THE OREGON PLAN
FOR SALMON & WATERSHEDS
2023-25 Biennial Report

Photo of Klamath River after dam removal (Resource Environmental Services).

INTRODUCTION

For over 25 years, Oregonians have dedicated state resources to support salmon recovery and watershed health through constitutionally allocated Lottery funds. The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan) is the framework for these investments.

On-the-ground work to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and stream flows is led by local watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts alongside state and federal agencies, Tribal governments, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and local citizens.

Every two years, Oregon Plan agencies report investments and accomplishments. This report also incorporates recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to enhance the effectiveness of Oregon Plan implementation.

How are we doing?

Oregon has seen exciting progress in several aspects of salmon recovery and watershed conditions, and continues to see some serious challenges.

- Due to many factors, including collaborative efforts to improve salmon habitat, **Oregon Coastal Coho have recovered** to the level that the state is on a path to request removal from the Endangered Species list.
- Changing climate conditions will significantly impact stream flows across the state**. Reduced stream flows and warmer water are a threat** to salmon recovery and resiliency.
- Out of the native fish species monitored by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, **88% are showing stable to increasing levels of abundance.**
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality continues to provide funding through **grants and loan programs to reduce pollution** in Oregon's waterways. Examples include the Nonpoint Source Implementation (319) grants and the Clean Water Revolving Fund.
- Oregon Water Resources Department **restored flows for fish in 25% of watersheds** by leasing water instream or converting hydroelectric water rights instream. Since 2023, an additional 9,944.17 cfs has been protected instream.

Recommendations from the OWEB Board

In 2024, the OWEB Board refreshed its strategic plan to incorporate learnings over the past five years and serve as a guide through 2028. The priorities reflect the agency's origins in the Oregon Plan and serve as recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of the Plan.

Priority 1: Through OWEB's grantmaking, build awareness of the relationship between people and watershed protection and restoration.

Priority 2: Leverage our OWEB's position as an anchor funder to engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.

Priority 3: Use OWEB's funding to strengthen and leverage the capacity of people and organizations to achieve healthy watersheds.

Priority 4: Advance learning about watershed protection and restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring.

Priority 5: Increase investments connecting urban and working lands to watershed health.

Priority 6: Take bold and innovative action toward funding projects that advance climate resilience.

Investments and Accomplishments

OWEB was established as a state agency in 1997 to administer grant funds for watershed restoration, clean water, and fish and wildlife habitat. **During the 2023-2025 biennium, OWEB awarded $139,002,823* for watershed enhancement projects in Oregon.** This includes funding from the Oregon Lottery, federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (including additional investments from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act), Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, salmon license plate revenues, and other sources.

OWEB partners use these dollars to leverage significant match funding from other agencies and organizations—increasing the impact of OWEB funding throughout the state. Partners report match funding alongside project data to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), a database maintained by OWEB. The purpose of OWRI is to document how public funds are spent; quantify restoration and conservation results to inform future planning, management, and conservation efforts; and recognize the contributions made by various partners.

*Data from the OWEB Grant Management System, July 1, 2023 -June 30, 2025.

Match Contributions

%	Participant	Amount
54%	Federal	$39,689,139
16%	State	$11,756,694
13%	Local/City/County government	$9,144,093
1%	Private industrial landowners	$484,364
9%	Private non-industrial landowners	$6,724,057
5%	Conservation & Community Groups	$3,483,002
2%	Tribes	$1,428,278
<1%	Other	$166,738
	Total	**$72,876,365**

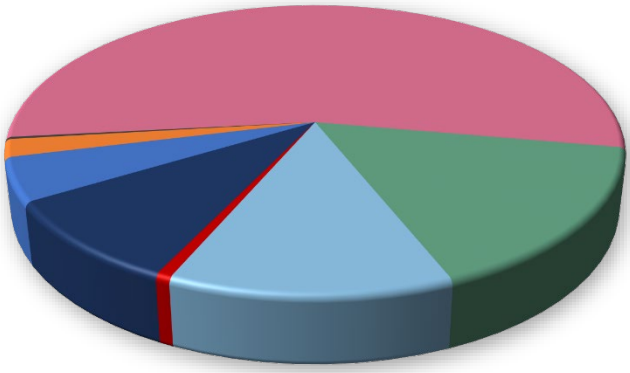


Figure 1. OWEB publishes OWRI data by calendar year, so this report includes 2023 and 2024 data available at the time of publication.

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., Streamside Plantings)	154	44	41	**239** miles
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., Wood Placement)	118	60	213	**391** miles
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible (due to stream crossing improvements)	53	15	65	**133** miles
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	43	14	32	**89** crossings
Push-Up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	3	1	0	**4** push-up dams
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	20	0	0	**20** screens
Upland Acres (e.g., Juniper Thinning, Seeding)	57,244	58,387	26,949	**142,580** acres
Wetland Acres (e.g., Wetland Habitat Created)	4,867	357	5	**5,229** acres
Miles of Road Closure and Decommissioning	18	46	105	**169** miles
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., Erosion Control)	20	0	6	**26** miles
Miles of Riparian Invasive Vegetation Treatments	173	--	--	**173** miles

Figure 2. Metrics for watershed restoration activities completed and reported from 1/1/2023 to 12/31/2024 as reported by state and voluntary sources (OWEB's Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory). Where comparable data standards were applied, metric data is provided from the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and U.S. Forest Service [USFS]. Federal information excludes projects already reported to OWRI. BLM upland habitat reflects significant east-side hazard fuels reduction. USFS metric does not include full total of actual upland acres treated by USFS.

Some organizations, such as private timber companies and small woodland owners, report to OWRI to document additional actions—above and beyond those required by regulations—that they have taken to enhance the state's watersheds. The USFS and BLM provide summary information to OWEB to provide a more comprehensive picture of restoration work across the state. Metrics from OWEB, BLM, and USFS are reported in each Biennial Report.

Oregon Plan Reporting Basin Investments (2023-2025)

The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds defined 15 basins in which actions and investments to benefit fish and wildlife habitat would be reported.

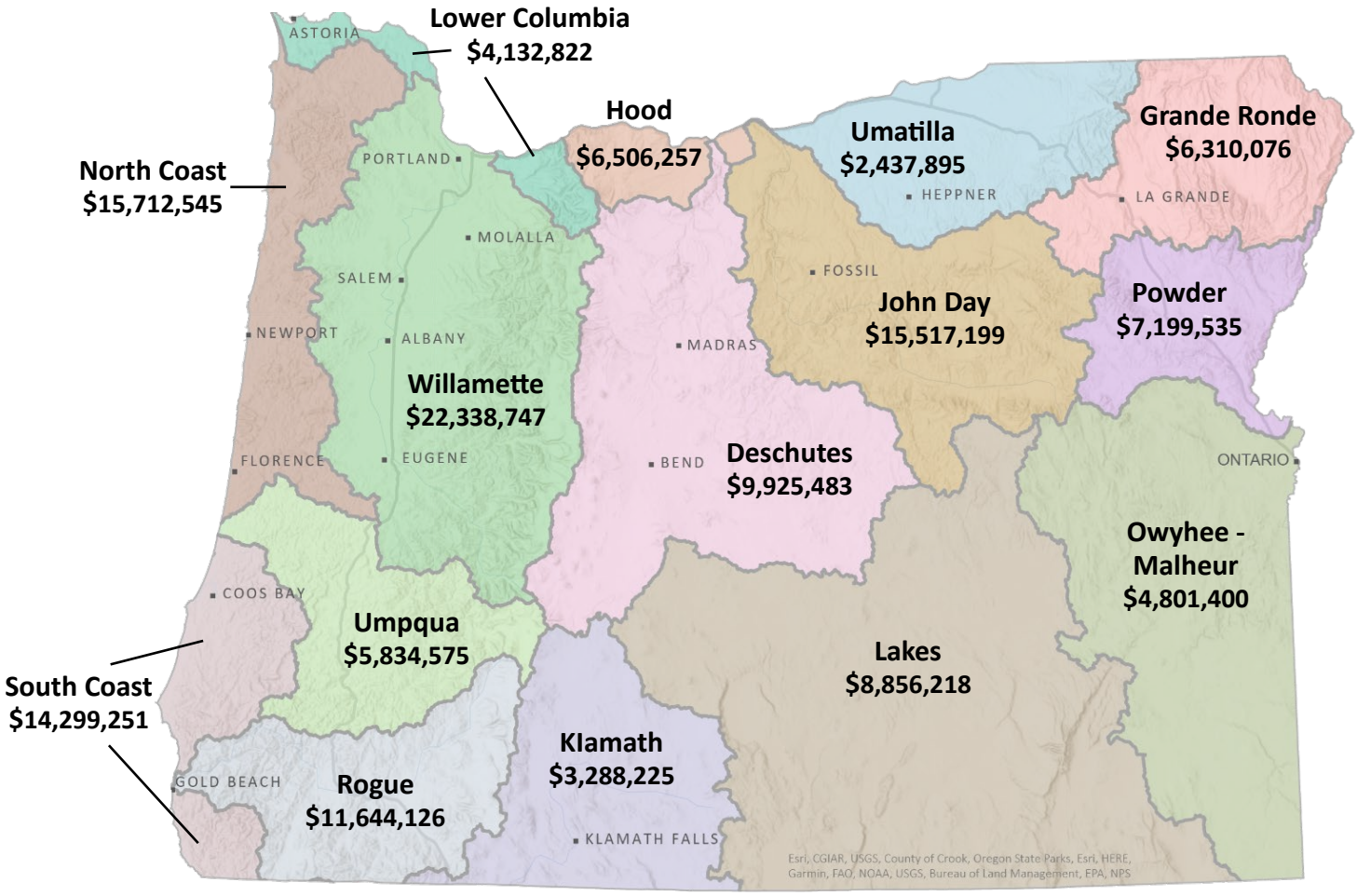
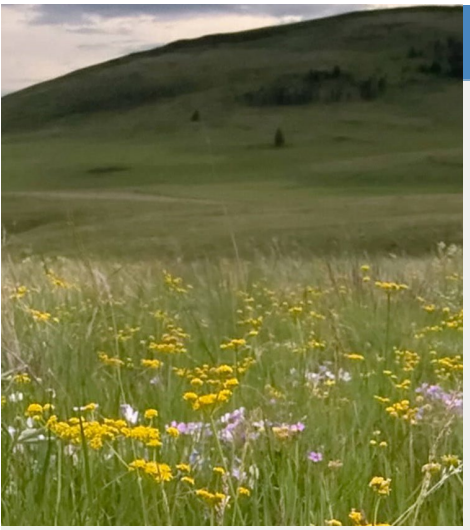


Figure 3. Information is provided about the amount of OWEB funding awarded within each basin. Data is from the OWEB Grant Management System for grants awarded from 7/1/23 through 6/30/25 that were assigned to one of the Oregon Plan reporting basins. Some grants are applicable throughout the state and, therefore, not represented by a specific reporting basin. Because of this, the total OWEB biennial awards reported in the Investments and Accomplishments section of this report is slightly higher than the total of the basin-by-basin summary that follows.

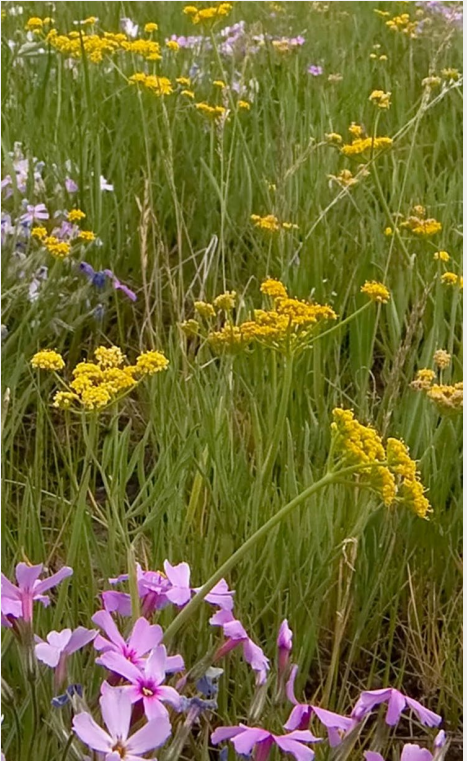


Additional Information Available Online

Telling the Restoration Story Grants

An OWEB grant program called Telling the Restoration Story produces a collection of information and outreach products about grant-funded projects to illustrate restoration outcomes. Information includes videos, fact sheets, story maps, and more.

OWEB has awarded Telling the Restoration Story grants through a small, targeted, non-competitive offering since 2018. OWEB staff work with grantees to identify areas where agency investments have yielded measurable restoration outcomes and describe the factors that contributed to success. Eleven projects have been completed and five additional projects are currently funded, encompassing a variety of restoration actions throughout the state. For more information, see Telling the Restoration Story.



OWEB Investment Tracking Tool

Information about investments in Oregon Plan basins is available through online mapping tools and can be customized into reports for local areas. Oregon Explorer provides access to these statewide datasets and mapping tools. The OWEB Investment Tracking Tool provides information about where OWEB funds are invested across the state. This tool shows grants in progress as well as completed projects.

Oregon Watershed Restoration Tools

Information about OWEB funding and primary grant types is available for each Oregon Plan reporting basin, and can be shown for each subbasin, watershed council, or Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) boundary. Through the Oregon Watershed Restoration Tool, restoration information can be filtered for each of the Oregon Plan basins, sub-basins, or watershed councils. Data can be shown by restoration activity type on the mapping tool by county, legislative districts, or watershed council or SWCD area.

Information for these online tools is uploaded each calendar year and is current as of OWRI's most recent calls for data.

Oregon Plan Agency Programs - Highlights

The work done regularly within state natural resource management agencies is crucial to the Oregon Plan. Selected highlights of programs and recent progress related to the Oregon Plan are described below. Visit "Progress in Oregon Agencies" for in-depth summaries of agency updates.

- **The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board** funded Drinking Water Source Protection grants and worked with other natural resources agencies to administer Natural and Working Lands funding.
- **The 2023 Legislature** made Place-Based Integrated Water Planning a permanent program at OWRD and rules were adopted in March 2025.
- **Business Oregon** awarded Drinking Water Source Protection Fund grants to 17 projects totaling $911,625 to advance drinking water and watershed health protection efforts.
- **Oregon Department of Agriculture** evaluated 1,970 stream miles for opportunities to improve streamside vegetation conditions and partnered with local organizations and landowners to address opportunities for improvement.
- **The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality** began implementing multiple projects to protect the environment from toxic contaminants funded through a 5-year, $6 million Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Program Toxic Reduction Lead Grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency.
- **The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** filed 266 water right applications in the Willamette basin on behalf of Oregon's fish and wildlife to be held in trust by the state. These applications, covering 1,629 river miles, are progressing through the OWRD review process.
- **The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)** led the development of Estuarine Resilience Action Plans for four coastal jurisdictions (Tillamook, Lincoln, Lane, and Coos Counties), supported by two grant awards from the National Coastal Resilience Fund during the 2023-25 biennium.
- **The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department** allocated Salmon Plate funding to several restoration and monitoring projects, including a floodplain and side channel restoration at Big Creek in coastal Lane County in cooperation with the MidCoast Watershed Council during the 23-25 biennium.
- As part of the **Oregon Department of Transportation** (ODOT) Culvert Repair Programmatic Agreement with the **Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife** (ODFW), ODOT supported 8 projects that will improve access to over 74 miles of stream habitat and 180 acres of tidal habitat for native migratory fish.

- In 2024, **Oregon State Marine Board** inspected 18,719 boats to protect the state from harmful invasive species. 272 boats were found with harmful invasive aquatic vegetation, and 6 were found with invasive zebra or quagga mussels.
- **The Oregon Department of Forestry** led work under the Private Forest Accord, resulting in significant revisions to roughly 75% of all forest practice rules (2024) resulting in increased protections.
- **Private forest landowners** invested significantly in Oregon Plan habitat restoration projects, with cumulative investments of $112.5 million in 2023 and $112.78 million in 2024.
- **The Oregon Department of State Lands** worked collaboratively in eastern Oregon to treat nearly 20,000 acres of juniper and invasive grasses and received over 6,800 acres of forestland to manage, creating efficiency among state agencies.
- In 2025, **Oregon's Department of Geology and Mineral Industries** expanded the extent of lidar coverage in Oregon from 66.7% in 2023 to 91.6%. Lidar serves as the State's primary source of high-resolution topographic data and provides essential information about Oregon's watershed and forest conditions.

Oregon Plan Monitoring and Key Data Gaps

Information about Oregon's ongoing water monitoring programs is available online. In addition, Oregon Plan agencies identified the following data gaps at the close of the 2023-2025 biennium:

- A key need relevant to the implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds is access to any information that helps with the prioritization of implementation of projects to protect and improve water quality (ODA).
- Continued coordination and work toward more centralized availability of stream temperature data and refinement of stream flow and temperature models (ODFW).
- Continued refinement of our understanding of habitat conditions and species distributions under scenarios of plausible future conditions (ODFW).
- Widespread availability of thermal infrared imagery of Oregon rivers and waters would be of great benefit for locating and prioritizing targeted actions such as stream bank shading, recreation management in refugia, development of plans for woody debris structures, etc. (OPRD)
- Bathymetric data for estuaries, improved heads of tide locations, location of historic fills in estuaries, opportunities for restoration and compensatory mitigation in estuaries (DLCD).
- Because of the historic loss of forested tidal swamps and eelgrass meadows, there is need for a map and science-based guidance on where to restore tidal swamps and eelgrass meadows under current and future conditions (DLCD).
- Additional data is needed on the location, extent, and functional characteristics of wetlands in areas where pressure for urban development is high. These data can be obtained through new and updated local wetlands inventories following procedures described by the Department of State Lands (DLCD).
- Additional stream gauge data is helpful from a floodplain management perspective (DLCD).
- Further development of the Oregon Water Data Portal. Although efforts in 2023-35 produced a pilot version, sustained efforts and funding will be necessary to fully develop and create a functional centralized data platform to support water management decision-making, and help the state address current and pending water challenges and opportunities (DEQ).
- More routine/comprehensive monitoring for emerging contaminants of concern, which are not yet regulated, that negatively impact the health of humans and salmon (including the effects on salmon populations).