



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item J

Partnership Technical

Assistance Grant Awards

Board Meeting April 25-26, 2023



Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Monitoring and Reporting Manager
Theresa DeBardelaben, Drought Programs Specialist
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J. Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Awards
April 25-26, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2022 Partnership TA grant offering and funding recommendations. Staff requests the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment C to the staff report.

II. Background

At the July 2021 meeting, the board adopted its 2021-2023 spending plan and allocated \$1.5 million for Partnership TA grants, and approved staff to offer two grant cycles this biennium, with \$750,000 being available for each offering. The first offering was awarded in January 2022. There are two project types within the Partnership TA grants, Development, and Capacity. Development applications can develop a strategic action plan (SAP), enhance an existing SAP, and elevate the partnership's performance through the development of governance documents. Capacity applications must have a SAP that aligns with OWEB's template and can support partnership coordination in implementation of the plan.

III. Summary of Solicitation and Review Process

A. Solicitation

In January 2022, staff solicited the second round of Partnership TA grants for the 2021-2023 biennium. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to participate in a consultation with staff. The purpose of the consultation is to review the program's purpose, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing with applicants.

B. Applications Submitted

Nine applications were received by the deadline requesting \$1.09 million. Four applications applied for Capacity funding and five applications applied for Development funding. Applications were submitted from three of OWEB's six regions; a map of the applications can be found in Attachment A to the staff report.

C. Review Process

Applications were evaluated based on the evaluation criteria included in the technical assistance rule OAR 695-030-0045(3), which contains criteria relating to: 1) stakeholder engagement, 2) proposal clarity, 3) technical soundness, and 4) organizational capacity. Reviewers provided a 'fund', 'fund with conditions', or 'do not fund' recommendation, and ranked applications. The application evaluations are in Attachment B to the staff report.

IV. Funding Recommendation

Staff recommends the board award Partnership TA grants as shown in Attachment C.

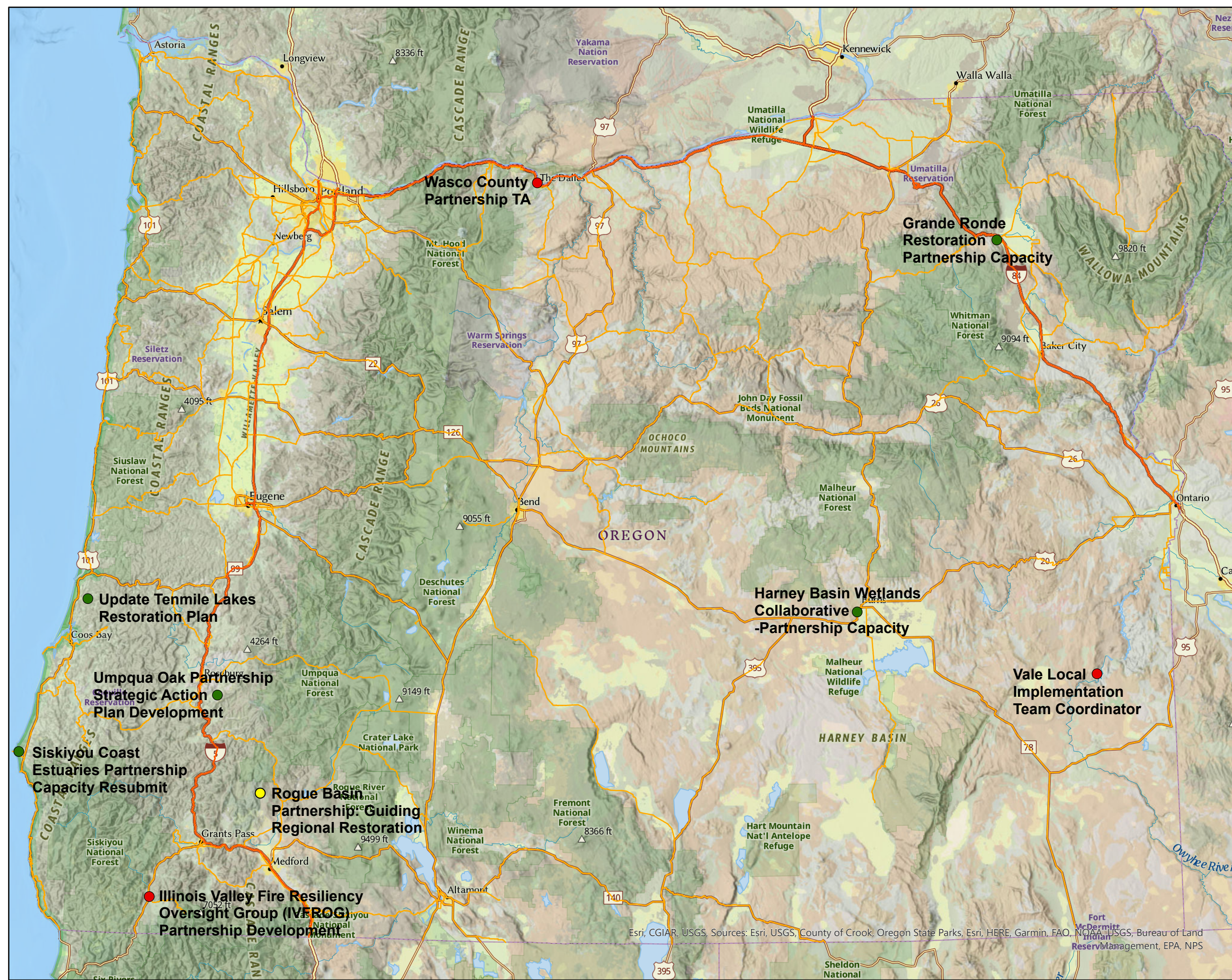
Attachments

- A. Application Map
- B. Evaluations
- C. Staff Funding Recommendations

Partnership Technical Assistance Grants 2022-2023

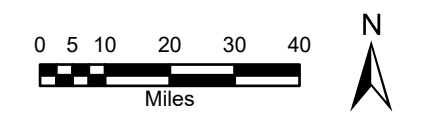
Funding Recommendations

- Status**
- Staff Recommended for Funding
 - Below Funding Line
 - Not Recommended for Funding
 - Interstate Highways
 - Oregon State Highways



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Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Sources: Esri, USGS, County of Crook, Oregon State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle**Application Number:** 223-8301-22663**Application Name:** Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG) Partnership Development**Applicant:** Illinois Valley SWCD**OWEB Request:** \$139,180**Total Cost:** \$239,288**Application Description:**

The project location includes public and private lands within the Illinois River watershed in Josephine County. This area encompasses the rural hubs of Cave Junction, Selma, and Takilma. Specific sub-watersheds are prioritized within the greater basin for landowner engagement and fuels reduction work (see Priority Watersheds attachment).

The mission of the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IV-FROG) is to achieve clear and measurable outcomes relating to the mitigation of catastrophic wildfire risk to the community and improvement of forest health through related silvicultural activities. IV-FROG, now past its initial formation, seeks to increase its durability, sustainability, operational efficiency, and sense of direction. Moreover, IV-FROG aims to increase its competitive advantage in leveraging funding opportunities to achieve our goal of expanding project reach to a landscape scale. This project will maximize the performance of the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IV-FROG) through development of a strategic action plan. This document will be developed cooperatively with a contracted strategic planner, guided by the leadership of the engagement coordinator, and be informed by diversity, equity, inclusion and justice (DEIJ) principles.

Project partners include: Grayback Forestry, Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO), Illinois Valley Fire District, Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD), Illinois Valley Watershed Council (IVWC), KS Wild, National Park Service (NPS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), OSU Extension Service, Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP), Rogue Valley Integrated Fire Plan (RVIFP), Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC), USFS - Wild Rivers Rangers District, Wilson Biochar, Lomakatsi, as well as local community groups and stakeholders.

Review Team Evaluation**Strengths:**

- The partnership has a comprehensive list of partners, representing federal and state agencies, local organizations, and technical experts.

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

- The partnership recognizes the critical role of partners in project success and proposes an approach to ensure quality engagement in planning by financially compensating partners for their time.
- The project provides measurable outcomes relating to the mitigation of catastrophic wildfires and improvement of forest health.

Concerns:

- The application lacks contextual detail about the project deliverables and goals, as well as timelines specific to the Strategic Action Plan (SAP).
- The application would have benefitted from more information on consultant deliverables.
- More information on the connection with forest and watershed health would have benefited the application.
- The application is lacking detail on current and future tribal coordination.

Concluding Analysis:

The Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG) Partnership is a new partnership comprised of a diverse array of appropriate groups that have worked together informally in the past. Their collective momentum is building, and this proposal is an important next step towards formalizing their partnership. The partners have the right technical and collaborative skills to successfully execute a strategic planning effort. The inclusion of key stakeholders for implementation and development of a Strategic Action Plan demonstrates the partnership's forward-thinking towards future restoration actions. However, the application would have benefited from additional detail on goals and timelines.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 7 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$139,180

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Recommend; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$0

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8302-22657

Application Name: Update Tenmile Lakes Restoration Plan

Applicant: Willamette Partnership

OWEB Request: \$149,758

Total Cost: \$187,269

Application Description:

The Tenmile Lakes basin (HUC 1710030404) is located on the Oregon South Coast and encompasses approximately 98 square miles. There are ten named lakes within the watershed with a combined surface area of 4.7 square miles. The City of Lakeside is adjacent to North Tenmile Lake. The watershed spans Coos and Douglas Counties.

The Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership (TLBP) has been convening the Tenmile Lakes watershed group (Partnership) for several years with the goal of restoring water quality in this premiere coho fisheries habitat. In 2021 they completed the Tenmile Lakes Native Fisheries and Water Quality Restoration Plan (Plan) to guide watershed restoration and seek funding for implementation, however, the Plan lacks key components to meet OWEB's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) criteria and the group faces significant capacity constraints. These gaps have been identified by OWEB as significant barriers to successful SAP implementation and to securing funding from state agencies. The Plan therefore needs to be updated to support the Plan's coordinated implementation among partners and to secure the investments needed to restore coho habitat and improve water quality to reduce the frequency and severity of recurring harmful algal blooms.

Proposed Work: Willamette Partnership will update the current Tenmile Lakes Native Fisheries and Water Quality Restoration Plan, develop governance documents, and build local capacity of the Partnership to implement it. Watershed group partners (Partnership) will support this project: Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians (CTCLUSI), Coos County, City of Lakeside, OR DSL, OR DFW, OR DLCD, and Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The detailed description of roles and responsibilities demonstrates the capacity of the applicant to implement the project.

The use of an external facilitator will allow the participants to focus on the work and allow another entity to manage the coordination.

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- The application demonstrates significant collaboration with local, tribal, and federal partners and represents a continuation of the Partnership's commitment to community engagement in addressing restoration needs and water quality issues in the basin
- The applicant has a proven track record of successful project implementation and facilitation.
- The application provides detail on how project fits into the overall watershed context.

Concerns:

- The application lacks detail regarding building capacity where it has been challenging in the past and how that capacity will be maintained.
- Providing contextual details about the organization and committee operations would have benefitted the application.
- The application lacks details on how teams would communicate with each other.

Concluding Analysis:

The Willamette Partnership has a proven track record of successful project implementation and has the expertise to coordinate an update to the Tenmile Lakes Strategic Action Plan, develop governance documents, and build local capacity of the Partnership to implement it.

This proposal is an important next step towards improving watershed health. The partners have the technical and collaborative skills to update their strategic action plan to align with OWEB's guidance. The inclusion of key stakeholders for implementation and development of the restoration plan demonstrates the partnership's forward-thinking towards future restoration actions

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 2 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$149,758

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Recommend

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$149,758

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8303-22661

Application Name: Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Capacity

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

OWEB Request: \$149,810

Total Cost: \$316,860

Application Description:

This Upper Grande Ronde Partnership Capacity grant is located in the Grande Ronde River Basin in Northeast Oregon. The Upper Grande Ronde Initiative seeks to continue our high functioning partnership as our Focused Investment Partnership grant nears completion. OWEB funds will provide capacity at the Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GRMW) to continue to facilitate the partnership and the process of updating our strategic action plan, The Restoration Atlas. Key management objectives for the Atlases include increase salmonid carrying capacity, reduce juvenile mortality in the Grande Ronde Valley, reduce Chinook pre-spawn mortality, improve flow, and reduce temperatures. Overall key performance indicators for these objectives at the population level include juvenile Chinook and steelhead capacity and survival. The grant funding will be used to provide a 0.4 FTE at GRMW for 3 years to lead the partnership in updating the Catherine Creek and Upper Grande Ronde Atlases, community engagement for new high priority areas, coordinate monitoring efforts, prepare technical reports on findings and bridge the gap between the end of the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative FIP and the application for another FIP within the GRMW geographic coverage area (map of coverage area attached). This Partnership Capacity grant will be matched with our restoration partners time and Bonneville Power Administration funding. There is a clear need within the partnership to expand, improve and maintain communication to the restoration partners, researchers, and landowners in high priority areas in the Grande Ronde River subbasin. The Core Partners (GRMW, ODFW, USWCD, USFS and CTUIR), from the Grande Ronde FIP were incredibly successful in collaborating and putting the available FIP funds to design and restoration work on the ground and guided monitoring efforts using FIP supplemental monitoring funds. Project partners will likely expand as the partnership has grown since 2015.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application includes a detailed list of appropriately scoped and scaled products to be developed.
- Partner roles are well described, and appropriate partners are engaged including production, funding, and research partners.
- The timeline is appropriate and demonstrates the partners understand the level of effort that will be needed to conduct the work.

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- Supporting documents for governance and conflict resolution demonstrate how decisions are made and core partners agree to a code of conduct.
- Partners are very engaged with a robust process to prioritize, implement, and monitor efforts.
- This project builds on a successful, recently completed Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiative level grant, demonstrating that the partners have ample experience and expertise to lead this next phase of project development.

Concerns:

- Additional detail in the budget would have been helpful to understand how funding will be allocated between the proposed project objectives.
- The application would have benefited from a description of local community engagement.

Concluding Analysis:

The Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership is a long-standing partnership with a history of successfully implemented restoration work. Partner roles are well described and the attached partnership letter documents support. The proposed work supports staff to continue coordination of the Partnership, updating the Atlas, as well as maintaining monitoring and adaptive management efforts. The Partnership has recently completed implementation of a FIP initiative level grant. The proposed work will set the stage for the partnership to build on their successful efforts within a new geography in their basin and update the partnership documents to incorporate lessons learned from their first FIP award.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 1 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$149,810

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Recommend

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$149,810

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8304-22655

Application Name: Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership Capacity Resubmit

Applicant: Curry SWCD

OWEB Request: \$ 96,875

Total Cost: \$145,351

Application Description:

The Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership (SCEP) consists of the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP; which is made up of the Curry Soil & Water Conservation District, the South Coast Watershed Council, the Lower Rogue Watershed Council, and the Curry Watersheds Nonprofit), Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The partnership's geography covers the nine major south coast watersheds in Curry County, Oregon, but the focus of this project is on the Sixes River watershed. The SCEP completed a Strategic Action Plan for the Sixes River watershed in 2019 and we are seeking capacity funds to implement and enhance portions of this SAP, and improve partner coordination for project implementation and monitoring. The specific capacity needs that this application seeks to address are: 1. Implementation of the Sixes SAP outreach plan, and 2. Enhancement of the Sixes SAP Progress Monitoring Framework. Through implementation of the outreach plan, we are proposing to: a) Increase engagement with regional tribes around the Sixes SAP and explore opportunities to bring them on as core or supporting partners; b) Increase engagement with other natural resource organizations around the Sixes SAP and explore opportunities to bring them on as core or supporting partners; and c) develop project ideas with landowners and stakeholders, which will enable us to engage with relevant permitting agencies and funders. We are proposing to enhance the SAP Progress Monitoring Framework through the development of a comprehensive monitoring plan. The SAP currently does not include specific ecological outcomes due to the lack of baseline data and expert knowledge available during the initial development process. The monitoring plan will identify specific ecological outcomes, how they will be monitored, and will be developed collaboratively by the SCEP and additional technical experts from DEQ, USFS, USGS, BLM, and South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application includes a detailed description of outreach and monitoring efforts that will support implementation of the Sixes Strategic Action Plan (SAP).
- The partnership has an existing strategic action plan and governance documents that were developed through a previous Partnership TA grant.
- The applicant and partners have a proven track record of successful coordination and project implementation.
- The budget for the project is clear and aligns with the proposed work.

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- The project is timely and builds off the momentum of existing action plans and lessons learned.
- Timeline for completing the objectives identified in the application is appropriate.
- Project staff and partners have the technical expertise to successfully complete the proposed work.

Concerns:

- Application did not explain why the Partnership is just now developing their outreach plan given their SAP was completed in 2019.
- There are two tasks in the project's schedule (develop SAP project ideas and create online project tracker) that are not included in the Project Management table, making it unclear who is responsible for delivering these tasks.

Concluding Analysis:

The resubmitted application addresses reviewer concerns raised in the previous submittal particularly around how Tribes will be engaged. Curry SWCD and partners have a proven track record of successful coordination and project implementation. Capable and knowledgeable staff are involved with appropriate leadership roles. This proposal is an important next step towards improving watershed health. The partners have the right technical and collaborative skills to successfully execute the proposed work. The inclusion of lessons learned and referencing existing action plans demonstrates the partnership's forward-thinking towards future restoration actions.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 4 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$96,875

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Recommend

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$96,875

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8305-2266

Application Name: Vale Local Implementation Team Coordinator

Applicant: Pheasants Forever Inc

OWEB Request: \$149,877

Total Cost: \$264,668

Application Description:

Pheasants Forever seeks funding to support a position to oversee coordination capacity for the Vale Local Implementation Team (LIT) located within Malheur County (Ontario, Oregon). LITs are locally driven, collaborative groups, convened by the ODFW and use local input and guidance to meet goals and objectives identified within the Oregon Sage-grouse State Action Plan. Five LITs were identified in 2005 within the Oregon Sage-Grouse Conservation Assessment and Strategy and their jurisdictions align with BLM District and Resource Area boundaries.

The LIT program is intended to be flexible to accommodate local interests and challenges, but the overall purpose of each LIT is threefold: 1) provide a central platform to increase communication among stakeholders; 2) identify existing efforts with regard to sage-grouse and shrub-steppe conservation to develop a strategic plan moving forward that streamlines future efforts; and, 3) procure funding for project implementation.

The coordinator is essential to LIT development and will foster effective collaboration among interest groups across the Vale LIT area by hosting one-on-one meetings, small focus groups, and other outreach events. The coordinator will help Vale LIT establish a collaborative forum to develop landscape-scale strategies that set shared priorities to address threats to sage-grouse; work with the group to procure funding to implement their strategy; and host field tours to encourage future conservation-minded collaborations. Vale LIT partners include BPT, CWMAAs, DSL, landowners, Malheur SWCD, MWC, OWC, NRCS, ODFW, OSU, USFWS, Vale District BLM.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application includes a detailed description of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP), governance, and coordination needed to advance the Partnership's work to benefit sage grouse.
- There is demonstrated collaboration and support with key partners such as public lands managers, local entities, and technical experts.
- Partners have a proven track record of successful coordination and project implementation.
- Strategies identified are appropriate and reasonable given the large geographic area.
- The proposal is informed by similar Local Implementation Teams working on projects to benefit sage grouse habitat.

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Concerns:

- The application lacks details on the roles and responsibilities of the partners.
- The timeline for completing the SAP may not be achievable in such a short timeframe.
- There is a lack of detail on project implementation once the SAP is complete.
- A position description for the proposed coordinator to be hired with these funds would add clarity to the expectations of the role.
- The proposed work heavily relies on the ability to recruit and hire the right person for the proposed coordinator position who can both coordinate the Partnership and author the SAP and governance documents.

Concluding Analysis:

Project partners have a proven track record of successful coordination and project implementation. This proposal is timely and describes the limits the Partnership has reached by having a part-time coordinator housed outside the Basin. The partners have engaged the right technical partners to collaborate on development of a Vale SAP. The proposed timeline is ambitious and unclear if all the work will be completed. The success of the work relies heavily on a to be hired coordinator to facilitate and prepare all the proposed deliverables.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 6 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$149,877

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Recommend; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$0

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8306-22652

Application Name: Wasco County Partnership TA

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

OWEB Request: \$95,150

Total Cost: \$121,850

Application Description:

Wasco County SWCD and Area Watershed Councils work in a close, informal partnership with WyEast RC&D on projects relating to water conservation and remote data collection to support working lands and healthy watersheds. We intend to continue working together toward our common goals and need a strategic action plan to support the work long term. With ongoing drought and climate change, we are seeing increasing demands on our time and resources and need to be strategic in our planning and develop our Partnership's capacity with an eye towards the future.

Our primary goal is to develop a Strategic Action Plan (SAP). We also seek to elevate our partnership's performance through effective governance by using the SAP to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the three core entities, and develop both a communications plan and long-term funding plan. Core partners include Wasco County SWCD, Wasco County Area Watershed Councils, and WyEast Resource Conservation & Development Council. Other partners we work with include Wasco County, Mid Columbia Economic Development Council, USDA NRCS, ODFW, CTWS, ODA, DEQ, ODF, USFS, local electrical utilities, Oregon Department of Energy, University of Oregon through the RARE AmeriCorps program, and the OWEB Lower Deschutes Small Grant team.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The project is timely and identified the need for coordination to maintain the momentum of the partners.
- The Strategic Action Plan will build off previous watershed assessments.
- The applicant has a proven track record of successful engagement, collaboration, and communication.
- The Strategic Action Plan will assist the Partners with their ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, and disturbances related to changing climate conditions.
- The timeline is realistic for the proposed work.
- The budget includes stipends to partners to support the Strategic Action Plan development.

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Concerns:

- The application lacks contextual details about how updating existing assessments for individual partners will be rolled up into a singular Strategic Action Plan for the Partnership.
- The application does not describe what ecological limiting factors the partners will be working to address via development of a Strategic Action Plan.
- The included lump sum budget lacks sufficient detail to understand the facilitator roles and responsibilities.
- There is a lack of detail regarding long-term implementation of action plan once the project is complete.
- The process for developing the memorandum of understanding should be prioritized to outline partnership roles.

Concluding Analysis:

The Wasco SWCD and Wy'East RC&D have a proven track record of successful coordination and project implementation. This proposal is an important next step towards improving watershed health. The partners have the right technical and collaborative skills to successfully execute the action plan. The inclusion of key stakeholders for implementation and refinements of the action plan demonstrates the partnership's forward-thinking towards future restoration actions. Including more detail on how the partners will use the SAP and how the plan would assist the partnership would have benefitted the application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 8 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$95,150

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Recommend; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$0

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8309-22658

Application Name: Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative -Partnership Capacity

Applicant: High Desert Partnership

OWEB Request: \$147,216

Total Cost: \$209,775

Application Description:

The Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative (HBWC) works across the entire area of the closed lake basin located in Harney County, facilitating collaborative work with public land managers and private landowners in order to steward a healthy wetlands ecosystem. Harney County is about 25% privately owned and 75% publicly owned land, and this crucial ecosystem supports wildlife habitat for fish, migrating birds, and livestock production.

This technical assistance project would provide capacity support for HBWC to strengthen the individual and collective work of the partners. This collaborative is a long-standing collaborative group (over 10 years working together) and the partners are supported by High Desert Partnership (HDP). Recently, the collaborative has seen notable turnover, with longtime partners retiring or moving into other work. There is a significant and growing need to support the development of new partners and ensure that institutional knowledge is developed and maintained. This grant project would support staff salary for the HBWC Coordinator, whose work includes coordinating SAP implementation, conducting HBWC meetings with facilitation, grant tracking and management, and supporting partners with a variety of other needs. The HBWC Coordinator holds valuable institutional knowledge of this work, which is especially important given the collaboration's recent partner turnover.

Project partners include, Harney County Watershed Council, Ducks Unlimited, The Wetlands Conservancy, Portland Audubon, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County Soil and Water Conservation District, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center and private landowners and ranchers in the basin.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant has a proven track record of successful collaboration, implementation, and communication via their implementation of an OWEB funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative level grant.
- The applicant demonstrates collaboration with partners including local, state, and federal government entities as well as public lands managers and private landowners.

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- The project is timely and maintains the momentum of the Partnership to complete on-going projects funded in the FIP.

Concerns:

- The application does not include detail regarding long-term planning.
- The application mentioned tribal support but wasn't clear how tribes are engaged in the Partnership.
- The budget for facilitation lacks detail and is unclear how often facilitation occurs.
- The proposal would benefit from inclusion of lessons learned during their six years of experience as an OWEB Focused Investment Partnership.
- The proposal would benefit from loading a scope of work description for each of the three identified roles: Ecological Coordinator, Admin Coordinator and Facilitation.

Concluding Analysis:

The High Desert Partnership has a proven track record of successful project implementation. This proposal is an important next step towards achieving the goals of the partnership. The partners have the technical and collaborative skills to achieve the outcomes described in the proposal.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 5 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$147,216

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Recommend

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$147,216

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8308-2265

Application Name: Umpqua Oak Partnership Strategic Action Plan Development

Applicant: Ducks Unlimited Inc

OWEB Request: \$95,614

Total Cost: \$149,184

Application Description:

The Umpqua Oak Partnership (UOP) works in the Umpqua River basin that is generally described by the Douglas County boundary. The Umpqua River Basin contains some of the largest remaining tracks of Oregon White Oak (*Quercus garryana*) forests and savannas in the Pacific Northwest. Oak and prairie habitats are among the Pacific Northwest's most threatened habitats with estimates as low as 4-7% remaining (ODFW 2006). However, oak forests and prairies in the Basin are under the same human stresses found in other portions of Washington, Oregon, and California. Oak landscapes are a part of the Basin's natural and cultural heritage. Umpqua Basin tribes were the original land stewards of oak habitats and the First Peoples of the Umpqua River Basin, including the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, used fire and other methods to manage oak habitats providing tribal members with food, medicine, tools, home materials, decorations, and cultural needs. With this funding we will continue to collaborate with partners, finalize governance documents, complete our strategic action plan, develop a monitoring plan that aligns with the Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network's plan, and create oak distribution and prioritization maps to guide conservation initiatives.

The UOP is a high functioning group with a dedicated and engaged core of participants that make up the Steering Committee. Partners are committed to completing the planning processes and eagerly anticipate moving forward with several restoration projects and conservation initiatives in the coming years.

Core Partners: Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, Federal: BLM, NRCS, USFWS, USFS, State: ODF, ODFW, OWEB, TNC, Douglas SWCD, Douglas Small Woodland Association, Douglas Forest Protective Association, Douglas County, Klamath Bird Observatory, OSU Extension, Pacific Birds, Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Landowners, University of Oregon Friends of Kanipe Ranch, The Elkton Reserve, Yew Creek Preserve.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The project is timely and maintains the momentum of the partnership to transfer to an action group.
- The partnership has a proven track record of successful engagement, collaboration, and communication.

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- The application identifies future collaboration with partners including local, state, and federal government entities as well as private landowners.
- The proposed plan, if implemented, is likely to result in multiple ecological benefits, including improved plant productivity and health of oak habitat.
- In addition to developing a strategic action plan (SAP), the proposed project will also finalize governance documents and develop a monitoring plan that aligns with the Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network's plan.
- The budget for the partnership is clear and aligns with the activities and staffing needed to develop the SAP.

Concerns:

- There is a lack of detail regarding the timeline for deliverables and long-term solutions once the project is complete.
- The application documents tribal support but was not clear how they are involved and to what extent.

Concluding Analysis:

The Umpqua Oak Partnership has a proven track record of successful engagement, collaboration, and communication. This proposal is an important next step towards improving watershed health and oak habitat. The partners have the right technical and collaborative skills to successfully develop and execute the SAP. The committees are well thought out with clear tasks; communication and leadership roles are established. The inclusion of key stakeholders for implementation and refinements of the SAP demonstrates the partnership's forward-thinking towards future restoration actions. However, the application lacks information on long-term solutions once the SAP is complete.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Recommend

Review Team Priority: 3 of 8

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$95,614

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Recommend

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$95,614

Staff Conditions: N/A

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Application Number: 223-8309-22662

Application Name: Rogue Basin Partnership: Guiding Regional Restoration

Applicant: Rogue Basin Partnership

OWEB Request: \$74,707

Total Cost: \$97,596

Application Description:

The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) seek Partnership Capacity funding to update our strategic action plan (SAP) and to continue to facilitate coordination among Members. Engaging in these activities will further the implementation of the restoration strategies described in our SAP – the Rogue Restoration Action Plan (RRAP). Made up of 23 members, RBP is the regional natural resources planning entity for the Rogue River Basin, located in southern Oregon. Motivated by a deep commitment to regional planning, environmental entities and municipalities organized themselves to form RBP in 2015 – the RRAP soon followed as the Basin-wide SAP. RBP has a history of coordinating restoration activities across the Basin; prior to RBP, regional partners known as the Rogue Basin Coordinating Council gathered to engage in regional restoration planning. As our Partnership matures and our RRAP (SAP) ages, we find that we need to elevate our performance in RRAP implementation through: 1) strategic plan updates to maintain relevance, 2) an improved online dashboard to monitor and report progress and achievements, and 3) increased coordination among our working groups (WG) and Members. Further, RBP Members will fortify its Partnership’s mission through increased WG coordination, communications, member engagement, peer-to-peer learning, restoration project planning, and RRAP project monitoring. RBP continues to regularly convene to strategize and work Basin-wide to support RRAP implementation. Capacity funding is necessary for RBP to continue to mature and support the unique regional relationships found in the Rogue Basin. OWEB funding will allow RBP to leverage existing secured funding so it can: continue to coordinate RRAP implementation; strengthen communication, networking, and regional project implementation between Members and Working Groups; plan, track, and report to RBP Members the status of implementation actions; and seek additional, non-OWEB Partnership funding.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The project maintains the momentum of the partnership to complete ongoing projects identified in the previous action plan.
- The partnership represents a spectrum of state agencies, local organizations, and technical experts.

2022 Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Cycle

Concerns:

- The application is unclear on the longevity for the group membership to ensure successful implementation of the Strategic Action Plan (SAP).
- The application would have benefitted from a description on what has been achieved during implementation of the existing SAP.
- The benefit of the partner retreat is unclear regarding how it will enhance the SAP update.
- The application is unclear on specifics for the project tracker, monitoring, and who will complete data entry.
- The qualifications needed to successfully develop and implement the plan are not clearly outlined.
- The application is unclear how the action plan complements current restoration and acquisitions projects.

Concluding Analysis:

The Rogue Basin Partnership is a large partnership with a 10-year history. The vision of updating the SAP to assist in prioritizing restoration is an important next step to continue to improve watershed health. The partners have the right technical and collaborative skills to successfully update and execute the action plan; however, the application lacks comprehensive detail on projects that were a result of the previous action plan. The application does not adequately provide an overview of how the action plan integrates on-going restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Do Not Recommend

Review Team Priority: N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount: \$0

Review Team Conditions: N/A

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Recommend

Staff Follow-up to Review Team: N/A

Staff Recommended Amount: \$0

Staff Conditions: N/A

Partnership TA Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order				
Application Number	Applicant	Project Title	Amount Recommended	Priority
223-8303-22661	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership Capacity	\$ 149,810	1
223-8302-22657	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Update Tenmile Lakes Restoration Plan	\$ 149,758	2
223-8308-22656	Ducks Unlimited	Umpqua Oak Partnership Strategic Action Plan Development	\$ 95,614	3
223-8304-22655	Curry SWCD	Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership Capacity Resubmit	\$ 96,875	4
223-8307-22658	High Desert Partnership	Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative - Partnership Capacity	\$ 147,216	5
Total Partnership TA Projects Recommended for Funding by TRT and OWEB Staff			\$ 639,273	

Partnership TA Projects Recommended by TRT but Not Funded (in Priority Order)				
223-8305-22660	Pheasants Forever	Vale Local Implementation Team Coordinator	\$ 149,877	6
223-8301-22663	Illinois Valley SWCD	Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group Partnership Development	\$ 139,180	7
223-8306-22652	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Partnership	\$ 95,150	8
Total Partnership TA Projects Recommended by TRT but <u>Not Funded</u>			\$ 384,207	

Partnership TA Projects Not Recommended for Funding by TRT			
Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	OWEB Request
223-8309-22662	Rogue Basin Partnerhsip	Rogue Basin Partnership: Guiding Regional Restoration	\$ 74,707
Total Partnership TA Projects <u>Not Recommended for funding</u> by TRT			\$ 74,707

TOTAL: All Partnership TA Project Requests	\$ 1,098,187
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