of the key findings. For more information about interview methods and participants, please see a separate report provided by the consultant, ECONorthwest.

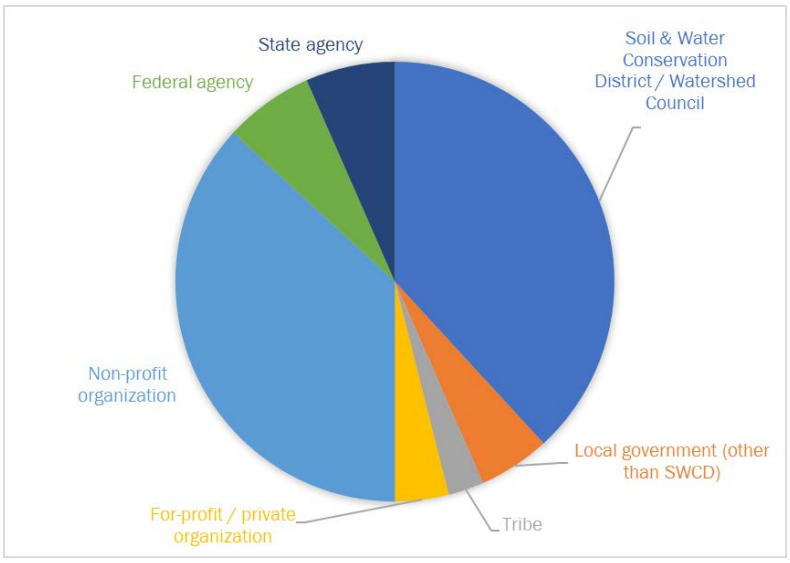

Figure 2. Affiliation as selected by listening session participants.

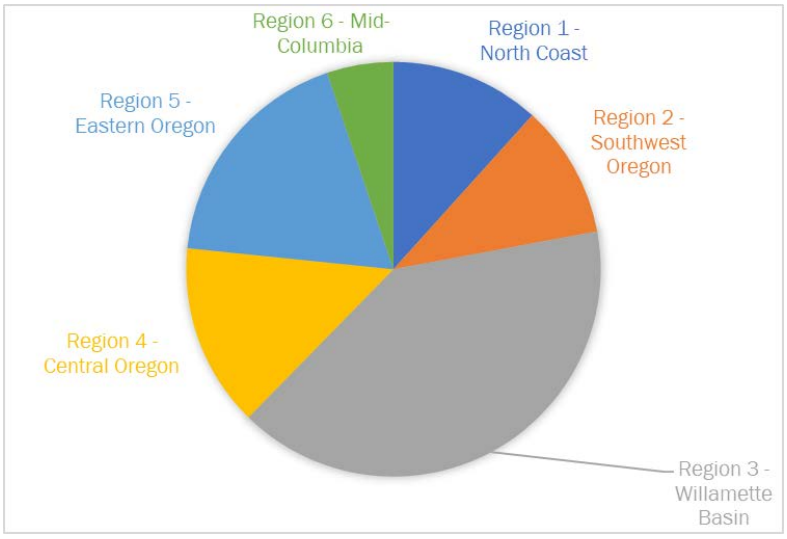

Figure 3. OWEB region affiliation selected by listening session participants.

Tribal Listening Session

The tribal listening session followed the same agenda as the public listening sessions (described above) however, all questions were discussed as a large group. Sixteen representatives from 8 Tribes attended, including the Burns Paiute Tribe; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; Coquille Indian Tribe; and Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

Online Survey

The online survey offered participants the opportunity to share feedback on implementation of the resolution anonymously and included the same questions as the virtual listening sessions.[2] A total of 44 survey responses were received.

Summary of Input Received

The following sections share summary input from the public listening sessions, tribal listening session, interviews with non-traditional partners, and online survey. Input is organized by:

1. Key Findings: Rulemaking Considerations
2. Key Findings: Broader Concerns and Opportunities
3. Summary Input on Climate Resolution:
    a. Opportunities and challenges related to building greenhouse gas emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage into projects
    b. Opportunities and challenges associated with building climate-smart adaptation and resilience into projects
    c. Opportunities and challenges related to incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and environmental justice principles when making funding decisions
    d. What to consider as OWEB initiates outreach and engagement to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities

Rulemaking Considerations

Develop broad evaluation criteria. Criteria should be broad, allowing people to think outside the box to achieve goals in unexpected ways. Having more flexibility in terms of what kinds of improvements and enhancements are helpful will allow for a diversity of ways to achieve climate mitigation and adaptation benefits.

Maximize all project benefits. Climate change mitigation and adaptation are two project benefits that overlap with many others. Consider what criteria maximize natural resource, human community, and climate benefits while minimizing the burden on grant applicants. Participants recommended OWEB programs strike a balance between helping projects optimize and track beneficial mitigation and adaptation impacts without detracting from the ecological project benefits it has always prioritized.

Start qualitative and move to quantitative in grant applications and evaluation criteria. Quantifying emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage, and adaptation and resilience benefits are a significant challenge. The available data, tools, and process vary by habitat and project type, making it difficult to standardize and therefore compare benefits across projects. Most applicants do not currently have the capacity or expertise to proactively identify emissions reduction or sequestration potential nor to develop and conduct the monitoring that would be required to track emissions and adaptation impacts over time. Qualitative descriptions of mitigation and adaptation benefits may be an appropriate first step, with quantitative estimates coming later as the science, tools, and data evolve. OWEB could develop a common tool to measure and track emissions reduction

[2] The survey did include specific questions related to the diversity, equity, and inclusion and engagement of traditionally impacted and underrepresented communities bullet points in the Climate Resolution.

or sequestration potential from a restoration project and quantify long-term adaptation and resilience benefits.

Consider tradeoffs associated with mitigation-based criteria. For example, some project activities will release significant carbon (e.g., prescribed fire and/or fuels reduction projects, oak release projects), but could prevent more carbon from being released in the future (e.g., prescribed fire lessens chance of catastrophic wildfire, which would ultimately release more carbon). Smaller-scale projects may be at a disadvantage if looked at from a mitigation perspective (i.e., when considering emissions generated from project activities compared with longer-term sequestration benefits, they may not translate benefits as well compared to larger projects with larger benefits). The ability to sequester carbon varies per property/geographic location and/or habitat type; for example, meadow or floodplain restoration projects may not ultimately sequester as much carbon as upland forest projects. Lastly, there may be projects for which emissions reductions are simply not possible (e.g., those in rural areas that require driving long distances to access project sites).

Re-examine potential project longevity and/or modify projects using a climate lens. How long will our investments be valid? Is there longevity in the efforts we make now? This is an opportunity to re-examine current practices and tweak projects to better address climate impacts, become more efficient, and/or revise priorities (e.g., one project component becomes more important to pursue given climate considerations).

Flexibility is key. Climate science, tools, and practices evolve and change rapidly, so it will be important to revisit, update, or revise rules and/or guidelines to account for our state of knowledge evolving over time. Establish a feedback loop to get input from partners to see what is working and what is not and make changes accordingly. OWEB programs should honor multiple ways to connect with and enjoy the natural world. Having more flexibility in terms of what kinds of improvements, and enhancements are helpful will allow for a diversity of ways to access nature.

Be clear about definitions and expectations of grant applicants. Build a shared understanding of what "climate-smart" and other terminology means and provide guidance and resources. Define expectations, including what are considered "good" answers to application questions.

Put traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities at the table with decision-making power. For example, the Tribes have understanding about resilience that should be centered in this work, and traditional practices offer a framework for climate solutions.

Develop and apply a predetermined equity lens. This can help prioritize funding to community members who are being impacted first and most significantly by climate change. Consider ecosystem services for those communities: their loss(es) or those they need to be replaced or enhanced.

Broader Concerns and Opportunities

Restoration equipment transitions will be challenging. Electric options for heavy equipment used in restoration projects are non-existent or extremely limited and expensive. Statewide, there is a lack of access to charging equipment/infrastructure to support electric equipment. Larger contractors with more funds may be able to adopt climate-smart changes more quickly, leaving local, small contractors at a disadvantage.

Applicant capacity varies. These are new skills and grant applicants will need information, guidance, trainings/classes, and tools to respond and engage in these new parameters effectively.

Be aware of unintended consequences. For example, some culturally significant plants could fall under the carbon sequestration umbrella, which could prevent Tribes from harvesting.

Emissions reductions opportunities may be possible. There may be opportunities to cut emissions in everyday tasks and projects (e.g., driving less/shorter distances, localizing work, coordinate with other grantees when hauling materials) or purchase less carbon-intensive materials (i.e., reducing carbon intensity of a project through materials if transition to electric equipment is not possible).

New funding opportunities could arise. This may be an opportunity to attract new climate-centric funders or funding partners and could lead to opportunities to leverage additional funds for grant applicants. There may be opportunities to align evaluation criteria with federal funding programs also defining or requiring consideration of climate adaptation, resilience, and/or mitigation.

Best practices, case studies, and demonstration projects are effective tools to help applicants integrate climate-smart considerations into projects. Develop a suite of best practices and guidance for low-carbon restoration (e.g., guidance on construction materials, vehicles, and tools), including the benefits of cleaner fuels and project gains, that helps applicants understand and evaluate options. Develop examples of climate-smart practices and management measures, including those that do/do not work in different regions (i.e., a how-to manual that includes things *not* to do). Tailor climate change information to the project level to aid grant applicants in understanding local impacts and adaptation options. Highlight organizations implementing emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage, and/or adaptation and resilience in their projects and spread know-how to others.

Invest time in developing long-term relationships. OWEB will need staff capacity to build relationships and trust and shared purpose for engaging. Be careful that incorporation of diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles does not unintentionally promote transactional or extractive relationships between OWEB and/or grantees and these communities.

Summarized input on opportunities and challenges related to building greenhouse gas emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage into projects

Primary challenges identified by participants included quantification and monitoring of emissions reduction and/or sequestration potential, equipment transitions, and capacity and equity. In many cases, participants developed potential solutions or options to help alleviate some of the challenges that were identified. Primary opportunities identified included finding efficiencies in projects, leveraging funding, and education and outreach. The importance of understanding and balancing tradeoffs was also identified.

Quantification & Monitoring of Emissions Reductions and/or Sequestration Potential

Major Challenges

- Learn how to measure data from current, funded projects so that grantees (and OWEB) get credit for the work already being done
- From a state climate mitigation perspective, it would be valuable for OWEB to track emissions reductions from projects as one potential metric for progress toward meeting the Oregon Global Warming Commission's natural and working lands sequestration goals.
- Most applicants do not have the capacity or expertise to proactively identify emissions reduction or sequestration potential nor to develop and conduct the monitoring that would be required to track emissions impacts over time. If OWEB seeks high rigor for estimates of sequestration or avoided emissions or requires long-term monitoring, applicants will need significant assistance both in application preparation and monitoring and tracking, either directly or through a third-party contractor.
    - High-rigor estimates may not be realistic, especially for smaller projects; approaches that track practices known to cause carbon sequestration or emissions reduction may be more feasible than trying to measure these effects directly.
    - It is difficult to establish/determine baseline data and then build the carbon budget, which is highly situational.
    - Quantifying carbon sequestration and emissions levels are both extremely technical and time consuming. Sequestration rates can widely vary species to species and even geography to geography. Similarly, with emissions, quantifying emissions from one type of gas-powered bulldozer to another can vary. Finding a way to standardize emissions reductions and carbon sequestration is a huge challenge, especially for small organizations with limited time and expertise. It is important for OWEB to do this work to ensure consistency and reduce the burden on grantees. This is extremely complex and there are many assumptions built into reduction/sequestration estimates.
- Additional greenhouse gas (GHG) tracking challenges: When quantifying carbon sequestration or other GHG reduction benefits, it will be critical to define the counterfactual against which the GHG reduction benefit from a project is determined.
- Another challenge is defining the appropriate time horizon for evaluating GHG reduction benefits. If OWEB requires project applicants to quantify the potential benefits (in terms of GHG reductions) from their projects, we encourage OWEB to

develop clear guidance for applicants to help them determine the best methods for quantification that include counterfactuals and time bound estimates.
    - Think about the project lifecycle; there could be a lot of expenses that get lost and not tracked within the lifecycle of 10+ years. Similarly, how would we quantify monitoring the project over a longer-term timeframe?

Solutions

- Offer additional funding for extended monitoring timeframes (current framework inadequate to truly learn monitoring lessons).
- Develop metrics and a common tool to measure and track the amount of carbon that could be released from a restoration project and quantifying long-term resilience benefits.
    - OWEB could consider getting outside expertise to develop criteria and metrics
    - Developing a calculator could be an OWEB grant in itself; if so, it should involve a consortium of agencies and organizations who work together to develop and continually refine a calculator that is reasonably simple, accurate, and consistent.
- Include guideline(s) for how to implement sequestration monitoring (e.g., for organizations without the knowledge and/or capacity to figure this out before the application deadline).
- There are multiple tools for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and there is the expensive route of validating them. Who is responsible for the calculations?
    - Every applicant may calculate carbon differently; a consistent, streamlined system for how these impacts and benefits are measured by grantees and reported to OWEB is needed.

Equipment Transitions

Major Barriers/Challenges

- Electric options for heavy equipment used in restoration projects are non-existent or extremely limited.
- Converting to more efficient equipment is expensive, and specialized equipment can cost a lot more than conventional equipment.
- Mobilization and transportation costs are higher for projects in remote locations.
- Added costs to maintain new equipment.
- Lack of access to charging equipment/infrastructure.
- Lack of access to materials, supply chain issues.
- Time needed to transition/convert to new equipment varies (e.g., months, years, decades).
- Perception that electric equipment is not as efficient or effective at getting the job done.
- Rural communities have limited options for contractors; we want to support our local contractors and local economy, rather than sourcing contractors from other locations (e.g., Eugene, Portland) that have newer, more efficient equipment and/or access to more efficient materials.

Tradeoffs

- If the new rules increase construction and implementation costs, there is concern it could restrict other parts of the restoration work (i.e., money that would have been used for more on-the-ground restoration is now redirected to cover costs with upgrading equipment).
- Incentive to make climate-smart changes to equipment could be limiting given the vast amount of conventional work that is currently available for contractors.
- Would the project be classified as lower priority if the applicant is unable to acquire/access better vehicles and/or electric equipment?
- If bigger companies are better suited/able to adopt climate-smart changes more quickly, it could leave local contractors at a disadvantage (i.e., because they cannot adopt new changes as quickly).
- It could reduce the contractor pool (e.g., if contractors have difficulty transitioning to electric equipment), which could increase contractors' prices.

Solutions

- Begin dialogue with contractors on when/how/why to transition equipment.
- Build in phase-in time and consider renting vs. owning.
- Provide incentives for moving towards tool/equipment conversion; incentive could involve funding to switch or rewarding contractors who have already switched.
- Consider funding a pilot project for purchasing/using smaller electric tools, which could provide real data to help contractors see the benefit.
- OWEB could consider partnering with Business Oregon or another agency/organization to establish small business grants/loans to contractors to upgrade equipment.
- Consider budget line items to pay for equipment with zero emissions.
- Create a funding source for grantees/contractors to purchase low carbon emissions vehicles or equipment.
    - For example, could OWEB offer a one-time investment for each watershed council or soil and water conservation district receiving a council capacity grant to purchase an electric vehicle (car or truck)?
    - Is there a possibility for new startup contractors to partner with existing contractors, to fill in resource or equipment adaptation gaps? Would that create different jobs for those who were not in the room to begin with? Would that create a new partnership?

Capacity and Equity

- Lack of capacity, funds, time, and technical knowledge. These are new skills and grant applicants will need information, guidance, trainings/classes, and tools to respond and engage in these new parameters effectively.
- Inequities may be especially evident in small, rural organizations, projects, and/or contractors.

Box 2: Understanding Tradeoffs

- Some project activities will release significant carbon (e.g., prescribed fire and/or fuels reduction projects, oak release projects); how do we balance tradeoffs and account for avoided emissions of projects (e.g., prescribed fire lessens chance of catastrophic wildfire, which would ultimately release more carbon)?
- Smaller-scale projects may be at a disadvantage if looked at from a mitigation perspective (i.e., when considering emissions generated from project activities compared with longer-term sequestration benefits, they may not translate benefits as well compared to larger projects with larger benefits).
- Project differences:
    - Some projects have few opportunities to cut emissions.
    - Ability to sequester carbon varies per property/geographic location.
    - Projects that require the use of heavy equipment with no electric equipment or climate-smart manufactured material alternatives (e.g., culvert replacement project) that have significant ecological benefits (e.g., fish passage improvement).
- Concerns around treaty rights and access to cultural harvests; for example, some culturally significant plants might fall under a carbon sequestration umbrella, which could prevent Tribes from harvesting.

Efficiencies in Projects

- Opportunities to cut emissions in everyday tasks and projects (e.g., driving less/shorter distances, localizing work, coordinating with other grantees when hauling materials).
- Rather than transitioning to brand new electric equipment, purchase less carbon-intensive materials (i.e., reducing carbon intensity of a project through materials if transition to electric equipment is not possible).

Leveraging Funding

- Opportunity to incentivize “green” methods, including leveraging other funding sources by adopting greener techniques.
- May be an opportunity to attract new climate-centric funders or funding partners and could lead to opportunities to leverage additional funds for OWEB itself as well as grantees/applicants.
- Projects that aim to sequester carbon may also, depending on project design, be able to leverage additional funding for "climate mitigation" projects from other sources, from philanthropic to carbon market/offset revenue. OWEB should have clear eligibility guidance for projects with carbon offset components; this guidance should ensure any OWEB-funded projects that anticipate selling carbon credits meet high thresholds for additionality (i.e., not selling credits for conservation that would have occurred absent carbon credit revenue) and consider OWEB program goals.

Education & Outreach

- Continue to recognize projects that sequester carbon (e.g., beaver dam analogs and process-based wetland restoration) that offer additional climate-smart benefits (e.g., resilience).
- Develop a suite of best practices and guidance for low-carbon restoration (e.g., guidance on construction materials, vehicles, and tools) that helps applicants understand and evaluate options and associated emissions.
    - *Note that these reductions, if tracked, should be tracked separately from "natural climate solution" impacts as state inventories typically track these emissions in other sectors
- Diversify opinions and approaches to implementing emissions reductions into projects and highlight both human community and climate benefits.
- Demonstrate the benefits of cleaner fuels and gain of projects; is it just a very small gain, and should the benefits really be measured by the ecosystem benefits of the work completed?
- Highlight organizations implementing emissions reductions and/or carbon sequestration and storage in their projects and spread know-how to others; for example, highlight demonstration projects using electric equipment.
- Improve understanding of the capacity of electric tools to get the job done (i.e., there is a perception that electric tools are not powerful enough).

Summarized input on opportunities and challenges associated with building climate-smart adaptation and resilience into projects

Primary challenges identified by participants included quantification and monitoring of adaptation and resilience benefits and capacity. Primary opportunities identified included new funding and/or leveraging funding, expanding climate-smart approaches, and education and outreach.

Quantification & Monitoring

- Measuring climate resilience and adaptation is a challenge.
- We need good data – how do we articulate the benefit of the climate work and monitor the impacts? Need a robust investment in pre- and post-monitoring to articulate the climate benefits of the work.
- Assume OWEB-funded projects are already doing this.
    - How do we quantify existing work?
    - How do we compare one project against another?
    - How do we analyze metrics to determine project success?
    - How will OWEB evaluate metrics?
- Invest in working with experts to understand the most meaningful ways that grantees are already providing climate adaptation and mitigation benefits and include those as "boxes to check" on grant applications.
- Request basic information (e.g., acres of floodplain restored, # of native trees planted, etc.) so that mitigation and adaptation benefits can be calculated (by OWEB staff or consultants). These "boxes to check" could be the specific metrics determined by experts and identified by OWEB staff to represent climate benefits of OWEB-funded ecological restoration, similar to the specific metrics grantees are already required to report on for habitat restoration.

Capacity

- Lack of technical expertise, access to data and information, time, and funding.

New Funding and/or Leveraging Funding

- Create grant opportunities that help explore the adaptation and mitigation benefits from grantees' existing or emerging work, or work that may be important in the future (e.g., monitoring and research funding to understand the possible climate benefits of floodplain restoration work - for example, does restoration improve alluvial aquifer storage, helping cool the creek in a warming climate?)
- Consider creating a climate Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant offering.
- Provide direct resources/funds to partners for capacity-building for water-related projects (e.g., acquisitions) that support long-term drought resilience.
- Create new funding sources to support community engagement in new ways.
- OWEB funding could be better leveraged to increase resilience of Oregon watersheds and landscapes to climate change. Many organizations are already considering climate adaptation and resilience for future restoration and protection projects, and a great deal of high-quality restoration work is already happening in our state. OWEB

funding could provide an opportunity to push more projects to fully incorporate climate-smart adaptation and resilience. There may also be opportunities to align evaluation criteria or guidance with federal funding programs also defining or requiring consideration of climate adaptation and resilience.
- Provide funds to retrieve climate-related metrics on current/past projects and share results to help make continued, sustained change.
- Create small grants for outreach to tell stories.
- Integrate a climate lens into agricultural grant programs (e.g., OAHP), providing monetary incentives to farmers/ranchers for practices that have the potential to sequester carbon and promote resilience, but avoid monitoring and verification requirements (or people will not engage as you hope they will).

Expanding Climate-Smart Approaches

- Opportunity to re-examine potential project longevity. How long will our investments be valid? Is there longevity in the efforts we make now? Will they still be effective ten years into the future?
- Opportunity to tweak projects even further to grow climate lens, become more efficient, revise priorities (e.g., one project component becomes more important to pursue given climate considerations), etc.
- Fund and encourage practitioners to use a more holistic approach (e.g., the opportunity to be efficient in combining actions to restore a basin).
- Majority of people are thinking about climate when applying for OWEB grants, but this might incent people to think of new ways/think outside the box on the work they do (i.e., connecting the dots in new ways).

Education and Outreach

- Build a shared understanding of what "climate-smart" and other terminology means and share that widely throughout the state.
- Recognize the work that grantees are already doing to help mitigate and adapt to climate change and improve watershed resilience.
- Assist and support grant applicants/grantees in articulating the benefits of the work they are doing for climate resiliency.
- Improve understanding and have training on what these climate topics are and how to build them into projects, including how to monitor and track changes as well as report outcomes.
- Provide standardized trainings for habitat restoration practitioners (e.g., site preparation, guidelines to begin these practices with climate-smart lens).
- Develop examples of practices and management measures, including those that do/do not work in different regions (i.e., a how-to manual that includes things *not* to do).
- Opportunity for broader social engagement on how this affects everyone; also, an opportunity to increase communication amongst landowners and adjacent sites.

Summarized input on opportunities and challenges related to incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), and environmental justice principles when making funding decisions

- Historically underserved populations often are impacted most heavily by climate change. Put these populations at the table with decision-making power. For example, the Tribes have understanding about resilience that should be centered in this work.
- Oregon's Tribes possess significant traditional ecological knowledge that should be incorporated into the process.
- Think about the capacity of the Tribes when making the funding decision. How can they best utilize the funds? Does the reporting create a burden to their administration?
- Flexibility in definitions. There is no "one way" to connect with and enjoy the natural world. Having more flexibility in terms of what kinds of improvements, and enhancements are helpful will allow for a diversity of ways to access nature.
- Explicitly consider "benefits" and "burdens" from conservation projects and status quo using disaggregated socio-economic data whenever possible (note that this is likely beyond the technical capacity of many grantees and would require significant technical support, or to be done by OWEB).
- Find ways to support engagement - open, honest engagement without pre-determined outcomes (look to Oregon Health Authority funding opportunity that supported climate change and community engagement work).
- Consider including outreach funds in various grant opportunities. Projects will be enhanced by connecting with traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities, but often those communities are not already connected with the organizations doing OWEB-funded work.
- Work with groups that are already working in these communities to develop rules and programs that address these principles. Be prepared to pay them for their time.
- Lower the match requirement and make the grant programs more accessible for traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities. Part of this would involve providing more capacity to smaller watershed councils or providing state agency support for implementing programs.
- Integrating these principles is not going to be a one-size-fits-all consideration with climate change. The challenge is how to balance prioritizing these principles with other priorities.
- OWEB should consider integrating these principles throughout the agency, as inequities and injustices exist in all facets of conservation work. Evaluate where OWEB is relative to the DEI goals for external projects. What is the diversity of the OWEB board and program staff? Is there opportunity to increase diversity internally?
- Integrating these principles into conservation and restoration work takes time and money. Organizations want to do the work, but it demands committed investment - to listen, learn, show up, and not bring pre-determined outcomes or demands to the table. Can OWEB support this time or partner with a funder than can support this time?

    - Consider the cost of building relationships and partnerships prior to the grant application. Collaborative engagement is not free and, at a minimum, should be able to be counted as in-kind match towards the project application.
- Small, underrepresented groups need unique funding assistance with upfront funding to support better proposal development
    - Some grant programs have explored small incentive 'offsets' for capacity/funding-limited organizations to simply apply, because difficult/complex application processes are an innate systematic barrier to small organizations that may otherwise provide a great deal of value towards DEI and environmental justice goals.
- Ask applicants to include DEI principles and concepts in the development of their projects, as applicable. Grant reporting on DEI should be open-ended as it is challenging to define, qualify, and quantify diversity, equity, and inclusion in relation to project-based options and decisions.

Summarized input on what to consider as OWEB initiates outreach and engagement to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities

- Increase effective outreach to a broader suite of potential applicants—using more listservs, doing direct outreach to organizations representative of underserved communities, and creating space outside of traditional working hours for questions and discussion of grant opportunities. Specifically, find time to engage traditionally underrepresented communities outside of traditional working hours, within other forums that may only be tangentially watershed-related, and/or provide compensation and technical support to qualifying organizations that would otherwise be unable to competitively apply for OWEB grants.
    - Offer opportunities for both in-person and virtual communication.
    - Utilize trusted community organizations for outreach.
    - Pay people to participate. Provide incentives and resources as needed.
    - Offer translation services/materials in various languages.
    - Record meetings and rebroadcast them with a live person available to answer questions.
- Find and encourage techniques that will include a broad spectrum of people in the discussion, including outside facilitators and new approaches to outreach.
- OWEB's FIP program may be a useful model for how to approach longer-term relationship and capacity building with communities and organizations that need additional support to be able to apply for OWEB grants.
- Invest time in developing long-term relationships; be careful that incorporation of these principles does not unintentionally promote transactional or extractive relationships between OWEB and/or grantees and these communities.
- There is an opportunity to work with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) organizations to get this work done. Need more outreach and BIPOC staff/board members that understand these communities.
- Seek the perspective from organizations that have established relationships with these impacted communities.
- Focus on ecosystem services to those communities: their loss(es) or those they need to be replaced or enhanced.
- Approach frontline and environmental justice communities through an "asset based" versus a more common "deficit based" lens to help promote community agency and self-determination.
- This is an opportunity to engage tribal traditional ecological knowledge more fully into project prioritization, planning and design options.
- First, identify who is being impacted and then show up prepared to acknowledge previous (and current) injustices and inequities in the way OWEB administers its grant programs. Be open to concerns and integrate representatives from traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities in formal decision making.
- Encourage these communities to identify opportunities and challenges both for outreach efforts and for funding efforts to help them mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- Be flexible and tailor the approach to each community. Avoid creating one solution for all.
- OWEB will need staff capacity to build relationships and trust and shared purpose for engaging.

CLIMATE RESOLUTION PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS – ALL INPUT RECEIVED[1]

This document includes input from public listening sessions, tribal listening session, online survey, and one-on-one conversations[2]

July 2022

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[1] The opinions expressed in this document are taken directly from the public listening sessions, tribal listening session, online survey, and one-on-one conversations and reflect the wording/phrasing used by participants.
[2] Input is from the public listening sessions and one-on-one conversations unless otherwise noted. τ = input from tribal listening session; σ = input from survey

1. What opportunities and challenges do you see with building greenhouse gas emissions reductions, carbon sequestration and storage into your projects?

I. Efficiencies

- Encourages folks to consider cutting emissions in everyday tasks (e.g., when driving to different restoration projects, making multiple stops to save total mileage)
- Find ways to share services with other organizations or entities doing similar work; for example:
    - Cooperation when hauling materials (e.g., if OWEB funded multiple projects in a region, collaboration between grantees is possible where contractors cooperate to save money by completing jobs for adjoining organizations)
    - Forming new partnerships (e.g., with colleges; could teach and hire students to complete the same work)
- Recognize the work that OWEB has already funded – would be interesting to see how much carbon has been captured [T]
- Streamline projects by localizing a season's work (this helps reduce emissions by removing excess travel to/from sites)
- Driving less or driving shorter distances became easier with COVID; could use this momentum as an opportunity to ask landowners to take photos (i.e., instead of driving) or install a trail cam
- Rather than transitioning to brand new electric equipment, purchase less carbon-intensive materials (i.e., reducing carbon intensity of a project through materials if transition to electric equipment is not possible)
- Integrate cleaner burning technology in slash and waste burning, possibly in sage-grouse restoration (i.e., similar to using an air-curtain burner to burn orchard waste)
- We see tremendous opportunity in durable sequestration. Pacific Forest Trust has long been at the forefront of the effort to leverage forests for their climate mitigation potential. New climate criteria in the OWEB grant process would provide us and other conservation organizations the opportunity to expand our impact. Mitigation and resilience go hand in hand with durable maintenance of natural system characteristics, which also provide significant benefits for water and biodiversity. A focus on the long-term sequestration and climate resilience benefits of a project will allow OWEB to maximize the impact of each dollar it distributes.

II. Equipment Transitions & Contractors

- Transitioning contractors in rehab, restoration, and/or heavy equipment over to more responsible equipment in a timely and cost-effective manner
- Converting to more efficient equipment is expensive and cost prohibitive according to many contractors; there are only a few contractors in southern Oregon who can do habitat restoration work effectively and efficiently and we cannot afford to lose these folks
- Equipment for adding wood and shaping channels is diesel, and electric equipment is not available [σ]
- Specialized equipment can cost a lot more than conventional equipment [T]

- Most of our projects involve the use of heavy equipment that use diesel fuel – I don't know of any practical alternatives. σ
- If the new rules increase construction and implementation costs, will this restrict other parts of the restoration work?
- For projects in remote locations, mobilization and transportation costs could be a detriment
- Major machinery/heavy equipment is needed to get big habitat projects done; that work could not be performed with non-diesel equipment
- Build in phase-in time, and consider renting vs. owning
    - Machinery costs a lot of money, so need serious incentive to transition; if renting, will OWEB cover the differential to make the switch?
- Costs to maintain new equipment
- Potential roadblocks for remote projects:
    - Charging equipment (e.g., if using a gas-powered generator for charging, then why transition since still burning fossil fuels)
    - Lack of access to electricity/ability to charge, materials, and/or assistance in rural/remote areas; risk of not funding great projects in rural Oregon if emissions reductions weighted too heavily
    - Eastern Oregon projects have less access or infrastructure in place for electric tractors/vehicles
- Incentive to make climate-smart changes to equipment could be limiting given the vast amount of work that is currently available
- Supply chain issues (e.g., it may be difficult to get upgraded equipment)
    - Supply chain demands for monitoring can make it difficult to navigate where to invest time and energy (for landowners and technical service providers)
- Certain restoration projects (e.g., in estuaries; floodplain reconnections) takes highly specialized equipment and new technology (i.e., electric) is not yet available
- In many locations, there are already significant barriers to finding the right equipment and the right contractors; adding another requirement enlarges the barriers
    - Would the project be classified as lower priority if the applicant is unable to acquire/access better vehicles and/or electric equipment?
    - More rural areas may not have the resources to compete
    - In Grant County, resources are not available for contractor(s) to be able to switch to some of the better practices such as using electric vehicles, and any adaptations for the contractor will come over a longer period as that infrastructure become more readily available
- New equipment opportunities
    - Begin dialogue with contractors on when/how/why to transition equipment
    - Encourage contractors to use electric tools (e.g., ground crews); some concerns about viability, but it can save money over time (i.e., no cost for gas)
        - Find ways to help contractors make the transition; primary barrier is the upfront cost to buy new equipment, although transition speed is also a challenge
        - Great opportunity to find innovative ideas
    - Provide incentives for moving towards tool conversion; incentive could involve funding to switch, or rewarding contractors who have already switched

    - Consider funding a pilot project for purchasing/using smaller electric tools, which could provide real data to help contractors see the benefit
    - OWEB could consider partnering with Business Oregon or another organization to establish small business grants/loans to contractors to upgrade equipment
    - For restoration projects, there might be opportunities and/or incentives for contractors to modify equipment [T]
    - Are there ways that OWEB can incent the type of contractors that the agency wants to see (i.e., how do we encourage folks to purchase more efficient equipment)? For example, consider incentives for contractors to modify equipment, particularly in remote areas. [T]
- Sourcing contractors:
    - Goal is to get some local folks; working in rural areas there are fewer options
    - Rural communities have limited options for contractors; we want to support our local contractors and local economy, rather than sourcing contractors from other locations (e.g., Eugene, Portland) that have newer equipment
    - If bigger companies are better suited/able to adopt climate-smart changes more quickly, it could leave local contractors at a disadvantage (i.e., because they cannot adopt new changes as quickly)
    - Could reduce the contractor pool (e.g., if contractors have difficulty transitioning to electric equipment), which could increase contractors' prices
    - Keeping local contractors (e.g., Marion County has contractors from Salem and Santiam; if we focus too much on emissions reductions, many of these folks would not be able to compete)
    - Challenges with building cost estimates and budgeting (e.g., if we need to use contractors that are farther away, mobilization costs, housing, and other costs would be higher)
    - How wide do we cast the net? (e.g., contractor sourcing piping from Eugene rather than from Louisiana to reduce emissions and support local business)
    - Contractors are difficult to find due to the current economy; this could make it worse
    - Challenging to see how they can require contractors to have certain low emissions equipment. Some projects are very remote and, while it is a great thing to consider, on-the-ground it may be frustrating where there are not a lot of options. [T]
        - Concerns around remote areas with fewer contractors [T]
        - How does this work in practice? For example, is it using labor with hand saws instead of machines? [T]
    - Especially challenging for some projects where there is only one contractor who can do the work they need (e.g., tree placement), and he is busy and moves all around the west side of the state [T]
    - Is there a possibility for new startup contractors to partner with existing contractors, to fill in resource or equipment adaptation gaps? Would that create different jobs for those who were not in the room to begin with? Would that create a new partnership?
    - Most contractors will not be able to afford this conversion and will stop working on watershed restoration projects if required to convert [O]

    - Opportunities for projects vary, and there may be challenges with finding contractors that align with climate resolution requirements (e.g., may be highly unrealistic for some requirements) σ
- Many contractors purchase vehicles at government auctions (i.e., as governments upgrades their fleet); if contractors are not able to purchase these older vehicles, this would be a major shift in their current business practices
- There are opportunities to move away from fossil fuels and find more efficient alternatives, but the challenges include expense and availability of dependable alternatives. σ
- Most of the opportunities to reduce emissions are tied to contractors who cannot convert their equipment and machinery to electric-powered versions on any time scale that will support our continuing projects. For example, not sure we have an EV D9 cat for excavation work available on the market at this time. Conversion could take many years, if not decades, to achieve without subsidies or incentives. Will OWEB consider budget line items to pay for equipment with zero emissions? σ
- Lack of availability of eco-friendly equipment for restoration (especially in post-COVID world), contractor availability, and cost σ
- Opportunity for land trust to cut GHG emissions internally though purchase of electric equipment and our investments σ
- Asking contractors to reduce their emissions may be difficult; electric machinery (chain saws, weed eaters, etc.) are not as efficient at getting the job done σ

III. Funding

- Leverage other funding sources by adopting greener techniques
- Offer additional funding for extended monitoring timeframes (current framework inadequate to truly learn monitoring lessons)
- If OWEB can pull together analytics and tools, it may lead to opportunities to leverage additional funds for OWEB itself as well as grantees/applicants
- Consider increasing grant funds for small projects (vs. large-acreage projects), as smaller projects may have greater carbon savings (i.e., in site prep and initial implementation) as well as greater long-term success for carbon sequestration (i.e., because of an increased focus on plant survival)
- Promote and incentivize practices like cover-cropping, perennial crops/shrubs/trees, riparian plantings, and other restoration
- Projects that aim to sequester carbon may also, depending on project design, be able to leverage additional funding for "climate mitigation" projects from other sources, from philanthropic to carbon market/offset revenue. OWEB should have clear eligibility guidance for projects with carbon offset components; this guidance should ensure any OWEB-funded projects that anticipate selling carbon credits meet high thresholds for additionality (e.g., not selling credits for conservation that would have occurred absent carbon credit revenue) and consider OWEB program goals. σ
- May be an opportunity to attract new climate-centric funders or funding partners. σ
- This may be an opportunity to incentivize "green" methods σ

- Instead of penalizing grantees/contractors who cannot afford to upgrade to low-emissions equipment, create a funding source for them to purchase low carbon emission vehicles or equipment.

IV. Education

- Highlight both human and climate benefits
- Improve knowledge and understanding of climate science as well as metrics and techniques to capture and share benefits
- Highlight organizations doing these projects and spread know-how to others
- Diversify opinions and approaches to implementing emissions reductions into projects
- Continue to recognize projects that sequester carbon (e.g., BDAs and wetlands) that offer additional climate-smart benefits (e.g., resilience)
- Improve understanding of equipment options and associated emissions
- Improve understanding of the capacity of electric tools to get the job done (i.e., there is a perception that electric tools are not powerful enough)
- Capitalize on the gaining momentum of climate change as an issue (i.e., many people who were previously doubtful about climate change are now beginning to see and have a better understanding of both the terms and impacts)
- The market for land protection and climate mitigation is increasing rapidly; leveraging the story of protecting carbon sinks could help connect grant applicants with resources that are becoming available
- Utilize existing tools such as the Trust for Public Land's map where you can search for a specific parcel and it will provide information on carbon storage
- Find ways to encourage compliance and change in forestry and agriculture, where there is an opportunity to tackle larger-scale sources of emissions and have the most impact
- Projects may also have the opportunity to reduce emissions associated with the actual restoration work—e.g., construction materials, vehicle and tool use. It could be helpful for OWEB, either internally or in consultation with others, to develop a suite of best practices for low-carbon restoration. We support guidance that helps applicants understand and evaluate these options and note that these reductions, if tracked, should be tracked separately from "natural climate solution" impacts as state inventories typically track these emissions in other sectors. σ
- Unclear how to do it, and lack of trust regarding new, emerging science. Maybe not reductions but certainly sequestration would be relatively easy. σ
- Learn and apply best practices for reducing climate/emissions in implementing a project, separate from the long-term sequestration, etc. σ
- There may need to be some education of watershed councils, contractors, and partners. I don't see how we can do larger projects without using diesel or gas heavy equipment or traveling long distance by car or truck. In rural Oregon, local contractors must haul their equipment a long way. I am not aware of any electric-powered backhoes or equipment in use. There is equipment like this on the market, as well as tractors and electric-powered trucks. Perhaps demonstration projects using electric equipment can happen. σ

- Concerns about plant material survival, especially in drought and high heat conditions. We may need to work with Oregon State University soil and plant scientists and the plant nursery industry to make sure plantings survive. o
- Shifts in public opinion among farmers and foresters; for example, in my area, folks who once doubted that climate change is happening are increasingly accepting the fact. It seems like many people have an intuitive, but inaccurate, sense of what practices have significant carbon sequestration impacts. o

V. Quantification & Monitoring

- Mitigation considerations in restoration projects (i.e., emissions generated through project activities, carbon sequestration and storage) are still fuzzy and will be for a long time
- Quantification of carbon sequestration and emissions generated will be a challenge
    - Hard to measure and quantify impacts (e.g., how much carbon can BDAs sequester, and does this vary throughout the state?); what is the cost of doing/implementing different restoration practices?
    - Quantifying the sequestration level and the metrics – not sure if our science is caught up
    - How to establish/determine baseline data and quantify benefits? It is difficult to figure out the baseline and then build the carbon budget, which is highly situational and difficult.
    - Mary's River Watershed Council has worked with a group to try and determine carbon sequestration for trees they plant and have seen how complex this is and how many methods there are (e.g., varies by tree/shrub species; equipment types, sizes)
    - Who is responsible for the calculations? If grant applicants, it will have an impact on staff (time, budgets) to do this extra work; administrative workload needs to be considered when this program is rolled out
    - Complexities in quantification – time-consuming work within small existing budgets; how do we remove this burden from field teams? Turning to the applicant to figure out quantification could drastically complicate the application process.
    - Will quantification be part of a state baseline scenario?
        - Regarding regulations on fuels and energy efficiency standards – do you want to give credit for something already enforced? Or do you shoot for above and beyond?
        - Regulated industries could be harmed when regulated for carbon emission reduction
    - Will need to consider calculating emissions and emissions reductions for short-term actions and long-term implications
- Every applicant may calculate carbon differently; a consistent, streamlined system for how these impacts and benefits are measured by grantees and reported to OWEB is needed
    - Lots of different organizations who are coming up with metrics and monitoring systems; from an ag perspective, we should streamline and connect with existing systems of tracking

- Calculating carbon is extremely difficult and technical; is OWEB going to provide any kind of assistance with development of these procedures before projects can apply? Feels like a huge obstacle for a lot of projects that are inherently climate resilient, but don't have the means to do these calculations. σ
- Can we measure certain projects' outcomes, specifically how much carbon did we *not* release by funding this project?
- Benefits to producers may not be enough of an incentive to encourage implementation of climate-smart projects
- Telling the story of carbon sequestration in estuary restoration projects takes extra funding and time; these are long-term projects, and the benefits data are not always available
    - A lot of projects take longer to see effective change (especially in terms of carbon sequestration) and smaller-scale modeling may not be as accurate
- Incredibly difficult to create a monitoring system that would be able to fit the breadth of projects that OWEB funds, as well as ecotypes; it could be effective in one area and not in another – not because a project is "better" at mitigation, but because it does it differently
- Develop metrics to help grantees/grant applicants track the amount of carbon a restoration project could release (may help identify ways to reduce emissions)
    - OWEB could consider getting outside expertise to develop criteria and metrics
- Develop a common tool to measure and track the amount of carbon that could be released from a restoration project and quantifying long-term resilience benefits
- Our land trust members recognize that large-scale restoration projects produce greenhouse gases, and these projects currently require significant fossil fuel use (especially with earth-moving machines). We would like to see OWEB take the lead at creating a framework to help us quantify greenhouse gas emissions and to develop a 'best practices' approach to help land trusts and watershed councils reduce emissions. We would also support a work group on this topic. σ
- Find out how to measure data from current, funded projects so that grantees get credit for the work already being done
- Think about the project lifecycle; there could be a lot of expenses that get lost and not tracked within the lifecycle of 10+ years. Similarly, how would we quantify monitoring the project over a longer-term timeframe?
- Include guideline(s) for how to implement sequestration monitoring (e.g., for organizations without the knowledge and/or capacity to figure this out before the application deadline)
- Demonstrate the benefits of cleaner fuels and gain of projects; is it just a very small gain, and should the benefits really be measured by the ecosystem benefits of the work completed? τ
- Research from The Nature Conservancy on "natural climate solutions" has highlighted several actions consistent with OWEB funding programs that could provide opportunities for carbon sequestration and storage. From a state climate mitigation perspective, it would be valuable for OWEB to track GHG emissions reductions from projects as one potential metric for progress toward meeting the Oregon Global Warming Commission's natural and working lands sequestration goals. σ

- Level of rigor for GHG tracking: Most applicants will not have the capacity or expertise to proactively identify GHG emissions reduction or sequestration potential nor to develop and conduct the monitoring that would be required to track emissions impacts over time. If OWEB seeks high rigor for estimates of sequestration or avoided emissions or requires long-term monitoring, it will need to provide significant assistance both in application preparation and monitoring and tracking, either directly or through a third-party contractor. High-rigor estimates may not be realistic, especially for smaller projects; approaches that track practices known to cause carbon sequestration or emissions reduction may be more feasible than trying to measure these effects directly. σ
- Additional GHG tracking challenges: When quantifying carbon sequestration or other GHG reduction benefits, it will be critical to define the counterfactual against which the GHG reduction benefit from a project is determined. σ
- Another challenge is defining the appropriate time horizon for evaluating GHG reduction benefits. If OWEB requires project applicants to quantify the potential benefits (in terms of GHG reductions) from their projects, we encourage OWEB to develop clear guidance for applicants to help them determine the best methods for quantification that include counterfactuals and time bound estimates. σ
- How to transition to less fossil fuel use when tackling large restoration projects? Will need an approach to equally track and apply emission reduction strategies across projects statewide. σ
- Challenges include potential burden (time demands) and inconsistency among applicants / grantees on measuring / tracking / reporting emissions. It is important for OWEB to do this work to ensure consistency and reduce the burden on grantees. This is extremely complex and there are many assumptions built into reduction / sequestration estimates. σ
- Speaking from experience, quantifying carbon sequestration and emissions levels are both extremely technical and time consuming (one project could take weeks of work). Sequestration rates can widely vary species to species and even geography to geography (and approaches to quantifying within these individual species often vary greatly as well). Similarly, with emissions, quantifying emissions from one type of gas-powered bulldozer to another can vary. I see finding a way to standardize emissions reductions and carbon sequestration being a huge challenge, especially for small organizations with limited time and expertise. Spending more time on administrative work like this means less time and money going to the actual work that is helping with climate resiliency and adaptation. σ
- Applicants will need to understand how to build this into projects, including tracking and how to report outcomes. The funder should be flexible on this, as some applicants may already be doing this without calling it "greenhouse gas emissions reductions". σ
- Healthy watersheds equal healthy soils and vegetation quality, so there will be some soil carbon sequestration by improving land quality. Measurement of this might be hard – perhaps evaluating soil carbon and biomass in some of the successful restoration projects (e.g., those that have matured)? σ
- Having a way to address metrics is going to be important – a model or template is needed. σ

- There are multiple tools for estimating greenhouse gas emissions and there is the expensive route of validating them. Perhaps encourage grant applicants to seek out and utilize GHG quantification tools that work best for their project. σ
- It is hard to accurately account for without a timber crew, etc. σ
- Challenge of how to define and quantify these metrics σ
- Challenging to quantify greenhouse gas emissions σ

VI. Balancing Tradeoffs

- Large-scale projects (e.g., floodplain reconnection) are beneficial for long-term carbon sequestration and storage and providing resilient habitats, but these projects can be in highly degraded areas where a lot of dirt must be moved, resulting in significant emissions generated during project activities
    - There needs to be discussions around the tradeoffs (i.e., short-term carbon consequence for a long-term gain)
    - Big projects are necessary for climate resiliency; benefits far outweigh short-term carbon impact
- Smaller-scale projects may be at a disadvantage if looked at from a mitigation perspective (i.e., when considering emissions generated from project activities compared with longer-term sequestration benefits)
    - Smaller projects may not translate benefits well compared to larger projects with larger benefits
- What about projects with few opportunities to cut emissions (i.e., not many emissions to begin with)?
- Work already takes into consideration being as efficient as possible, carpooling when possible, etc.
- Will applicants who do not put a greenhouse gas reduction item into their project always have to be moving towards that, even though the project could be useful on its own? Someone might have a good project and then change it to fit a climate change mitigation standard, when it may not be necessary.
- Ability to sequester carbon varies per property (e.g., west-side forests vs. east-side grass/shrublands), which could disadvantage some properties
    - Ability to make impact comes from the type of land that gets conserved – this looks different throughout the state
- Easy practices (e.g., cover cropping) could be seen as a low hanging fruit because it is easy to implement, but could potentially distract from other project types that provide bigger carbon impacts
- Some project activities will release significant carbon (e.g., prescribed fire and/or fuels reduction projects, oak release projects); how do we balance tradeoffs and account for avoided emissions of projects (e.g., prescribed fire lessens chance of catastrophic wildfire, which would ultimately release more carbon)?
- Balance trade-offs: for example, for some larger scale restoration projects, there is a lot of earth moving and the emissions generated may be enormous in the beginning, but it may be worth the long-term mitigation and adaptation benefits
- Identify and clearly articulate the overall goal (e.g., is it to reduce the overall greenhouse gas emissions during the project implementation vs. offset?); if the

grantee is doing larger projects, consider the sequestration amounts that may work as an offset to emissions on the front end

- Some project types require the use of heavy equipment with no electric equipment or climate-smart manufactured material alternatives (e.g., culvert replacement project); how do we find alternatives and efficiencies while still getting the same ecological outcome (e.g., fish passage)?
    - In some projects, there's a certain size of equipment and/or materials that need to be used; for example, instream restoration work in sub-basins with volatile runoff conditions, the materials are sized to withstand certain flows
- Cost of projects, staff time, and loss of priority for restoration projects that have meaningful benefits unrelated to climate change; these projects are often small in scope and would provide unmeasurable/negligible benefits to climate-smart goals σ
- Not all environmental issues are the same. I am very grateful that OWEB helped us improve access to over 20 miles of fish bearing stream for listed Winter steelhead. In the future, will I need to find a way that something like this reduced greenhouse gas emissions? In a competitive grant environment this could mean that projects like ours won't get funded. σ
- Concerns around treaty rights and access to cultural harvests; for example, some concern that some culturally significant plants might fall under carbon sequestration umbrella and prevent Tribes from harvesting τ
- Relative importance of climate evaluation criteria: It is unclear how emissions reductions will be weighted relative to other evaluation criteria, and how this could affect the competitiveness of still necessary but less emissions-impactful projects. OWEB will need to strike a balance between helping projects optimize and track real, beneficial GHG emission impacts without detracting from the ecological project benefits it has always prioritized—and clearly communicate to applicants how this balance will affect OWEB's approach to project selection. σ
- Metrics could show a positive benefit in terms of emissions reductions, but the project ultimately may not be meaningful
    - Are we prioritizing the projects that make the most impactful change?
- To be competitive, do you need to show improvement? On carbon projects, it is based on change.
    - On properties that are doing great things, the movement may be small, because good management is already being implemented. How can we continue to reward stewards that are doing good things to continue to do so?
    - A lot of people assume their projects contribute to a significant "delta"; for instance, grass farmers think that they are storing a lot of carbon however, the science does not necessarily support that concept because of the cycles of tillage and other factors. This could inadvertently cause harm to applicants/grantees that cannot show that improvement in the delta.
- If eastside projects haul in electric tractors from the westside, it may negate any benefit from using electric equipment
- Quantifying short term emissions vs. long term benefits. Possible loss of interest by contractors or elevated cost associated with project implementation. σ
- COVID restrictions have eliminated carpooling options with federal and state partners

VII. Capacity

- Trying to figure out climate considerations initially will impact the pace of which we are able to get dollars on the ground
- This is more work to do for already-strapped folks
- Lack of capacity, funds, time, technical knowledge; these are new skills and applicants will need information, guidance, trainings/classes, and tools to respond to climate considerations and engage these new parameters
    - It could significantly increase the burden and make implementation more difficult
    - Inequities may be especially evident in rural organizations/projects
- Requires additional work in applications even though current work is already climate-focused
- Climate information is difficult to translate into a grant application; project managers are not (all) climate scientists
- Likely burden for small organizations; unless you are an organization with access to a research institution or funding, it will be difficult to do quantification
- How does this factor into equity between rural Oregon communities and the more urban areas?
- Inequities in capacity – some contractors cannot afford to upgrade to electric equipment; we would not want these projects to end because of equipment emissions
- I think my conservation district will be able to develop proposals that include the use of electric vehicles, chain saws, etc. The challenge is for conservation districts and watershed councils with limited funding, especially those in large rural counties with long transportation distances who might not be able to adapt to low emission equipment in an affordable way. σ
- This will be very difficult for many, especially in rural areas where financial resources are limited. Investment in building capacity to make this transition is critical. σ
- This will severely hinder project competitiveness and the ability of watersheds to work with local contractors. Small local contractors will not be able to afford to switch to greener machinery; this will cut out a lot contractors who are already trained in restoration implementation and drive the price of projects through the roof. σ
- Opportunities to play a role in climate change mitigation, but unrealistic expectations to assume all contractors, counties, and projects have the same access to resources that help them align with climate resolution requirements. σ

VIII. Other Comments

- Opportunity to work with large animal CAFOs to build digesters σ
- The Oregon Water Resources Department needs to be a partner, first to complete Integrated Water Resources Plan and enforce water use laws in watersheds. σ
- There is resistance to building any projects in Oregon. There is also too little energy to power the sustainable projects because terminating sources before alternative, cost effective, reliable sources are online. σ
- We can reduce these emissions by holding people accountable for pollution they create near our water systems σ

- GHG emissions occur whenever timber extraction occurs. Taking forest lands out of timber rotation reduces this rate of carbon emissions. The challenge is that the timber industry will not want lands to stay out of rotation for as long as is needed to maximize reductions of carbon emissions. Most remote forest lands, furthest from mills, with rough terrain, cause more emissions during extraction. These lands should be taken out of timber rotation to reduce emissions. σ
- The equipment that is needed for large projects runs on fossil fuel; "creative grant writing" will be encouraged with these requirements σ
- Investments in fish screens and diversions should consider reducing maintenance costs by integrating self-cleaning designs. Solar power generation should be integrated into projects. Construction generates emissions but proposals should be ranked on emission generation. σ
- There is an opportunity to change land use (e.g., pay for forest reserves) instead of funding channel changes with equipment σ
- Our work with fire resiliency, soil health and carbon sequestration should be beneficial σ
- Stream restoration through planting trees, conservation easements, and maintaining instream flows will increase carbon storage and reduce losses of carbon. However, challenges are focused on inefficient water consumption and overuse by agriculture and industry. σ
- This language, in conjunction with the Forest Accord, should provide opportunities for acquisition of timber industry properties where the industry's margin was already tight and the Forest Accord will further reduce the profitability. Coastal Oregon provides some of the fastest growing forests in the world, which, as a result sequester carbon faster. There should be an emphasis on acquisition of coastal forest lands to make the most 'meaningful' progress on carbon sequestration. Long-term investments in coastal range forests also will improve soil conditions where a high amount of carbon is sequestered. However, Forest Accord time scales may be too short to meet the 'long-term' sustainability of projects and acquisitions. It takes 80, 100, and more years for a forest to reach old-growth status, when its carbon sequestration will be the highest, which is a longer window than the Accord envisions. σ

2. What opportunities and challenges do you see with building climate-smart adaptation and resilience into your projects?

I. Quantification & Measuring Benefits

- We know these projects build resilience (e.g., store water) but the measuring of this is tough
- Measuring climate resilience and adaptation is a challenge σ
- We need good data and how to articulate the benefit of the climate work and monitor the impacts; monitoring is so important. We need a robust investment in pre- and post-monitoring so we can articulate the climate benefits of the work we are doing.
- Find ways to account for the work already being done across the state; focus on the on-the-ground work rather than spending time on admin of accounting for the work
- Projects vary widely – how do we analyze metrics to determine project success? And how will OWEB evaluate metrics?
- We assume in large measure that our projects are already going this; how do we quantify this, when comparing one project against another?
- A lot of benefits associated with existing work/projects (e.g., riparian enhancement, stream sinuosity restoration that involves riparian planting), including and beyond carbon capture – need to monitor this/might be fruitful area to explore τ
- It will be difficult to translate the definition of climate adaptation and resilience into measurable/trackable actions, and to provide examples/concepts or practices that are easy to understand. Metrics and practices should incentivize long-term resilience. Lack of expertise or capacity among applicants to identify and monitor adaptation and resilience in projects could limit proposed ideas and ability to follow through to ensure climate benefits materialize. σ
- A challenge is quantifying climate resiliency of restoration projects
- Not measurable and at what cost σ
- Access to accurate measurement methods of efficacy in reducing climate change impacts σ
- Restoration projects challenges include using alternative methods of implementation to complete the project. For example, only time will tell if plant species need to be changed to support temperature changes. I think restoration projects in and of themselves meet the goals of resilience. σ
- How does a person define project success from a climate perspective? Are there examples of that could serve as models? In some areas of the state, there be more interest in focusing on the co-benefits of climate-smart adaptation, water quality and quantity, vegetation quality, wildlife habitat, erosion control, etc. It would be helpful if these were recognized as part of climate adaptation. σ
- Challenging to define or measure climate adaptation or resilience σ

II. Expanding Climate-Smart Approaches

- Opportunity to re-examine potential project longevity. How long will our investments be valid? Climate is changing and changing rapidly. Is there longevity in the efforts we make now? Will they still be effective ten years into the future?
    - Opens up timeline and how we think about our projects
    - Look at what conditions and changes are expected in precipitation and snowpack - if you are already looking at these factors, your project will last longer; consider numbers of structures, sizes of culverts, possible replanting to adapt to future conditions.
- There may be a piece of a project you may not have pushed as hard beforehand, but it may be valuable in the long run to address it
- Opportunity to tweak projects even further to grow climate lens, become more efficient, etc.
- Process-based restoration (i.e., reconnecting floodplains, creating secondary channels, restoring stream processes with large wood)
    - Expands the opportunity to build climate resiliency into Oregon communities
    - Opportunity for broader social engagement on how this affects everyone
    - Funding and encouraging practitioners to use a more holistic approach – the opportunity to be efficient in combining actions to restore a basin (example: removing conifers in an oak forest to help oak proliferate and fill streams with logs
- Waste management/energy: ton of opportunity here (e.g., waste energy plants; look at models from abroad)
- Opportunity to build climate-resilient infrastructure, include drought-tolerant species in planting plans (although challenge may be cost to include these species)
- Opportunity to work with new landowners, across-the-fence conversations: is there a way to create a path to impact the conversation?
- Promote soil health (e.g., cover cropping) and riparian plantings in agriculture
- When planning projects, extremes now need to be planned for. We cannot rely on the 'norm' or 'historical' data when there may be fluctuating data (e.g., in water levels, droughts, etc.); this can be a hindrance to culvert replacement and other projects when the period of record is outdated.
- Current projects are integrated already, but it is ok to think of this as a new tool to consider (i.e., critical thinking to enhance projects is fine) [T]
- Majority of people are thinking about climate when applying for OWEB grants, but this might incent people to think of new ways/think outside the box on the work they do (i.e., connecting the dots in new ways) [T]
- Look for ways to align with ODFW priorities (i.e., similar to FIP). For example, habitat prioritization information from ODFW could be used during both grant review and for interagency collaboration.

III. Funding/Incentives

- Funding much of the projects already occurring; additional opportunities for funding?

- When EQIP began in the '90s, one of the rules was to have riparian buffers along perennial streams and filter strips along intermittent streams. NRCS got a lot of flak on these requirements and shifted to a ranking "point system". This worked out well because neighbors vs. neighbors began to shift the conversation. This could be a method for OWEB to incentivize climate-smart practices.
- Build new opportunities (with funding) for landowners to further develop their projects to be more climate-smart
- ODFW has additional funding for drought resilience projects; this may be an added funding source for projects aimed at being climate-smart
- From the private landowner perspective/transactional piece, if this is required, will the landowner be compensated for these actions for the long term?
- Small grant for outreach is important to tell the stories
- Effectiveness monitoring has made a difference in the limited areas OWEB has been able to invest
- Change focus of project; for example, not just fish related, which may be an opportunity to access funding for many more projects
- Tactics, whether repeated or brand new, do not collect much data on success (i.e., monitoring funding very hard to get), so providing funds to retrieve these metrics and share results could make continued, sustained change
- Grant credit to projects already doing adaptation/resilience work (e.g., planting drought-tolerant plant species; changes in project implementation to address earlier peak flows/stream runoff)
- OWEB funding could be better leveraged to increase resilience of Oregon watersheds and landscapes to climate change. Many organizations, including TNC, are already considering climate adaptation and resilience for future restoration and protection projects, and a great deal of high-quality restoration work is already happening in our state. OWEB funding could provide an opportunity to push more projects to fully incorporate climate-smart adaptation and resilience. There may also be opportunities to align evaluation criteria or guidance with federal funding programs also defining or requiring consideration of climate adaptation and resilience. σ
- There is an opportunity to prioritize type and location of projects that lead to valuable long-term climate resiliency σ
- Restoring or enhancing green infrastructure is a big need and opportunity along the south coast. However, that can often mean larger price tags on project components which, in a grant, can be difficult to find funding for. σ
- Opportunities include OWEB's opportunity to create new funding sources to support community engagement in new ways and to provide financial support (or partner with another funder who can) to incentivize some transitions to cleaner equipment where it exists. σ
- Our projects focus on fish habitat restoration. Climate impacts should be defined for such projects in order to prioritize which projects will be more successful in a changing climate. For example, where will cooler water temperatures exist in the future to construct such projects that may last 20 - 40 years. This can only be known

by also funding those data acquisition studies that will determine current water temperatures and then extrapolated to how those temperatures may change in the future. σ

- Provide direct resources/funds to partners for capacity-building for water-related projects (e.g., acquisitions)
- Consider creating a climate FIP
- Create grant funding opportunities that help explore the adaptation and mitigation benefits from grantees' existing or emerging work, or work that may be important in the future (e.g., monitoring and research funding to understand the possible climate benefits of floodplain restoration work - for example, does restoration improve alluvial aquifer storage, helping cool the creek in a warming climate?)

IV. Education & Outreach

- Many projects often already do this; can we make an intentional effort to communicate that to landowners or partners with the projects?
    - Depending on the community you are working with, it can help people understand why you need the project done
- Consider the types of restoration efforts that OWEB can fund, and walk a balance between adaptation/resilience and opportunities for mitigation
    - We can thrive in supporting adaptation/resilience and tracking mitigation
    - Mitigation needs to be thought of, but where we need to focus is getting conservation and restoration work done
- It's important for all projects to take a climate change lens, however, the reality is that it will be very difficult for many across the state to reduce carbon footprint of restoration projects without an investment to provide the capacity to do so. Projects that specifically highlight climate adaptation and resilience of watersheds should be high priority. Challenges exist on deciding what the best climate adaptation and resilience solutions are, but that is always a part of the process. σ
- State agencies can work to their own strengths (e.g., ODOT is able to do far more with reducing greenhouse gases, while OWEB could focus on restoration)
- Increase the conversation about adaptation, specific to things like aquatic-related projects and being able to handle floods (e.g., project will last >30 years)
- For land trusts, focus on resilience is at the forefront (e.g., using TNC's datasets) which drives land protection decisions
    - An opportunity for land trusts is protecting lands and "holding the door open" to implement climate-smart projects/actions
- We have been doing restoration work for 25+ years, trying to address climate change the whole time. An opportunity is to build a shared understanding of what "climate-smart" means and share that widely throughout the state.
- Recognize the work that grantees are already doing is helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change and improve watershed resilience
- Change is hard – how do we present the change to partners in a way that gets buy in and does not feel rushed?

- Provide standardized trainings for habitat restoration practitioners (e.g., site preparation, guidelines to begin these practices with climate-smart lens)
- Increase communication amongst landowners and adjacent sites
- Not everyone understands the terminology. What do these terms mean?
- Need to improve understanding and have training on what these topics are and how to build them into projects, including how to monitor and track changes as well as report outcomes σ
- An opportunity for education to the key partners on projects σ
- Riparian and floodplain restoration is already a form of climate-smart adaptation σ
- Knowledge gaps in what this means and how to implement it on the ground. σ
- Challenge to bring stakeholders/landowners along with longer term goals and solutions σ

V. Capacity

- Not enough contractors to go around
- Limited time to implement work
- Training needs
- Shrinking capacity of our partnering organizations, but we need their technical expertise
- Climate data is harder to access
- Need more monitoring
- Less experts
- Assessing issues at-hand creates a burden for field teams
- Access to needed data and data management systems to support the work
- Choosing which project elements to implement takes time and money. For example, project design around sea level rise requires high-level hydrological monitoring (which drives cost way up) and thinking about climate change impacts 10/50/100 years into the future (increases time because of integrating all considerations into project design).
- We have already been building climate adaptation and resilience into our projects for years. Challenges include layering on more requirements on good work already being done (when most folks were already considering climate change in their work), and the burdens on small restoration organizations and contractor outfits without associated incentives, support, or financial resources. σ
- Some watershed councils/soil and water conservation districts are very small and do not have all of the necessary “oligists” on staff.
    - Needs to be assistance and support for implementors to be able to articulate the benefits of the work we are doing for climate resiliency (we are doing it, but not all organizations are on equal footing to be able to articulate the benefits of the work we are doing)
    - Big gap in understanding and monitoring

- A lot of the projects that OWEB already funds help to address climate mitigation and adaptation work. Increasing administration required on both the front and back end of projects means less funding going to actual climate-smart adaptation and resilience work. σ
- Concerns about added workload; having technical assistance available would be helpful. σ

VI. Applications & Evaluation Criteria

- Have guidance from OWEB on how adaptations should be used, so if this is a big ranking factor, grantees can address it better
- Provide the tools to measure effectiveness – there are a lot of mapping, analysis, and ranking processes, which are not accessible for everyone
- Cannot see how a climate change lens would change project design (because folks already do this)
- Can OWEB list climate-change focus options that applicants can click on/off for a project? This would reduce the amount of additional work for applicants.
- What kind of criteria makes a project "climate-smart"? Will a detailed rubric be provided for applicant projects? Much of what OWEB does already promotes resilience, because naturally functioning systems are more resilient than engineered ones. σ
- Applicants must learn new language to write better applications
- Risk of encouraging folks to change language of application rather than how projects are completed
- Confusion as to whether OWEB prefers certain adaptation/resilience practices over others – can OWEB create a form outlining this?
- Already have 15-20 lenses when evaluating projects, and many of these seem to already consider climate
    - How does added lens change the evaluative process?
    - Extremely expensive to model/calculate real-time climate benefits
    - Can this be as simple as possible? Can it expect errors? Can it anticipate differences in ability to quantify across locations around Oregon?
    - Will need to enhance the current (unsatisfactory) tools that are available
- Applicants doing these projects already – does this turn more into a paper exercise?
- A project that is important from a climate adaptation standpoint may not be reducing greenhouse gases (even if it is important, it may be a net carbon output)
    - How do we look at projects this way, but not shy away from funding important projects because of a 'greenhouse gas cap' over the life cycle of the project?
    - Should not take one component of our goals and have it over-shadow other benefits
- On restoration projects, we may be focusing on building in functionality, but at the same time it is also building in resilience. It feels like it may be smuggling in climate change conversation into projects.

- OWEB develops a list of activities to include in grant applications that could fulfill the mitigation/adaptation requirements
- Do we know how these considerations for climate will be graded or is there a point system?
- There is a question of how much additional work providing adaptation and resilience information in project applications will take, on top of an already very time-intensive application process. σ
- Challenges include accessing current science (OWEB should think about how it can play a role in providing resources to grantees), how will OWEB determine what projects meet these guidelines and how will it implement these guidelines, particularly with management (i.e., will OWEB ask us to eradicate all weeds?), what support will OWEB offer in helping grantees and applicants implement projects that increase climate resilience and reduce GHG emissions? What does this resolution practically mean for applications and implementation? σ
- Oregon is a large state with very different geographic regions, and the criteria for incorporating climate considerations into grant applications needs to take these differences into account. There should be examples of practices and management measures that work in different regions (e.g., a how-to manual as well as things not to do). σ
- Creating additional work for applicants if they/we have to guess what OWEB views as climate-smart adaptation and resilience. Be clear about definitions and expectations of applicants, as well as of OWEB. What do you hope to achieve within the next 5/10/20 years? σ
- Cost of projects and staff time, and a loss of priority for restoration projects that have meaningful benefits unrelated to climate change; these projects are often small in scope and would provide unmeasurable/negligible benefits to climate-smart goals σ
- There are benefits to building climate resilience into projects, but to base funding projects on their climate resilience would hinder the small project competitiveness with large projects σ
- Challenge to prove the data used for your decisions supporting or denying funding is valid σ
- Concerns around demonstrating mitigation on top of already meeting climate adaptation and resilience. How do you weight the mitigation vs. climate adaptation/resilience and current conservation/restoration focus? Try not to make requirements more burdensome than they already are.
- OWEB should invest in working with experts to understand what are the most meaningful ways that grantees are already providing climate adaptation and mitigation benefits and include those as “boxes to check” on grant applications and perhaps also request basic information (e.g., acres of floodplain restored, # of native trees planted, etc.) so that mitigation and adaptation benefits can be calculated (by OWEB staff or consultants). These “boxes to check” could be the specific metrics determined by experts and identified by OWEB staff to represent climate benefits of OWEB-funded ecological restoration, similar to the specific metrics grantees are

required to report on in OWRI for stream habitat restoration and PCSRF funding reporting.

VII. Other Comments

- What is the crux point? Is it supporting contractors to work across multiple organizations? Think about how the FIP investment catalyzes this.
- Is the onus on the local organizations to get the word out to construction entities? What specifically do they need to address in their bids/what is it we want them to highlight in their proposals? Do individual organizations define it, or does OWEB define it? Prefer if OWEB defines these parameters and spreads this message out to bidders.
- Terrestrial barriers, wildlife unfriendly fencing should also be included as examples of adaptation/resilience
- It is easy to think of greenhouse gas in the mitigation circle, but it can get difficult to talk about the adaptation circle because it may be difficult to put a carbon value in removing a fish-passage barrier or rebuilding a culvert
- Potential conflicts of interest (e.g., Army Corps of Engineers removing willows to plant alfalfa)
- Ecosystem conflicts (e.g., otters acting like invasives)
- Is some of this work in vain? For example, building bridges/culverts, disrupting landscapes, without any water.
- Consider how OWEB's work links with the work that Cathy McDonald is doing ᵀ
- Matt Donegan working with ODF/Wildfire Response Council around carbon may be good to get in touch with ᵀ
- Climate-smart adaptation and resilience have always been a central focus of PFT's work, and we do not anticipate any significant changes to our project development process were OWEB to incorporate new climate-based grant application criteria. New criteria that address resilience are key to ensuring that all the benefits of a conservation project are ensured for the long term. ᵟ
- You need the climate-smart approach to include biodiversity; this includes a Habitat and Biodiversity Valuing System (that was proposed to OWEB over 5-years ago, as CHAP - Combined Habitat Assessment Protocols by The Habitat Institute). This also needs to include Key Ecological Functions to determine resiliency and for trade-off analysis. ᵟ
- I find this very concerning. OWEB is already doing positive environmental work. It is a rare funding source for this kind of work. To place additional restrictions or hurdles to environmental work is ridiculous. ᵟ
- Working with the vulnerable and socially disadvantaged society that are most impacted by climate ᵟ
- An opportunity to address systemic issues that perpetuate climate-damaging processes. The challenge is that changing a system is more difficult that changing individual pieces. ᵟ
- Climate change is not concerning for it is not happening at the rate described in this survey. I feel as the request for fictitious funds is a waste of community resources. I

fully support watershed and fish conservation, but there are great issues at hand when it comes to our water and wildlife. σ

- The biggest challenge is lack of uniform and consistent guidance from OWEB or the State. It's great to move in this direction, but without a more thoughtful and comprehensive approach, it seems like we are setting ourselves up for frustration, disappointment, and failure. σ
- We are addressing this strongly in our update of our Strategic Plan. Additionally, much or the work we already do is aligned with climate-smart adaptation and resilience. σ
- Most of our projects are to improve instream salmon habitat; we don't see many opportunities to incorporate meaningful adaptations into our projects. σ

3. What can OWEB do to help current and prospective grantees build climate considerations, such as impacts, adaptation, and mitigation, into their projects?

I. Funding/Incentives

- Provide incentives for process-based restoration, with OWEB covering the difference in transitions to more responsible equipment
- Have some sort of mechanism or funding tool that can help support contractors in shifting to electric or low emissions equipment; in the restoration economy, finding ways to help partners (including contractors) to make this change (e.g., subsidizing)
- Be flexible in funding and take into account new solutions and ideas to address problems we are facing; Tribes have been on the land since time immemorial and see the landscape differently [T]
- Identify and support opportunities to assist with tribal capacity building [T]
- Provide funding for increasing capacity, tool exchange, and/or new mitigation-based actions; many grantees are already operating at max capacity and need incentives/funding to address new considerations
- Provide financial incentives to private landowners to build climate-smart actions into their operations
- Provide more technical and/or monetary support to get grant applications done, especially for smaller councils
- Find ways to leverage additional sources of funding, or additional initiatives to gather more interest and involvement
- Provide resources and incentives for local businesses/contractors.
    - Electric equipment is a great idea, but many folks cannot afford to upgrade; if we are encouraging folks from other areas to commute to project, is that really a positive?
    - Incentives to adopt new technologies; for example, create a grant program to make initial investment in a transition to electric equipment
- Forgiveness on the cost side
    - Carbon projects add cost (increased monitoring, metrics, etc.)
    - "Should not be a negative on lower cost/benefit or lower return on investment"
- Provide time (trainings) and money (to attend trainings or purchase equipment) to add capacity and resources to organizations
- Provide incentives/resources (financial) to smaller organizations to help transition to electric vehicles/equipment, as larger organizations have opportunities to have these already
- Offer flexibility with community engagement funds
- Allow carbon offset funding to match state funding [σ]
- Work with tribes and increase funds for BIPOC organizations and organizations working with diverse communities to address climate, food insecurities, wildfire hazards, sea level rise, etc. [σ]

- If you want to encourage moving away from climate-damaging practices or systems, OWEB must be flexible in their funding to address systems and processes, even if those systems and processes are only tangentially related to a project being funded. For instance, if OWEB wants me to move away from greenhouse gas emitting vehicles, OWEB must be willing to fund more than just the portion of replacement costs related to a specific OWEB-funded project. I may not be able to afford to replace my fleet if OWEB only funds the 5% of the time they are used for a specific OWEB-funded project. Also, OWEB can encourage including funding for studying the long-term effects of climate change on watersheds, and how landowners and stakeholders might begin now to make changes. Unfunded mandates will not be helpful. [σ]
- Data is important. Provide extra funds to ensure a significant number of projects track, over a long term, stream quality, groundwater and soil moisture, and above- and below-ground carbon sequestration so that we are able to accumulate long-term data. [σ]

II. Tools

- Provide a calculator or tool to quantify carbon emissions/sequestration metrics and analyze projects, helping ease the burden off the applicant to do this new work to apply
    - Help practitioners calculate the carbon intensity of different activities (applicants would certainly use it if it was tied to funding requirements)
    - Provide a variety of calculators representing different landscapes of Oregon
    - It is inefficient to have each applicant hire a consultant to create a tool; perhaps OWEB could collaborate with other agencies (NRCS, ODA, or others) to standardize the measurement tool
    - Look at TNC Resilient Lands Mapping Tool and others
    - Identify and/or create cross-agency tool(s) that are applicable to multiple organizations (OWEB/NRCS/ODA)
- Take into consideration long-term carbon offsets of projects (not just one year out, but 10+ and accounting for expected species mortality rates) and not emissions alone or trees planted over the course of the project alone [σ]
- Create a carbon calculator, which could be a spreadsheet that calculates the various carbon reduction practices; it would be nice if the calculator could be used for applicants so they know how their funding proposal would be evaluated [τ]
- Develop a list/catalog of practices and potential climate benefits to inform project development
    - How is OWEB valuing practices differently given mitigation/adaptation benefits? How to quantify benefits and monitor over time?
- Develop a list of OWEB-prioritized practices, from most highly valued to least
    - Give grantees ideas/resources of practices and link with co-benefits
- Provide simple, concise tools and resources to make it easy for applicants to understand what climate considerations relate to or could be incorporated into their projects. There may be a trade-off where either OWEB requires rigorous assessments

of climate benefits for proposals and provides support to grantees, or OWEB requires relatively simplistic assessments of climate benefits for proposals (but loses out on rigor or accuracy). If high rigor is desired, OWEB should take on responsibility for detailed emissions or other analysis and long-term monitoring and tracking—either directly or via a third party. If OWEB is not able to take responsibility for long-term monitoring and tracking, grants should include adequate monitoring funds so that applicants do not need to seek additional funds or go through the OWEB application progress again to tap monitoring dollars. [σ]

III. Education & Resources

- Transitions to climate-conscious equipment and techniques "will garner more support as we show the changes we make and the progress we can still achieve"
    - Many projects are already mitigating for climate change and as we learn more about how to quantify this, grantees will be empowered and projects will become more compelling to OWEB and other funders
- Continue to provide opportunities for dialogs and be open to helping each region and grantees implement the climate considerations within their projects
    - Not each region and its members have the infrastructure so continuing to evolve what we can implement into our projects and having the understanding that the process may be slower
    - Continue to have listening sessions to get input across the state
    - Start a little bit slower
- Provide resources to grantees to support their effective and efficient use of climate data metrics and monitoring protocols
- Provide education and outreach tools; for example, a portal to tools in one place for applicants [τ]
- A lot of data exists, so not sure new data collection is necessary – the challenge is finding the data and using it; consider supporting technical assistance proposal efforts to help groups identify and use the data
- When OWEB starts using climate as evaluative questions, training will be needed for those writing the grants as to what is expected
    - Education for newer grant writers
    - Assistance/education for grantees to better understand what OWEB expects in applications re: climate change questions
    - Technical support to meet climate criteria (e.g., from OSU Extension; non-profits with staff scientists), particularly to help groups without these experts or that lack access to their staff
    - Will need to strike a balance for how to keep the playing field level (e.g., smaller entities could be at a competitive disadvantage to larger entities that can pull a climate change specialist onto their staff); can OWEB provide a bridge to specialists?
- Gather resources and create a clearinghouse of links where people can find resources on monitoring, grant writing, and how to respond to climate questions
- Pool and share information for others to adapt into their projects

- Develop resources to help partners identify what and where climate-smart opportunities exist
- Provide links to climate information that is specific to watersheds and project site(s) to reduce the amount of time and effort applicants take to try to track that information down [T]
- Some current data is broad (wetlands/storage sequester carbon); specific case studies could be beneficial to help articulate benefits
- Training on the climate resources that are available
- Trainings to build staff capacity so that staff have the ability to recognize and integrate climate-related opportunities into programs [T]
- Education and tools to understand climate impacts
    - A huge component is education for people on the ground who are coming up with mitigation and adaptation ideas. Many times, these come from natural resource partnerships, but not always. Could OWEB fund educational resources for grantees?
- Spread knowledge and provide education around practices and success/failures
    - Share success stories and good ideas so hesitant folks can learn and build in adaptation/mitigation aspects into their projects
    - Share failures and lessons learned
- Provide education around opportunities to transition, payoffs, etc. for local businesses/contractors
- Does climate action mean doubling down on what we do or, alternatively, how would we change to deepen the investment? What can we change in what we do?
    - It may be important to understand our current carbon storage/sequestration in our existing work before we make changes that will negate benefits we are already creating
- Evaluate different planting methods and timeframes (i.e., project implementation vs. project at a future point); difficult to quantify short-term/long-term benefits with different methods (e.g., R3 method vs. others)
- Encourage innovation in grant-making process
- Provide more resources (financial, educational opportunities, scientific research) to help us build these considerations into our projects and organizational operations. [O]
- Support industry advancements; help on a state level to make resources more available for us in contracting, etc. so that it is not so hard for us to find eco-friendly contractors. [O]
- Early interactions with grantees to educate on how they can assist with building climate-smart adaptations or emissions reductions [O]
- Provide training and examples, technical assistance, and engagement at the project level, and leverage resources from other agencies and partners into projects such as scientists, NRCS and SWCDs, ODFW, OWRD. etc. [O]
- Training, education, flexibility in dates and other grant rules, flexibility in definitions [O]
- Be a resource center for best practices, availability of new tools & equipment that reduce emissions in projects [O]
- Provide clear definitions of concepts [O]

- Provide comprehensive list of BMPs for a variety of projects that OWEB feels support this mission; we can use these as appropriate in our applications, project planning, and contracts with project contractors σ
- Identify climate resilient solutions that grantees can consider/implement that would be favorable to decision makers when assessing projects for OWEB investment σ
- Support basin-wide planning and modeling σ
- Help fund those studies that will provide information on how water temperatures will change in the future, but done on a basin-wide scale to determine which areas hold the most promise to be successful with public monies σ
- Develop ranking systems that emphasize carbon sequestration and emissions reduction σ
- OWEB might categorize potential adaptations that might be incorporated into various project categories σ
- Provide examples of successful projects that improve climate σ
- Provide a lot more meaningful and concise guidance on what you are seeking in each area, with examples, and reality checks (costs) built in σ
- We must provide quality resources for Oregon contractors to "switch" to climate-friendly practices and equipment. It would be critical to set long-term deadlines for contractors. It is unrealistic to assume all contractors can operate under climate resolution requirements immediately. They must be supported by resources and training that allow them to align with climate resolution requirements. σ
- Inform regional review teams about these issues and potential solutions so that they are recognized and accounted for in proposals σ
- Make sure that what is in your resolution is made available to grantees in the application process, but is also available to grantees in a form that can be utilized with our constituents σ
- Find ways to support engagement – open, honest engagement without pre-determined outcomes. OHA had a great funding announcement earlier in 2022 that (in part) supported climate change and community engagement work. Could OWEB partner with OHA to support more of that kind of funding and work and learn from the DEI perspectives OHA included in their grant-making? That would be great! σ
- Either build out a resource center for consulting/guidance for transitioning grantees or collaborate with an existing organization to do this. Pay organizations so their staff and relevant partners can participate in these processes. Provide grants to build this capacity and set transitional long-term targets. For example, provide grants to watershed councils that will work with small business contractors that make below some annual revenue to upgrade their equipment that uses less fossil fuels. σ
- OWEB should consider providing tools and resources to grantees, and should standardize any approach σ
- Clearly define expectations and provide guidance/resources to quantify climate considerations σ

- Provide a list of possible methods for observing climate change metrics that have been adequately reviewed. Provide basic information in how it could be accomplished and additional funding to support σ
- OWEB should consider what grantees have been doing already to build in climate considerations into our work (i.e., take stock of the current situation) σ
- Make sure to acknowledge the work that has already been happening and that even if we do not use the language that our work is still important and relevant σ

IV. Application Changes & Evaluations

- Identify ways to streamline the application process without losing details (e.g., can we replace paragraphs with check boxes?)
    - This could simplify and standardize the information grantees provide
    - Develop a calculation tool that applicants could use; it would require some testing (e.g., because some projects can seem similar but have considerable variables or other factors that need to be differentiated)
- Clarify application process
- Identify ways to simplify questions/responses regarding climate considerations
    - Most projects have climate-smart actions – how can we formulate grant applications/questions that do not add to the already complex nature of the application
    - Is it just another analysis on top of projects? This is more work for limited capacity, so please make this as minimal as possible in the application process
- Provide guidance to grantees and applicants to make responses to climate considerations consistent
- In the restoration program, grantees can reference and build in the nested data (example: fish species) to help meet some of the considerations
- Clarify what OWEB's priorities are when grantees are submitting projects; for example, do they make the tie to climate change, will other projects be stronger because they have a stronger outcome?
    - What lens is OWEB going to look at projects through?
    - In the adaptation world, what you are doing may not be different, but the extra thought or consideration for how it affects climate change may be needed. Will projects be ranked higher depending on immediate mitigation vs. long-term/high-level climate mitigation/adaptation benefits?
- Clarify whether responses are quantitative or qualitative, or both; recognize that some projects lend themselves better to one or the other
- Identify/clarify what type of data/models to use to demonstrate that projects have climate-smart impacts; the message from OWEB needs to be consistent and commensurate with our evaluation criteria upon which applicants are evaluated
    - Tools (not just resources) are needed upfront; applicants need something (OWEB-generated) that will suffice for responding to questions
    - Provide suggestions for specific strategies, on a project basis, on how to combine goals for restoration/climate mitigation

    - Create a cheat sheet on quantification of project's value to guide grantees in the process; some standardization will be needed, especially for reporting purposes
- Have climate questions include examples to help grant applicants understand what OWEB is looking for in responses
    - Share the responses from the climate questions.
    - Share what grants were approved and why (and which were not and why)
- Think region by region and how goals and priorities may be different (e.g., things on the westside might not be as applicable on eastside); guidelines and solutions should fit the region [τ]
- Realize that it is difficult to quantify climate benefits and ask applicants to track carbon sequestration over the years; risk of people not applying if this is too difficult [τ]
- Because implementors are already doing these things (e.g., grazing management plans, planning of ideas or list of things to be done in project), make sure the point system or evaluation criteria is clear enough for regional review team members
- Establish scoring metrics; OWEB could build a simple tool (or make available to grantees an existing tool) and/or work with a true expert on this topic
    - Would appreciate guidance from someone with expertise to look at the best ways to address climate mitigation and adaptation
- Consider slowing down the process; for example, let applicants take considerations for a 'test-drive' before putting solid rules into place
- Identify ways to align grant programs and allow flexibility around matching, and consider ways to standardize grantees' language so they can also apply for federal funding (i.e., because increased federal funding is becoming available)
- We support the climate resolution and encourage OWEB to implement new climate-focused criteria into the grant application process. Simply adding these criteria will encourage applicants to rethink their projects in a climate-smart framework and identify potential areas for improvement. These criteria ought to be more directional than quantitative–promoting sequestration and resilience by moving landscapes towards more natural structure, composition, and function. To help this, OWEB could create template language to put into conservation easements that achieves meaningful improvements to forest condition while maintaining the flexibility necessary in a permanent agreement. This is a process PFT would be happy to offer further input on. [σ]
- Streamline the application process overall, including how climate considerations are incorporated. The current process includes elements that seem, from an applicant's perspective, to be unduly burdensome, and simply adding climate onto an already difficult process may turn prospective grantees away. If there is an opportunity to adjust other aspects of the application process while working to incorporate climate, this would be greatly appreciated. [σ]
- Make climate impacts a consideration (project evaluation criteria) but not a requirement for projects. Offer clear guidance on how climate considerations should be addressed in applications and grant reporting. Offer clear guidance on whether OWEB is requiring clear climate objectives (applicant will sequester X tons of carbon) or just considerations. [σ]

- Only use climate change to evaluate projects in the most minor way possible (not the driver of conservation work) σ
- Be patient – this is a new thing that will take some getting used to; provide a reasonable time frame for all grantees and practitioners to adjust to new approach σ
- Focus on greenhouse gases allows for greenwashing initiatives to massage calculations in their favor; in what way is OWEB going to hold project recipients to these goals without sacrificing the intent of its mission? σ
- Emphasize the co-benefits to the affected communities and landowners σ

V. Other Comments

- Prioritize vulnerable communities that will be impacted most by climate change
- Tribal stewardship is inherently climate resilient because First Foods have survived natural changes in climate for millennia; many carbon crediting schemes are known to reduce tribal treaty rights access in favor of "carbon sequestration," how is OWEB going to ensure projects are prioritizing Indigenous access to treaty rights above carbon calculating? How is OWEB going to uplift the voices of Indigenous stewards in their project planning, proposal evaluation, and granting process? σ
- It has taken two years to get to a climate resolution—which feels like a long time
- There are other benefits outside of climate mitigation for exchanging tools and equipment (e.g., safety, noise pollution)
- Potential for climate resolution to have some unintended consequences of reducing equity in how grant funds distributed
    - What happens to Mom & Pop shops and how will they be competitive?
    - Adaptability of what the future holds and how to bring smaller organizations/contractors along?
    - Factor in inequities in grantees/contractors' ability to upgrade equipment
- Monitoring is always underfunded, and this will require it – what kind of monitoring will be expected long-term? τ
- We support OWEB in taking climate action beyond the position of "everything we do, and have always done, is climate action." This means providing an investment framework for Natural Climate Solutions that provide the greatest carbon reduction for Oregon. I would like to see OWEB incorporate the Oregon study produced by Dr. Graves at TNC that highlights these pathways. We believe that natural climate solutions begin with protecting our land base and that this should be done with deeper investment in land acquisition by land trusts, tribes, and other eligible entities. The Resilient Lands Initiative that Oregon Community Foundation is now running is a great example of an investment framework based on TNC's Conserving Nature's Stage data. σ
- The Habitat Institute has recommended in the past and again now to setup a statewide Habitat and Biodiversity (HAB) Valuing System for use by all projects. This is similar to what the Pacific Northwest Power and Conservation Council did for subbasin plans from 2004-2012. HAB Valuing System uses the CHAP approach that has undergone Independent Scientific Review and a National Academy of Sciences

review process. But OWEB's prior staff has been unwilling to even recognize it. By the way, the approach was used by ODFW to obtain a $150 million dollar settlement from BPA, which was the foundation for the Willamette Valley Wildlife Mitigation program. σ

- To have a significant impact on climate change, OWEB will need to state unequivocally that there will be a shift in projects that are funded. This is not to say that climate should be the only criterion for funding, but it must be a heavily weighted criterion. In my opinion, it would be a mistake for OWEB to try to appease all interests by watering down the emphasis it puts on climate considerations. OWEB should be clear that some project proposals that recently were highly ranked for funding may no longer be funded because they have negative climate impacts. OWEB is doing the right thing with this resolution, and it must stand firm in ensuring it results in significant climate-smart projects. σ
- Go slowly. The whole point of watershed councils and local restoration groups is that we convene local stakeholders and determine shared problems and priorities. We have plans – action plans, strategic plans, monitoring plans, etc. – that have taken significant engagement and investment to develop. Things do not (and should not) turn on a dime because a funder demands it. Support grantees updating their plans to incorporate a climate lens in their own work but be considerate of the predicament of many local groups working with stakeholders who feel climate change is a political topic and may not want to engage. We may need to talk about drought, fire risk, etc. and not use the phrase "climate change" specifically. Be understanding and accepting of that nuance. σ
- More water conservation projects are needed – projects that help promote keeping the water on the landscape longer, actions that mitigate and adapt for the flooding and drought cycles we are seeing, and planting species that can tolerate a wider range of conditions σ
- Give preference to long-term protection of forests, which allows them to reach old-growth status. Carbon sequestration increases, on average, as a forest matures, as does protection of the soil, groundwater, stream quality, and resilience. Taking them out of timber rotation is the best way to maximize these benefits. σ
- Mitigation acts to reduce or prevent the impacts from occurring therefore, emphasis/preference should be first on mitigation, then, if necessary, adaptation. σ
- Forests that are complex and diverse in both structure and species tend to be more resistant and resilient to short- and long-term weather and climate impacts. Projects should emphasize forest complexity and diversity. σ
- Hold people accountable for their pollution along with dumping waste, receding high water lines, and building on sacred land that is stolen from the people and clear cut σ
- Get support from other agencies and authorities having jurisdiction to quit piling on fees and non-regulatory building requirements for projects σ

4. What's one important thing that OWEB needs to know as they think about rulemaking to include climate-focused evaluation criteria in grant making?

I. Capacity & Equity

- Different entities have different capabilities:
    - One rule may not be the solution for every area; think about rural/remote rural vs. urban communities and the resources available
    - Recognize that the changes may not be as fast as others
- Range in capacity varies organization-to-organization (inequity); capacity for additional work/writing/learning could benefit certain folks and harm others
- We often are trying to do everything we can to be more efficient and have worked for years to increase climate resiliency. To do more, the thing that could help the most is additional resources and capacity. σ
- Remember capacity is an issue. Asking non-profits to address the natural resource, social, climate, and economic issues is a lot to ask for a 1- or 2-person organization. Provide more agency support and or base capacity funding. σ
- We do not have a lot of discretionary money to spend on proposal writing; help with that would really incentivize OWEB project applications σ
- We are a small nonprofit that manages lands, with limited resources and capacity. Rules should be tied to funding to accomplish the work dictated by the rule σ
- As a watershed council we are a small group, with limited funding and staff, working on small projects that, even if we build these into our projects, the benefits would not be measurable and negligible σ
- Watershed councils in the more rural areas of the state may be disproportionately excluded from funding σ
- Ensure equity – how can this be equitable across the state? τ
- Consider seriously how to avoid penalizing small groups, rural groups (larger area, more driving, less resources, often more conservative stakeholders, fewer contractor options, etc.) with these criteria. σ
- Inequity to achieve standards (specific ones that cost money to receive) in environmental management
- Equity may impact peoples' abilities to address these new guidelines
- A learning period would benefit grantees – to better adjust to new changes and allow OWEB to better address their grantees' capacity and bring about meaningful change
- Inequities and lack of capacity for many folks to make changes (or even attend these meetings)
- Think about equity around rulemaking
- Slow down. The speed at which change is being proposed in rules is too fast. Considering greenhouse gas emissions is great but moving too fast is going to end up hurting those we are trying to help.
- Regional considerations, specifically project design around climate change effects (e.g., sea level rise), takes more time (and much more money) to establish the right path forward

    - Climate-smart projects around community resilience require community input, which also takes time and money
- Money narratives are rapidly changing (i.e., inflation) and organizations are already pressed for funds trying to do their current projects. OWEB's expectations around budgets should be flexible when asking for more project considerations, more capacity.
- Capacity limitations
- If projects are going to be ranked on how much carbon they can sequester, it can pit projects against each other based on climate and where they are in the state. When we think about rulemaking, we need to consider how one area may look better on paper than another, with both being valuable.
- Resources to help organizations and contractors adapt (especially if you want entities to purchase and maintain electric vehicles as this is not something that small organizations could afford to front) σ
- Make sure any RAC associated with this resolution has diverse representation. σ
- Need to get a "watershed person" on the RAC

II. Applications, Evaluations, and Reporting

- Clarify how climate questions are weighted
    - How do we make it so that climate is not driving every application even if it is not what is really driving the projects? For example, applicants don't want to be phony in grant writing by inflating the importance of climate change or design projects to address the questions when it may not be appropriate.
- Every grant has gotten harder to apply for and has had increased reporting and requirements
    - There is value in extra reporting, but find a way to do this without creating additional hurdles
    - Could restrict grants for underprivileged areas
- Make sure that changes in the application are easier to write and make it easier to review, and continue to train users on the grant application to improve understanding
- Provide a calculator – it is important to make the calculation simple and accurate, truly reflecting the change
- Developing a calculator could be an OWEB grant in itself; if so, it should involve a consortium of agencies and organizations who work together to develop and continually refine a calculator that is reasonably simple, accurate, and consistent. σ
- Make tools available to applicants to easily use in developing projects τ
- Qualitative and quantitative criteria should be broad, allowing people to think outside the box to get to goals in unexpected ways (i.e., avoid placing strict sideboards on the types of projects that could be funded because the umbrella of adaptation/resilience can be broad) τ
- OWEB should be conscious of the long-term time horizon that we need to create, grow, and maintain benefits on the landscape through management generating more natural conditions. New application criteria should therefore prioritize projects with durable, enforceable terms that promote management towards more naturally

carbon-rich and climate resilient landscapes that support Oregon's astounding biodiversity. σ

- Expectations need to be reasonable, particularly with showing results over time (i.e., the pace at which we are expected to achieve outcomes need to be reasonable). σ
- Go slow, make it count, make it reasonable, allow for an adjustment period, provide crystal clear guidance and scoring criteria with examples, and above all else, please set us up for success. Climate change is not an easy topic to address, or we would have already completed the mission. σ
- Streamline the process regarding the actions needed to be climate-smart (e.g., how can we simplify our process to speed up climate-smart options)
- Recognize the work already being done at achieving climate benefits – how can we build in the connectivity piece to future rulemaking and evaluation criteria? Remove hurdles to facilitate these actions. How can we streamline this?
- There are many benefits to restoration projects, many of which overlap. OWEB's job, and the criteria for the review team - should be to maximize benefits. Climate change adaptation and resilience are one of those benefits and overlap with many others. Grantees have been considering climate change in our work for years. Consider what rules and criteria maximize the mission of OWEB and climate benefits while minimizing the burden on grantees - increased grant-writing, reporting, and tracking burdens detract from our ability to get the actual work done. σ
- Projects doing this work already – should they receive our funding?
- Consider ways to approach this without monitoring/quantification/verification
- How would rules impact fuels reduction projects? Oak/juniper conversion projects? Forest restoration projects? Ecological thinning/prescribed fires? If this is an accounting of impacts, how will these projects rank?
- Clarify how OWEB will evaluate metrics to determine project success in a climate-smart lens
- The way that some work around DEI is reevaluating hiring practices: assume everyone is qualified before narrowing it down. Consider whether this idea could be applied to the grant application, as it could reduce the administrative burden and change the way we evaluate grants.
- It is my hope that the rules will have enough flexibility that good projects which cannot meet the exact climate-focused criteria still have a possibility of being funded, but that the rules will help incentivize restoration that benefits climate resiliency. σ
- The regulations should include an emphasis on long-term actions, reaching beyond a century, to ensure maximal carbon sequestration as forests develop old-growth characteristics σ
- Please set long-term deadlines and goals so we can adapt within a realistic timeframe. Contractors are already scarce, and we do not want contractors to avoid OWEB-funded contracts. σ
- A practical cost-benefit assessment of options that accounts for both short- and long-term investments in best practices and equipment σ
- Defining/identifying general or trend impacts (e.g., positive, neutral, negative) is valuable, but it will be difficult/impossible (or not cost-efficient) to quantify specific

impacts (e.g., xx tons of carbon per year) for any of the project types we have participated with OWEB on σ

- Our group is primarily focused on implementing projects that improve water quality and fish habitat. Unless OWEB can demonstrate some practical ways to incorporate climate improvements into our projects, we do not see many opportunities to make meaningful changes. Since OWEB funding is competitive, if funding went more to projects that were able to incorporate climate-focused improvements, projects that might actually have more water quality or habitat benefits might suffer. If OWEB were to define some best practices that all grantees would use, that might take some of the competitiveness out of funding decisions. Climate improvement practices would be incorporated by all, but those projects with the most water quality and habitat benefits would get funded. σ
- Work with other funding entities to coordinate on guidelines and eliminate redundancies across funding platforms. σ
- Clear guidelines on what is valued to a greater extent and why σ
- We hope to have clear best management practices and resources to know where to put limited time and resources well in advance if and where applicable σ

III. Messaging & Outreach

- Messaging matters: how it gets presented will matter a lot to some parts of the state
    - Avoid the pitfalls of oversight of new concepts that people may not believe in whatsoever
    - Opportunities in eastern Oregon for outreach/education on climate impacts (a resistant population)
    - Get the message across in a non-threatening manner
- Remember that ideas/feelings about climate change varies greatly across the state. Fear is that climate change criteria will become most important criteria at OWEB; moderation in everything is always good.
- Recognize that organizations have already been doing this work for a very long time
- Climate change adaptation/mitigation around farmers
- Recognize priorities of the state vs. priorities of community
    - E.g., farmers see these benefits as long-term but are worried about feeding their families in the short-term
- Money is a priority for farmers – provide short-term incentives
- Explain how some climate considerations can apply to different practices
- Materials that are culturally translated, not just linguistically translated. σ
- There are many political processes that OWEB could get more strongly involved in; for example, could OWEB get involved in the political side of climate adaptation and mitigation to move things forward faster? A lot of this boils down to legislation and being involved in the legislative process.
- Recognize that this will not necessarily be an added incentive to folks already performing these projects; obtaining metrics and implementing monitoring costs money and increases the cost-benefit ratio

- Adaptation vs. mitigation vs. resilience – can we streamline this process and not get caught up in the difference between categories? From a statewide perspective, the discussion makes sense, but at an on-the-ground level, differentiations mean a lot less. There is a small population who want to be part of the solution to climate change, and others who want to build resilience.
- Show economic case studies for implementation on the ground, specifically for agricultural workers (this is an important story to tell)
- Small landowners are often suspicious of government and reluctant to accept help ơ
- Retired resource professionals have experience that can help OWEB projects, but may not know how they can help climate projects near them ơ
- Don't make this program too complex for the landowners and local partners, engage the local people constructively ơ

IV. Adaptive/Iterative Process

- Science behind the "tools" is changing, so they must be revisited and updated as technology and knowledge evolve
- Many participants in the public listening sessions I attended discussed the importance of a simple, accurate, consistent "calculator" to gauge the impact of projects on climate considerations. Since there is no one widely accepted method for this now, perhaps OWEB can build flexibility into the rules by stating that the impact calculation process will change over time, and OWEB will notify applicants of the currently accepted process each year. ơ
- Ensure there is flexibility in the rules to account for our state of knowledge evolving over time
- Flexibility is key; could be challenging to adopt rules around this as OWEB needs to be able to adapt to changing science and guidelines. ơ
- Additional requirements will be a hinderance/barrier in applying
    - Start with qualitative, and move to quantitative down the road
    - Quantification is important, and OWEB should consider providing additional funding for this (do not treat it as a disincentive)
- Iterative process
    - Either in the rulemaking process or in the future, build in a feedback loop to get input from stakeholders and to see if things are working or not
    - Consider an iterative process around rulemaking specifically where the first take could move us down the path, but not be the end point until we have more science and data. Avoid rushing the process.

V. Other Comments

- Returning land stewardship to Indigenous people is the best bang-for-buck return on climate adaptation. Land Back initiatives and projects need to be considered under OWEB's climate resolution and granting evaluation. ơ
- Manufacturing concerns – consider providing a list of approved vendors for monitoring equipment
- Be mindful of the effects on cost and budget due to supply chain issues; adding in additional considerations for grantees could exacerbate this

- To have a positive impact, we need to transition away from fossil fuels, and we need to conserve and restore our natural environment. Can OWEB lean into the second part of this; instead of thinking of criteria and metrics for grants, a larger question would be, how do we get more restoration done quickly? We will not solve this problem by tracking items, but by putting as much work on the ground as possible.
- Habitat-specific criteria may have merit, but could put important work by grantees out of commission
- Transportation is the largest emitter of carbon in the state. With EPA general assistance funds, Tribes are asked to provide information related to climate change and fuel-efficient vehicles are one way to respond – watershed councils might be able to incorporate this into their plans. τ
- Develop a pilot program to see how this will all work τ
- TNC has significant interest, experience, and technical expertise in terms of both climate adaptation and resilience and mitigation and Natural Climate Solutions (NCS). Part of the long-term vision for our NCS strategy is to provide technical resources and support learning that can encourage more NCS projects statewide. As we develop tools and research, we are open to opportunities to collaborate with OWEB and potential applicants. For example, we could share initial, coarse estimates of riparian reforestation carbon benefits and our plans for quantifying carbon from riparian reforestation projects in the next few years (which could yield future technical assistance resources). σ
- Climate is the reason to get people moving but it is the loss of our biodiversity that will be our demise. The loss of biodiversity is paramount of an issue as is climate change. σ
- Recently OWEB's level of managing grantee's management has been challenging. OWEB needs to rely on making wise business decisions based on grantee past performance and rely less on imposing more management based on hard lessons. σ
- Rulemaking has been used as a tool of violence for the dispossession and genocide of Indigenous people, and Indigenous people are making strides, but still are not in positions of authority that allow for them to be represented in rulemaking. Scientific research has also been used as a tool of violence to tribal communities, and Indigenous knowledge does not need to be validated by academia to be efficient and true. σ
- There is an abundance of work being done and that needs to be done, to prepare for the future. So please do not come from a scarcity mindset - find ways to bring abundance and joy to this work. σ
- No reasonable person would deny the long-term threat of climate change to salmon survival (or our own survival for that matter). Climate change will require a global response. Funding to address environmental issues is already rare. Any action that filters salmon recovery efforts by their capacity to effect climate change is tantamount to weighing whether you need a new roof while your house is on fire. σ
- Do all that is possible to keep stream water temperatures under control as much as practicable as the climate changes - from funding tree planting programs to identifying cold water sources. σ

- I am concerned that rulemaking that mandates or requires carbon or other GHG sequestration will result in landowners being unable to sell carbon or other offset credits on property protected with OWEB funds. σ
- Forest fires, including traditional ecological knowledge, prescribed burning opportunities, leverage state and federal funds. Working with all state for urban agriculture local foods, drought improvements. σ
- Soil health, the right management practices and water is essential to agriculture productivity and the ability of folks to make a living farming and ranching. Watershed and overall landscape health is essential, and we must be prepared to adapt and mitigate to climate change. σ
- From my past experience (i.e., working with prior OWEB staff), I would say embrace counter approaches. That is, just because your staff doesn't like it because: 1) runs counter to their beliefs, or 2) how they interpret the goals and objectives ~ does not make them wrong. Next, you need to get all other State natural resource departments - ODFW, ODF, OWRD, OPRD, etc. on the same page. σ
- OWEB should be interested in increasing climate change funding (carbon credits, etc.), not limiting its use σ
- Although it is very important to think about how to make projects climate friendly, the real work needs to be done on a large scale and through policy on where there can be real and tangible results. This needs to target the larger impacts where there can be meaningful gains, or through projects that are focused on emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, and protection of carbon storage. Not every project is, and many restoration projects have numerous other benefits that should be equally valued. σ
- There may be work that is essential to a healthy ecosystem (prescribed fires, upland work, and so on) that creates emissions instead of reduces them, and this is something else for OWEB to consider, and we encourage you to continue to value this kind of work that leads to more resilient landscapes, too. σ
- Below-ground carbon and moisture need to be included in priorities. Clear-cutting reduces stream flow (and likely soil moisture and groundwater, as well) for several years, and needs to be reduced. The fastest carbon sequestration will occur in the coastal zone where forest growth is the fastest. Emphasis on reforestation should be prioritized in the coastal region. Please consider funding a couple sites of demonstration, educational forests where timber lands are taken out of rotation and converted over time to mature, complex forest structures, with educational trails and programs. σ
- All of our associates understand how to protect bodies of water. Your entity has continuously, since inception, been focused on politicizing the department with all intentions aimed toward unproven science and outcomes. Oregon is overburdened with departments providing little value to citizens and businesses. If you compare your successes with the total dollars spent, and an accountability dismissing those responsible for failure, our PERS liability would be less. σ

- Please consider going back to your roots as an organization. You cannot successfully fix or address all the problems in the World, or just in Oregon. When you stretch your mission into these narrow corners, you dilute your effectiveness overall. Conservation work, writ large, has built-in climate change outcomes; don't overlook these or try to reinvent the wheel. [o]

5. What opportunities and challenges should OWEB consider as we pursue incorporating diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles in our funding decisions?[3]

- We commend OWEB for its focus on DEIJ principles. In the context of funding forest conservation and restoration projects, there is opportunity to help economically underserved rural communities. Restoring towards more natural, resilient forest structure entails significant job creation. And crucially, Oregon's indigenous tribes possess significant traditional ecological knowledge that should be incorporated into the process.
- TNC offers the following principles to guide OWEB learning and action in this area:
    - Explicitly consider "benefits" and "burdens" from conservation projects & status quo using disaggregated socio-economic data whenever possible (acknowledging though, that this is likely beyond the technical capacity of many grantees and would require significant technical support).
    - Approach frontline and environmental justice (EJ) communities through an "asset based" versus a more common "deficit based" lens to help promote community agency and self-determination.
    - Invest time in developing long-term relationships; be careful that incorporation of DEI and EJ principles doesn't unintentionally promote transactional or extractive relationships between OWEB/grantees and frontline or EJ communities.
- Put underserved communities at the table with decision making power. The Tribes have understanding about resilience that should be centered in this work.
- The term environmental justice is a loaded and unclear as how it is being used. The term means the fair treatment of all people, but here there is a focus of only people from the underrepresented and impacted communities. What does that mean? Again, the approach is people-centric, it needs to be first and foremost ecologically-centric and those underrepresented and impacted communities. From an ecological perspective, we would argue that at a project 100s of species and habitat components and their functions that are provided need to be assessed not just a few!
- DEIJ is not going to be a one-size-fits-all consideration with climate change. Challenge: prioritizing DEIJ work with other prioritizes; how to balance investments; some projects will have a high DEIJ component and others won't. DEIJ is adding to the work we are already doing and some projects might be more climate-justice focused than others (i.e., conservation mosaic). Also, worth noting that OWEB should consider integrating DEIJ principles throughout the agency. Inequities and injustices exist in all facets of conservation work.
- Historically underserved populations often are impacted most heavily by climate change. OWEB already excels at communicating with those populations (e.g., Tribes, farmworker groups, etc.) and should get ideas from them regarding this question.

[3] All responses are from the survey

- Find ways to support engagement - open, honest engagement without pre-determined outcomes. OHA had a great funding announcement earlier in 2022 that (in part) supported climate change and community engagement work. Could OWEB partner with OHA to support more of that kind of funding and work and learn from the DEI perspectives OHA included in their grant-making? That would be great!
- As we are all discussing in our own exploration of DEI - all of this takes time. Supporting time takes money. Organizations want to do the hard work of DEI but it demands committed investment - to listen, learn, show up, and not bring pre-determined outcomes or demands to the table. Can OWEB support this time or partner with a funder than can support this time?
- Work with groups that are already working in these communities to develop rule and programs that address these principles. Be prepared to pay them for their time.
- Larger organizations with additional capital will be better situated to adapt to OWEB requirements and may have a leg up in having funding awarded. This means that these larger, well-established organizations (and the limited geographies they serve) may receive a larger piece of funding. For an ecosystem to be resilient, especially in light of a changing climate, the lion's share of the work cannot be done in a few select rivers, areas, or geographies. OWEB should consider providing additional resources to smaller organizations to help address these equity issues and to increase resiliency state-wide. One option OWEB could consider is reducing the significant other administrative burdens that OWEB requires elsewhere within projects (one example, funding requests for OWEB can take days of work sometimes) and within application processes (OWEB grant applications can often take upwards of 100+ hours of work to put together the written portion alone of one application - to quantify, that would be roughly $4,500 in staff time at a loaded rate. This does not even take into consideration project development time, landowner outreach, and so on, which can be hundreds more hours). These projects may not be funded. These time commitments impact smaller organizations to a greater extent due to limited capacity and reducing time small organizations are spending on these processes could allow limited funding to go to work that is helping to build a more resilient climate.
- Recognizing that certain groups may not have the resources to internalize additional cost to project to accomplish the best climate consideration BMPs and not withholding restoration funding based on a group's capacity in that regard.
- A cost/benefit analysis on all decisions.
- Outreaching to these populations and letting them know there are resources available for them. Lowering the match requirement and making the grant programs more accessible for these landowners. Part of this would involve providing more capacity to smaller watershed councils. Or providing state agency support for implementing programs.
- Small, underrepresented groups need unique funding assistance with upfront funding to support better proposal development (because it is time-intensive)

- Lots of flexibility in definitions. Likely many applicants will already be doing this work to some extent or need to incorporate this work with other work, such as community building or education.
- You all should experience some justice-related programming
- Opportunity to work with BIPOC organizations to get this work done. Need more outreach and BIPOC staff / board members that understand these communities.
- Tribes can bring a wealth of historical and current knowledge to the table. Watershed Council, NPO, local citizens can also provide invaluable information. I believe the challenge is in creating a system where others can be used to move a project forward efficiently vs a forum of critics.
- Colonialism and state violence are huge drivers of the climate crisis; how will OWEB's climate resolution support projects that seek to address these injustices that fuel the climate crisis? How will OWEB prioritize lessons FROM Indigenous people BY Indigenous people?
- Think about the capacity of the Tribes when making the funding decision. How can they best utilize the funds? Does the reporting create a burden to their administration?
- This is a very interesting question. I know that some in eastern Oregon, especially rural people feel disadvantaged and there is some truth to that in terms of access public services, income, health care etc., and that climate change will impact these folks, many who make less money and are older than a lot of Oregonians. So, anything that can be done to improve access to food, environmental quality, public services jobs, food access, healthcare, etc. would be good. Also, to live in places not subject to flooding. Many of these folks make their living in natural resources - farming, logging, fishing (seafood), etc. and watershed health is very important to these endeavors. Work on watersheds and other climate mitigation and adaptation projects could be good work opportunities. Also, the tribes must be engaged whenever possible on both trust and ceded treaty lands. I think a one-size fits all DEI approach should not be used but each region in Oregon should be considered differently when it comes to applying these criteria.
- Do not require DEI deliverables such as number of BIPOC people served, etc. Ask applicants to include DEI principles and concepts in the development of their projects, as applicable. Grant reporting on DEI should be open-ended. Finally, evaluate where OWEB is relative to the DEI goals for external projects. What is the diversity of the OWEB board and program staff? Is there opportunity to increase diversity internally?
- This creates another opportunity for "creative grant writing". What is the mission of OWEB and how does this meet the mission?
- Challenge: Ensuring that as many people as possible can participate in informational events. Opportunities:
    - Time meetings so that as many people as possible can attend, including some evening and weekend gatherings.
    - Record meetings but rebroadcast them with a live person available to answer questions.
- Challenge: Communities have set ways and DEIJ efforts must often use approaches that are uncomfortable because they differ from the habits established in the community.

    - Opportunity: Find and encourage techniques that will include a broad spectrum of people in the discussion, including outside facilitators, new approaches to outreach.
- Funding decisions should be made based on OWEB's goals and mission statement. Diversity, equity, and inclusion can be broad terms that may distract funders from excellent projects, no matter which community has proposed them.
- Challenge to define, qualify and quantify DEI in relation to project-based options and decisions
- Make sure all programs and information about the programs are made equally available to all sectors of society
- Acquire the necessary data in order to make the best decisions along these lines.
- If converting to greenhouse gas emissions free or reduced equipment, a large segment of the contract workforce will be potentially excluded from doing watershed restoration work.
- Opportunities to engage underrepresented community members. Challenging to quantify impacts.
- Large landowners and corporate partners offer opportunities to maximize funding, but these entities are not usually diverse, nor equitable for small landowners or peoples who have suffered environmental injustice.
- OWEB's primary goal is to improve water quality and habitat for fish. If too much emphasis was placed on diversity and equity in OWEB funding decisions, this might reduce the effectiveness of the OWEB-funded projects that improve water quality and fish habitat.
- Native lands being sold and desecrated.
- Applicants with diverse staff or beneficiaries may be funded when other projects give better climate benefits
- OWEB might consider including outreach funds in various grant opportunities. Projects will be enhanced by connecting with local communities, but often those communities are not already connected with the organizations doing OWEB-funded work.
- OWEB must recognize there is no "one way" to connect with and enjoy the natural world. Having more flexibility in terms of what kinds of improvements, and enhancements are helpful will allow for a diversity of ways to access nature.
- Fund more rural projects over urban ones is an opportunity. What do these issues have to do with climate change?
- Foolish. You are going to give preference because of race, or lack of proven ability to financially complete projects over knowledgeable businesses and contractors. That has proven to be a huge waste of tax dollars and the public resents the non-elected, unaccountable people and panels who make those decisions.

6. What opportunities and challenges should OWEB consider as we initiate outreach and engagement to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities?[4]

- We suggest OWEB consider the following options to ensure traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities can access OWEB grant opportunities:
    - Increase effective outreach to a broader suite of potential applicants—using more listservs, doing direct outreach to organizations representative of underserved communities, and creating space outside of traditional working hours for questions & discussion of grant opportunities. Specifically, OWEB must find time to engage traditionally underrepresented communities outside of traditional working hours, within other forums that may only be tangentially watershed-related, and/or provide compensation & technical support to qualifying organizations that would otherwise be unable to competitively apply for OWEB grants.
    - Some grant programs have explored small incentive 'offsets' for capacity/funding-limited organizations to simply apply, because difficult/complex application processes are an innate systematic barrier to small organizations that may otherwise provide a great deal of value towards DEI/EJ goals.
    - OWEB needs to also consider the cost of building relationships and partnerships prior to their grant application. We hosted over 100 tours/meetings for one project prior to submitting to OWEB. This type of collaborative engagement is not free and, at a minimum, should be able to be counted as in-kind match towards the project application.
    - OWEB's FIP program may be a useful model for how to approach longer-term relationship and capacity building with communities and organizations that need additional support to be able to apply for OWEB grants.
- Focus on Ecosystem Services to those communities: their loss(es) or those they need to be replaced or enhanced.
- There is a real opportunity for OWEB to show up in these communities and listen to their truths and experiences. OWEB should show up prepare to acknowledge previous (and current) injustices and inequities in the way it administers its grant programs. OWEB should tie into Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) Oregon Land Justice Project which seeks to increase Indigenous access, ownership and stewardship to land. Many of COLT's member's projects rely on OWEB funding and there is a good opportunity for OWEB to support this mission through its grant making process.
- OWEB is great at outreach and has cultivated strong partnerships with underrepresented communities. Encourage those communities to identify

[4] All responses are from the survey

opportunities and challenges both for outreach efforts and for funding efforts to help them mitigate and adapt to climate change.

- Be open to concerns and integrate representatives from these communities in formal decision making.
- OWEB should build meaningful relationships within these groups, and should also seek the perspective from organizations that have established relationships with these impacted communities.
- Provide incentives and resources as needed.
- More reliable funding is needed for outreach. Outreach that is impactful… free plants, free weed treatments, etc. Oftentimes underrepresented and impacted communities don't have the time to reach out to councils and develop a grant. Make the process easier and less cumbersome on the recipients.
- Do you know what those communities want to see done with these projects in general? Focus groups are a scientifically defensible method used to learn what a given constituent wants/needs from a given program
- Initial misunderstanding or miseducation on climate impacts and challenges and how it affects the end user.
- In-person communication as opposed to virtual communication. Outreach through trusted community organizations who have trust built in the community.
- Pay folks to do this work, pay folks to apply for funding, so if not funded they are continued to be under-resourced.
- Various languages, face-to-face staff meetings with diverse staff that can work collectively with the diverse Oregon organizations that represent BIPOC communities.
- I work for a Tribe that was here long before there was a state of Oregon. There has never been a listed fish under Tribal management. I've watched our Tribe and others sink millions in salmon recovery. Tribes inherited a slew of environmental issues and have been consistently underrepresented and underfunded. I would like to see a priority placed on Tribally sponsored projects.
- Pandemic has created more opportunities for disabled and chronically ill communities to participate in discussions like never before, how does OWEB plan to incorporate virtual meeting spaces and opportunities to continue this engagement?
- Each Tribe has different capacities – some have staffing issues; some have knowledge challenges. Don't create one solution for all.
- Each geographic region and often communities have their own characteristics. Don't think an approach in the Portland Metro Region will work in Klamath County or Grant County. Be flexible and tailor the approach.
- OWEB will need increased and sustained staff capacity to build relationships and trust and shared purpose for engaging.
- Opportunities: Provide extra funds, and administrative assistance, to support projects that hire individuals from underrepresented groups to participate in forest and other habitat restoration work. And/or, make funds available to assist the building of a work corp of underrepresented individuals, including high school students and

adults, who could work with different organizations to help implement their projects (like CCC, but available by contract to Trusts and other groups.)

- A challenge for OWEB will be determining who traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities are. There will be differing opinions here.
- Opportunity to more fully engage tribal TEK into project prioritization, planning and design options
- Make sure that awarding of funds for all programs are awarded based on the merit of the project and not who the submitted the project. Could be interesting to see how funding opportunities are awarded without knowing the grantee information prior to making the selection. Granted experience and assurance that there is carry through are important, which is a challenge but should not be the only driving factor.
- Ensure that large and small contractors are engaged from all over the state. You will most certainly get a diverse set of responses and will be able to better understand the challenges and opportunities statewide. Rural and Urban and Geographically Diverse companies must be engaged.
- Will be important to provide education to ensure all participants have similar baseline knowledge, and feel confident participating fully
- These underrepresented and impacted communities are often unrecognized by organizations like OWEB. First, make an effort to identify who is being impacted.
- How will OWEB define what are considered "underrepresented and impacted communities?"
- Educate, people in poorer communities have a smaller IQ. Ignorance creates emission through lack of knowledge on how creating waste effects the population around you.
- Reach out to organizations and schools in more diverse states
- Outreach funding will help organizations connect to underrepresented communities in their area of influence.
- As long as “communities” are a location, not a class or group of people, fine. If “communities” is a group, or class of people, expect more than resentment by voters.

7. Public listening sessions and tribal listening session large group discussion questions and input

I. What is your biggest concern about this resolution?

i. Capacity & Equity

- Rural, isolated, generationally impoverished watersheds have limited capacity compared to other parts of the state in getting good contractors. How does this affect our competitiveness regarding our contractors' abilities?
    - Smaller watershed councils, smaller contract organizations may go out of business because of unequal competition for funding. Local contractors concerned because it is not financially feasible to change equipment to meet criteria; they could then focus less on restoration work and transition to timber/road building.
- Concerns around equity; worried folks with more funds will have the opportunity to be more climate conscious and win the funding
- Rural communities
- Administrative burden to the field teams
- Inequity: small towns, small businesses may be less able to compete
- Concern about the administrative burden to the watershed councils in terms of 'checking boxes' for mitigation (most projects are centered around adaptation). Would like it to be flexible in the field so grantees are less concerned about meeting requirements on paper and more concerned with project success.
- Local contracting options may not have the resources to change to travel options or machines that reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Concerns around the capacity of folks to quantify benefits
- Limited capacity to do extra work in grant applications; cannot turn this program into a disincentive
- Many projects already doing this; this could add unnecessary extra work
- Many emissions reduction practices already happening; other changes unattainable (e.g., changeover in equipment is a large investment)
- Equity challenges, including barriers to accessing programs, time needed to address considerations, and relationships with partners who are essential to be competitive and successful in accessing resources, especially around acquisitions
- Oregon's geography is diverse and climate-smart actions vary across the state; worry that the requirements will not be general or inclusive enough to represent all organizations' project lenses
- Unintended consequences: small local community farms, and their benefits to climate and to others, would ultimately produce small metrics and could appear unimportant
- Consider moving councils along faster on vehicle changes; for example, could OWEB offer a one-time investment for each council receiving a council capacity grant to purchase an electric vehicle (car or truck)? If you use $40K (on average) it would total about $2.4 million total to cover 56 councils.

ii. Messaging & Education

- Slow-to-implement solutions that are heavy on process steps feel unhelpful when communities are faced with the immediate threat of natural disasters (primarily wildfires)
- Mitigation needs education – what specific mitigation tasks are possible?
    - Contractors limited in electrical equipment
    - Not everyone can change tactics at the same rate
- Leaning too hard on climate change can create (political) barriers

iii. Current Projects & How This Fits

- Climate work rarely changes practices being done by OWEB grantees; much work currently being done fits in these climate categories
    - To show emphasis on these practices, would it eliminate more general benefits to climate resilience/mitigation? If yes, this could lead to inequities among conservation practitioners.
- Will it skew types of funded projects? Take money from restoration projects and send it to a narrow margin of projects? (e.g., if OWEB goes hard on one direction, such as carbon sequestration)
- Not sure how to change what we are currently doing; difficult to judge projects that are currently within a climate lens – will need to be very specific in the application process itself about what does/does not count
- A goal in the climate resolution is to bring climate considerations into the agency – is the intent to have applicants do that, and is the burden on them? Avoid onus on applicants/be careful of what you are asking applicants to do. [T]
    - Great work is already occurring; what is developed should be usable by applicants. Make this additive to the work already occurring, rather than an extra layer of work [T]
    - Do not put an extra onus on the groups doing good work now – need to make the link on how projects address climate change [T]
    - Projects already address adaptation and mitigation, so find ways to make it easier for applicants to make this additive (i.e., carbon mitigation and adaptation are additional benefits provided by projects that OWEB funds) [T]
- Work is already occurring – how to account for that in existing projects is what OWEB may be looking for [T]
- Perhaps OWEB could consider a new grant type program focused solely on climate change? It would place more emphasis on the topic, allow for faster movement on this topic, and would 'shelter' existing grant programs from too much change moving them away from their core purpose.

iv. Quantification & Tools

- Difficult to quantify sequestration benefits; makes applications difficult
    - How does this complicate monitoring and verification down the grant road?
        - Recommend that OWEB does not require farms to do verification, as it can be a deterrent to engaging in program

    - How will OWEB know the claims (i.e., in terms of mitigation benefits) are real?
        - Can we begin climate lens as a qualitative program, where evaluating and quantifying climate benefits come in later?
- Avoid problems in carbon market itself – priorities do not necessarily align with OWEB's values (e.g., clear-cut forests); think about goals (e.g., fish conservation vs. carbon sequestration)
- Concerns with OAHP becoming overly carbon-focused, specifically in terms of carbon quantification
- Will OWEB provide tools (e.g., carbon calculator)?
- Difficult to track metrics; takes expertise and money (e.g., who pays for this?)
- Tools are available, but not a lot of validation is available when it comes to agricultural projects. Also, consider how climate considerations would be evaluated (e.g., two different review teams – one that looks at current OWEB considerations, one that evaluates climate). This would be very difficult to implement for applicants. T
- Good idea to talk about and move forward with carbon capture (or some form of it) but trying to understand how it will work. For example, how do you measure and monitor carbon for livestock, forest management, etc.? T
    - Doing a climate project now with California, and it is a ton of work (i.e., for foresters) to have auditors and third parties come in. Do not know how OWEB will do this – cost factor might be a substantial challenge, as well as practical considerations. T
    - How to deal with OWEB projects that get caught up in a fire event? T
    - Younger forests act as more of a carbon sink than old growth, some education is warranted. T
- How does criteria evaluate projects that may release carbon but, long-term, enhance carbon sequestration or have other benefits?
    - Restoration is currently a short-term climate emitter
    - On the eastside, a lot of work goes into juniper removal. Those trees are capturing carbon but are not good for native range habitat. T
    - Many Tribes are pushing for cultural burning in forests; there is a tradeoff as carbon is put in the air, but this action potentially avoids catastrophic wildfire and much greater carbon emissions (and reduced habitat). T

v. Other Concerns

- In the climate resolution, it says "engage traditionally underrepresented communities", which sounds like a check box. Change the verbiage to say 'include' in how we implement. T
- Safeguards around tribal/treaty rights and cultural practices – some considerations would need to be given here if accounting is included T
- Forestry and animal agriculture are the biggest polluters. Where do we ensure enforcement in this?
- Spend too much time and money on meetings and developing written documents and policy and not as much on actionable impact and implementation. How to turn into action? This could become a box-checking exercise without driving any change.
- Concerns in the logging community about hydraulic fluid being dumped into watersheds

- "Dragging logs" and other efforts will be in vain if otter migration is not mitigated
- Water well applications are approved without being evaluated; many cannabis farms are not regulated and are stealing water resources
- Lack of infrastructure to make the most effective changes (e.g., filtering ash from streams after fires)
- Lack of usable data
- A political change in office could halt or impede efforts (e.g., encouraging climate-friendly development in central Oregon, but there are a lot of political pressures)
- Could it impact construction bidding? For example, commutes impacting carbon footprints.
- Restoration on private lands is voluntary – if we are too invasive, landowners could become less willing to do this work
- Investing in projects that will have limited longevity – they will be eclipsed by the speed of change, so where do transformative (i.e., radically different priorities or approaches) come in?

II. What is the best this resolution could do for Oregon & Oregon's watersheds (or for your Tribe)?

- Brings climate change to a different level in discussions across the state. Restoration has existed for a long time, but this forces us to move forward even more.
- Many projects exist with this lens in mind but do not necessarily direct all our thinking towards taking that stride. Incentives offer the opportunity to think through those other steps, usually looked over, and revisit how else it could be done with a climate focus in mind. But this directive could also represent challenges in implementation.
- Good thing to do, be careful how you do it and think of unintended consequences – it could impact the amount of future restoration actions in some rural communities
    - Goals of this resolution is what we have been working for – it is important to get these changes/aspirations documented and it is an opportunity to develop and share new tools to document carbon release/sequestration
- Electric tool technologies new and upcoming
- Link effort with DLCD and protecting forests and farms, halting suburban expansion in central Oregon
- Success! That things get better – communities can build resilient landscapes.
- No regrets – watershed health benefits from these changes no matter how far the climate stretches
- Whether or not the climate shifts to the degree that scientists say it will, implementing projects that have strong adaptation benefits and that enhance resilience is a "no-regrets strategy"
- Projects that will help enhance fish passageways, pool flow, complex habitat, will do a lot of great things without necessarily "looking through the lens" of climate change
- Excited about the possibility of integrating climate lens into agricultural grant programs (e.g., OAHP)

    - Possibility of monetary incentives to farmers/ranchers for practices that have the potential to sequester carbon and promote resilience, but avoid monitoring and verification requirements (or people will not engage as you hope they will)
- Larger opportunity to track carbon sequestration across different landscapes
    - Benefit the larger conservation community; spread of knowledge and assessing carbon benefits regarding land use
- Good opportunity to coordinate and collaborate with other agencies and organizations (e.g., the Columbia River Gorge Commission) to build new tools and maximize learning together
- Incentivize changes in mom & pop shops
- Standardize what projects benefit climate in which way
- Prioritize projects that go above and beyond; prioritize where we do projects
- OWEB can lead the charge in establishing climate-smart activities in grassroots movements
- Increased opportunity to tell grantees/applicant's stories to reach a wider audience with different, novel metrics
- Oregon can be a leader in implementing guidelines and rules, helping onlookers in adopting these guidelines, too
- Opportunity to move already-established climate resistance projects further towards climate-smart actions
- Opportunity to establish partnerships
- Potential to snowball other projects to existence in this space

III. Input from breakout room discussions

- Clarify what OWEB is looking for, including what a "good" answer is to climate questions
- OWEB-produced carbon calculator or tool
- Leverage other sources of funding to add to core funds shared with grantees
- Build awareness (grantees, contractors, etc.)
- Opportunity to create a climate-focused grant program. Could offer incentives for contractors to engage in electrical equipment transitions.
- Types of projects that organizations are already doing, and they are at capacity. They have no time for trainings, research, etc.
- Make the application as easy as possible
- How can OWEB streamline process to account for projects/applications ALREADY including climate-smart actions?
- Can we amplify the work being done to exemplify climate-smart actions?
- Avoid burdening grantees with quantifying metrics
- Focusing on conservation on the ground should take precedence over greenhouse gas emission reduction, recognizing that other state agencies can better target emission reductions
- Tracking metrics and quantify impacts of projects when it comes to climate. Folks don't know where to access the appropriate information.

- Equipment upgrades, not much available at the time. Represents opportunity for OWEB to provide more funds to folks looking to make this transition. Challenge: maintenance of these tools
- Could pose a barrier to hiring local contractors
- One rule may not be applicable to different communities and transitioning to that/those rules will not proceed at the same speed re: equity
- Adaptations are often not different than what you're doing! What's different is the explicit intent, and with that intent offers the opportunity to make small changes that domino into greater change.
- Folks worried we're moving too fast, not enough time to adjust to new evals
- Grant writing prohibitive regarding time. Can OWEB grant process give us a clue if we're doing the right thing? (Process-based efficiency)
- Rise in costs → makes you less competitive
- Large projects need specialized equipment with short-term carbon impact, BUT they impact climate resiliency of ecosystems. Folks already doing this work but not all grantees are on equal footing re: resources to complete applications. Need for balance thinking about inequities re: capacity.
- Monitor emissions without getting in the way of on-the-ground work. Recognizing long-game carbon offsets, and not letting one factor overrule potential project benefits
- Equipment conversions is expensive; can OWEB provide funds?
- Oregon varies widely. Different regions have different 1) capacity and resources; 2) climate understanding and acceptance; and 3) community resilience considerations, challenges and necessary actions
- Opportunity for training and learning together
- Support for OWEB taking an iterative approach to rulemaking. Learn and make changes along the way
- Converting current tools and equipment to electric (and the associated cost burden). Keeping in mind the variable climate and potentials for carbon sequestration may be bigger in some areas.
- Shared metrics in climate mitigation efforts will be a big and necessary component.