



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
January 24 - 25 2023



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Meeting Agenda January 24 & 25, 2023

Business Meeting:	Tuesday, 1/24 8:00 a.m.	Wednesday, 1/25 8:00 a.m.
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The public is welcome to listen to the virtual meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Jan 24:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number: 828 1345 8598 and passcode: 572125
 - **Jan 25:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number: 873 9557 4781 and passcode: 694313
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Public comment

OWEB encourages written or verbal public comment on any agenda item. However, items marked with an asterisk (*) are subject to a formal public hearing, and the board cannot accept comments at the meeting, as the public comment period for those items is closed. All comment requests should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov no later than 4:00 p.m. Thursday, **January 19**.

Written comments will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal comments:

- Limited to three minutes
- Will be heard in the public comment period (**Agenda Items E, F, and J**).
- Provide the following information:
 - Your first and last name,
 - The topic of your comment, and
 - The phone number you will use when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long-distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

A. Board Member Comments (8:05 a.m.)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide updates on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (9:05 a.m.)

The minutes of the October 25 & 26, 2022, meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Directors Updates (9:10 a.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson and staff will update the board on agency business. *Information item.*

D. Committee Updates (9:50 a.m.)

Representatives from board committees will provide updates on committee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. General Public Comment (10:20 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear general public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

F. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) Appointments (10:35 a.m.)

Grants Program Manager Eric Williams and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator Taylor Larson will recommend the OWEB Board appoint Laura Masterson, Eduardo Contreras, and Russ Hoeflich to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. *Action item*

G. Budget and Legislative Update (11:35 a.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson, Deputy Director Stephanie Page and Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update on the agency budget and the 2023 legislative session. *Information item.*

H. OWEB 101 – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) and Council Capacity (12:50 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Monitoring and Reporting Manager Courtney Shaff, North Coast Program Representative Katie Duzik, Willamette Valley Program Representative Liz Redon, Partnerships Coordinator Denise Hoffert, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an 'OWEB 101' presentation highlighting the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) and Council Capacity grant programs. *Information Item.*

I. Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes Funding Requests (2:15 p.m.)

Conservation Outcomes Coordination Audrey Hatch and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will request the board provide funding for the 'Telling the Restoration Story' grant program and a Carbon and Riparian Condition Monitoring Project. *Action Item.*

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

J. General Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear general public comments. *Information item.*

K. FIP 2021-2023 Reporting (8:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnership Coordinators Jillian McCarthy and Denise Hoffert, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch, and Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update on Cohorts 2 and 3 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives' progress. Representatives from each of the five Cohort 2 initiatives will then update the board on progress made in the 2021-2023 biennium. *Information item.*

L. OWEB Grant Program Rulemaking (11:10 a.m.) *

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will request the board approve proposed administrative rule revisions for the Grant Program. *Action Item.*

M. Revisit In-Person vs. Virtual Board Meetings (11:55 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update about in-person and virtual options for future meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format for meeting in 2023 and beyond. *Action Item.*

N. Shared Stewardship and the 20-Year Strategic Plan (1:00 p.m.)

OWEB Fire, Klamath, and Drought Programs Manager Renee Davis, Oregon Department of Forestry State Forester Cal Mukumoto, and Strategic Planning Coordinator Nathan Beckman, and will present information about Oregon's 20-year strategic plan as outlined in the state-federal Memorandum of Understanding on Shared Stewardship and Senate Bill 762 (2021). *Information Item.*

O. 2023-2025 Spending Plan (1:45 p.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpillouz Hanson and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the OWEB Board on the 2023-2025 spending plan timeline and present recommendations for major spending plan category percentages. *Information Item.*

P. Other Business (2:45 p.m.)

This item is reserved for other matters that may come before the board. *Information item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of interested parties and the public, the board may also designate a specific time for an item to be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and 7 are ex-officio. OWEB's voting requirements are divided into 2 categories for conducting business: general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **6 voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least 6 voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least 8 voting members** present to act on grant awards and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **the proposal will be rejected if 3 or more voting members object to an award of funds**.

Executive Session

The board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain the necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 971-345-7001 or send an e-mail to april.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board Co-Chair, Board of Agriculture*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Elizabeth Agpaoa, *Board of Forestry*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Greg Addington, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Kelly Coates, *Public (Tribal)*
Lindsay McClary, *Public*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*

Non-voting Members

Aaron Curtis, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Chris Allen, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Cory Owens, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Dan Brown, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*
Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*

Contact Information

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OWEB Executive Director – Lisa Charpiloz Hanson
Lisa.CHARPILLOZ.HANSON@OWEB.oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack
april.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov
971-345-7001

2023 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24 & 25 – Virtual
April 25 & 26 – TBD
July 25 & 26 – Sisters/Hybrid
October 24 & 25 – TBD/Hybrid

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our website:
www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

The Approach We Take

We believe that every endeavor is guided by a set of commitments not just about the “why” and the “what,” but also the “how.” These are the ways we are committed to engaging in our work. This is our approach. These principles modify everything we do.

Our work is characterized by...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of watershed health
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact
- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management – when we see something that’s not working, we do something about it

Reaching and involving underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Ensuring information is available and accessible to diverse audiences



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

We are dedicated to OWEB’s mission and take great pride that our programs support watershed health and empower local communities. Our work is deeply rewarding and we are passionate about what we do. Our team is nimble, adaptable, and forward-thinking, while remaining grounded in the grassroots history of watershed work in Oregon. With a strong understanding of our past, we are strategic about our future. We believe in working hard while keeping our work environment innovative, productive, and fun. We are collaborative, both with each other and with outside partners and organizations, and place great value in continually improving what we do and how we do it.

Amended as of 1/20/2023

2021- 2023 SPENDING PLAN FOR MEASURE 76 (LOTTERY), GENERAL FUNDS AND PCSRF FUNDS January 2023 Board Meeting

	GRANTS	2022 Spending Plan	TOTAL Awards To-Date	January 2023 Proposed Board Awards	TOTAL Awards To- Date & Proposed Awards	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To- Date
1	Open Solicitation:					
2	Restoration	33.500	23.401		23.401	10.099
3	Technical Assistance					
4	Restoration TA	5.500	3.249		3.249	2.251
5	CREP TA	1.200	1.200		1.200	-
6	Stakeholder Engagement	2.750	1.236		1.236	1.514
7	Monitoring grants	4.750	4.579		4.579	0.171
8	Land and Water Acquisition	8.500	3.079		3.079	5.421
9	Weed Grants	3.250	3.250		3.250	-
10	Small Grants	2.800	2.800		2.800	-
11	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes	1.250	0.263	0.250	0.513	0.737
12	TOTAL	63.500	43.057	0.250	43.307	20.193
13	% of Total Core Programs	51.42%				
14	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	37.56%				
15	Focused Investments:					
16	Deschutes	1.915	1.915		1.915	-
17	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	1.400	1.400		1.400	-
18	Harney Basin Wetlands	0.100	0.100		0.100	-
19	Upper Grande Ronde	0.466	0.466		0.466	-
20	John Day Partnership	4.000	4.000		4.000	-
21	Baker Sage Grouse	2.435	2.435		2.435	-
22	Warner Aquatic Habitat	2.293	2.293		2.293	-
23	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp	2.700	2.700		2.700	-
24	Clackamas Partnership	3.082	3.082		3.082	-
25	New FIP Solicitation	13.000	12.910		12.910	0.090
26	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	1.000	0.750		0.750	0.250
27	TOTAL	32.391	32.051	-	32.051	0.340
28	% of Total Core Programs	26.23%				
29	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	19.16%				
30	Operating Capacity:					
31	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	17.021	15.121		15.121	1.900
32	Statewide org partnership support	0.450	0.450		0.450	-
33	Organizational Collaboration	0.700	0.442		0.442	0.258
34	Partnership Technical Assistance	1.500	0.797		0.797	0.703
35	TOTAL	19.671	16.810	-	16.810	2.861
36	% of Total Core Programs	15.93%				
37	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	11.63%				
38	Other:					
39	CREP	0.750	0.750		0.750	-
40	Governor's Priorities	0.947	0.947		0.947	-
41	Klamath Post Dam Removal Watershed					
42	Restoration/KRRC-Contingency	4.053	4.053		4.053	-
43	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.500	1.500		1.500	-
44	Gov. directed-Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.330	0.330		0.330	-
45	Gov. directed-Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership	0.350	0.350		0.350	-
46	TOTAL	7.930	7.930	-	7.930	0.000
47	% of Total Core Programs	6.42%				
48	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	4.69%				
49	TOTAL Core Programs	123.492	99.848	0.250	100.098	23.394
50	General or Other Funds:					
51	2020 Fire Recovery & Restoration					
52	Riparian/upland rest. & water quality	10.750	10.750		10.750	-
53	Floodplain restoration & reconnection	5.000	5.000		5.000	-
54	2021 Fire Recovery & Restoration	5.000	5.000		5.000	-
55	2021 Drought Resiliency					
56	Irrigation District Grants	1.551	1.551		1.551	-
57	Irrigation District Grants - N Unit	1.906	1.906		1.906	-
58	Jefferson Co Resiliency Grants	0.852	0.852		0.852	-
59	Klamath Livestock Wells & off channel const grants	2.733	2.733		2.733	-
60	Klamath Co Resiliency Grants	0.731	0.731		0.731	-
61	Jefferson SWCD Soil Conservation Grants	3.000	3.000		3.000	-
62	Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)					
63	OAHP Conservation Easements*	4.315	-		-	4.315
64	OAHP Conservation Management Plans*	0.150	-		-	0.150
65	Water Acquisitions	9.596	-		-	9.596
66	TOTAL	45.584	31.523	-	31.523	14.061
67	% of OWEB Spending Plan total	26.96%				
68	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	169.076	131.371	0.250	131.621	37.455
69	Funds transferred from/to other agencies					
70	Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF	12.884	12.884		12.884	-
71	Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF	4.000	4.000		4.000	-
72	Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives-OF	0.500			-	0.500
73	Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF	0.600		-	-	0.600
74	Transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF	-	-		-	-
75	TOTAL	17.984	16.884	-	16.884	1.100
76	OWEB Spending Plan & Other Directed Funds	187.060	148.255	0.250	148.505	38.555

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

October 25 & 26, 2022, Board Meeting

Hybrid Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA.)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Addington, Greg
Allen, Chris
Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Brown, Dan
Buckmaster, Bruce
Coates, Kelly
Curtis, Aaron
Labhart, Mark (10/26 only)
Marshall, Gary (10/25 only)
McAlister, Liza Jane
McClary, Lindsay
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Owens, Cory
Reeves, Meg

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Charpilloz Hanson, Lisa
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Mack, April
Menton, Coby
Page, Stephanie
Redon, Liz
Repplinger, Linda
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

OTHER

Barton, Alexis
Beamer, Kelley
Crowell, Courtney
Ferrari, Chandra
Fraser, James
Gratz-Weiser, Morgan
Green, Vanessa
Larson, Kristen
Lee, Jan
Lloyd, Diane
Mallon, Zac
Miner, Jason
Purpura, Holly
Rancier, Racquel
Richardson, Shannon
Sievert, Guy
Weinman, Dov
Wigal, Jennifer
Zwissler, Sarah

Tuesday, October 25, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 by co-chair Liza Jane McAlister.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00:07)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided updates on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. Public and tribal board members also reported on their recent activities, shared information, and commented on various watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item.*

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 1:07:27)

The minutes of July 26 & 27, 2022, were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Bruce Buckmaster moved the board to approve the minutes from the July 26 & 27, 2022 hybrid meeting. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Directors Updates (Audio = 1:08:15, continued audio = 2:22:39)

Executive Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson and staff updated the board on agency business. *Information item.*

D. General Public Comment (Audio = 1:55:55)

This time was reserved for the board to hear general public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts – Jan Lee
- Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts – Kelley Beamer

E. Committee Updates (Audio = 2:44:56)

Representatives from board committees provided updates on committee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

F. Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offering Board Awards (Audio = 3:00:27)***Introduction***

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives provided background information on the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations.

Public Comment

This time was reserved for public comment on pending grant applications to be considered for funding by the board. No public comment was given.

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The board considered grant applications submitted through the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation grant offering. Applications, supporting materials, and funding recommendations were discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves moved the board to approve the funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report, but with the removal of project #s 222-1015, 222-1016, 222-1020, 222-2024, and 222-2030, with an award date of October 25, 2022. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Oregon Conservation Partnership Second Year Funding Award (Audio = 6:18:22)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff described the Oregon Conservation Partnership's (Partnership) accomplishments to date for the biennium and provided a funding recommendation for the remainder of the Partnership's biennial grant. *Action Item.*

Liza Jane McAlister moved the board to award an additional \$225,000 to the Oregon Conservation Partnership in grant #222-8006-19999. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 by co-chair Barbara Boyer

Wednesday, October 26, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 by co-chair Barbara Boyer.

H. General Public Comment (Audio = 0:02:20)

This time was reserved for the board to hear general public comments. *Information item.*

- Tryon Creek Watershed Council – Alexis Barton
- Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council – Dov Weinmann
- Network of Oregon Watershed Councils – Vanessa Green
- Mary's River Watershed Council – Holly Purpura
- Luckiamute Watershed Council – Kristen Larson

I. OWEB 101: Fund Sources (Audio = 0:23:11)

Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Oregon Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General Diane Lloyd discussed the types of funding OWEB allocates through grants, along with limitations of how the funding can be used to support different types of projects. *Information Item.*

J. Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration – Contingency Funding (Audio = 1:37:10)

Introduction

Governor Brown's Natural Resources Policy Director Jason Miner and OWEB Fire, Klamath, and Drought Programs Manager Renee Davis discussed the Klamath dam removal project and requested board action to commit funding in support of watershed restoration work in Oregon following dam removal.

Public Comment [Audio = 2:16:24]

This time was reserved for public comment on funding by the board for post-Klamath dam removal habitat restoration.

- Trout Unlimited – James Fraser

Board Discussion of Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration Contingency Funding (Audio = 2:30:40)

The board discussed the request for funding in support of watershed restoration work in Oregon following the Klamath dam removal. *Action Item.*

Motion #1: Liza Jane McAlister moved the board to commit \$15 million over 5 years for grant funding for Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration. Bruce Buckmaster seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight in favor; Bruce Buckmaster, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Kelly Coates, Lindsay McClary, Liza Jane McAlister, Barbara Boyer, Mark Labhart, and Meg Reeves, and one opposed; Greg Addington.

Motion #2: Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board to amend its current spending plan to reallocate funding to include \$4.053 million for post-dam removal restoration contingency costs in the current biennium (2021-2023). Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

Motion #3: Mark Labhart move the board to award an initial amount of \$4.053 million from the Klamath Post Dam Removal Watershed Restoration line item in the board's 2021-2023 amended spending plan to support post-dam removal restoration contingency costs incurred by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 26, 2022. Liza Jane McAlister seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

Motion #4: Meg Reeves moved the board to include the remainder of the \$15 million in funding, or \$10.947 million, in future spending plans. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

Motion #5: Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved that if existing funding sources are not sufficient, the board authorizes OWEB staff to apply for a loan of funds from the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for post-dam removal restoration activities. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed with eight in favor and one opposed.

K. Local Partner Panel (Audio = 3:30:10)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff, North Coast Regional Program Representative Katie Duzik, and local partners participated in a panel discussion with the board about how local groups leverage local, state, and federal funds and partnerships to build capacity and achieve local restoration and conservation goals. *Information Item.*

L. Interagency Panel on Water Issues and Initiatives (Audio = 5:01:06)

Deputy Director Stephanie Page, Governor Brown's Natural Resources Deputy Policy Advisor Morgan Gratz-Weiser, Water Policy Advisor and Regional Solutions Coordinator for Eastern Oregon Courtney Crowell, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Administrator Jennifer Wigal, Oregon Water Resources Department Deputy Director Strategy and Administration Racquel Rancier, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Division Deputy Administrator & Water Program Manager Chandra Ferrari provided updates to the board regarding several water-related initiatives in the state. *Information Item.*

M. 2023-2025 Initial Spending Plan Discussion (Audio = 6:23:02)

Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson and Grant Program Manager Eric Williams led a board discussion on the process for building and approving the 2023-2025 Spending Plan. *Information Item.*

N. Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Equipment Funding (Audio = 6:39:56)

Deputy Director Stephanie Page and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho requested board approval of funding for monitoring equipment that is provided for use by local groups as part of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's volunteer water quality monitoring program. *Action item.*

Liza Jane McAlister moved the board award up to \$113,000 from the Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes line item in the 2021-2023 spending plan in support of new and replacement equipment for the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program and delegated to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of October 26, 2022. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

O. Other Business, Next Meeting, Adjourn (Audio = 7:04:33)

This item was reserved for other matters that may come before the board. *Information item.*

The meeting was adjourned at 3:17 by co-chair Liza Jane McAlister

January 24-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update C-2 2022 Annual Tribal Report

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2022 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe. The 2022 Annual Tribal Report has been submitted to the Legislature Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and the Governor's Office.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 182.166 (3) requires OWEB to submit an annual report by December 15 to the LCIS and the Governor's Tribal Liaison, that must describe; the policy developed and implemented to establish and promote relations with tribes; the names of the individuals who are responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect tribes; the effort made to promote communication between the state agency and the tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes; the process established to identify the programs that affect tribes; a description of training attended; and the method established for notifying employees of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes and the agency's tribal policy.

2022 Annual Tribal Report

The 2022 Annual Tribal Report includes a description of the following:

- Agency overview to identify the key contacts responsible to establish and promote relations with tribes and a description of OWEB;
- Tribal participation in OWEB's Board and grant programs;
- Promotion of communication between OWEB and tribes, and
- Training for staff to learn more about the provisions of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes.

The annual report includes a summary of the amount of funding OWEB has provided to tribes and summarizes the amount of funding that tribes have contributed to grants through match.

Across all grant programs, OWEB provided \$1,689,730 to tribes in 2022. Three Open Solicitation grants totaling \$581,967 were awarded to tribes (two grants totaling \$366,490 to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and one grant in the amount of \$215,477 to the Nez Perce Tribe). In addition, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received one grant for \$400,000 and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation received a grant for just over \$680,000, both through the existing John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership initiative. Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$1,043,828 in cash and \$60,661 of in-kind support to grants that were completed in 2022.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Tribal Liaison, at ken.fetcho@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7081 or Lisa Charpillouz Hanson, Executive Director, at lisa.charpillouz-hanson@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachment

A. 2022 Annual Tribal Report



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

2022 Annual Tribal Report



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Agency Overview

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The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that administers grants to organizations for voluntary conservation actions. Grant-funded projects improve overall watershed health and provide on-the-ground habitat restoration and conservation across the state. Agency responsibilities include:

- Grant management and administration for watershed protection and enhancement; and
- Assistance in the development and implementation of watershed-scale restoration initiatives; and
- Coordination and support for locally-led initiatives throughout the state to achieve voluntary cooperative conservation outcomes.

OWEB is led by an 18-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, five state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and six federal land management and natural resource agencies.

OWEB works with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to address watershed-scale restoration needs. OWEB operates grant programs that tribes can apply for to fund a variety of watershed management, protection, and restoration projects. Tribes can leverage those funds to meet their natural and cultural resource restoration goals and objectives.

Tribal Policy

In 2018, OWEB revised its tribal policy by working with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and tribal input. In 2022, OWEB's leadership and tribal liaison continued to work together to communicate the intent of OWEB's Tribal Policy and identify opportunities for staff to work effectively with tribes.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB works closely with tribes and involves them in programs and decision-making processes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency's interactions during 2022 with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe that occupies lands in Idaho and Oregon.

OWEB Board and Grant Programs Tribal Participation

Board Membership

The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position is currently occupied by Kelly Coates, Natural Resources Program Director of the Cow Creek Band of the Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

Additionally, Governor Brown nominated Lindsay McClary to fill a recently opened at-large position. Lindsay is the Restoration Ecologist/Fish & Wildlife Policy Analyst for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and her term began on March 1, 2022, following Senate confirmation. We are extremely grateful to have two bright and energetic tribal professionals participating on the OWEB Board. Kelly and Lindsay help identify opportunities for collaboration and ensure the OWEB board and staff are aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests.



▲ Photo 1 (left). Jeremy Ojua with Pacific Willow at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde native nursery. Photo 2 (right). Prescribed burn at Herbert Farm and Natural Area.

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

OAHP was established by the Oregon legislature in 2017 to provide voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance agriculture and fish, wildlife, or other natural resources on agricultural lands. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (commission) oversees the program and makes funding and policy recommendations to the OWEB Board. The commission consists of 12 members who are appointed by the OWEB Board, including one member selected by the OWEB Board who is a representative of tribal interests. This position is filled by Nathan Jackson, who is a rancher and manages the K Bar Ranches Corporation for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua

Tribe of Indians. Nathan is also an enrolled tribal member of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians.

Tribes are recognized as eligible applicants for all OAHP grant programs. OAHP received \$5 million in funding during the 2022 legislative session to increase the economic viability of Oregon's agricultural operations, reduce the fragmentation of working lands, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resources. The commission has met numerous times throughout 2022 to further develop this Program and prepare for its first grant offering. Applications were received in October 2022 and grants awards are anticipated in the spring of 2023. Additionally, OWEB performed outreach with the federally recognized tribes in Oregon to recruit applicants for a vacant commission seat to represent natural resource interests.



▲ Photo 3. Vegetation monitoring transect performed by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians as an in-kind match contribution to a water acquisition grant with Trout Unlimited

Grant Program

Grant Applicants

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [ORS 541.375(1)]. **Since 2006, OWEB has awarded just over \$11,030,000 in grants to tribal governments.** Across all grant programs, OWEB provided \$1,689,730 to tribes in 2022. In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of, or partners with, local watershed councils. Oregon law describing watershed councils (ORS 541.388) specifically identifies

“federally recognized Indian Tribes” as potential members of these local organizations. Tribes are critical partners in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grant projects. In 2022, 18 completed grants included tribal contributions. **Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$1,043,828 in cash and \$60,661 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2022.**

Small Grant Program

In OWEB’s Small Grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are eligible to be members of Small Grant Teams in each of the state’s 28 Small Grant areas. These Small Grant Teams have access to \$100,000 per biennium to recommend grants of up to \$15,000 for watershed restoration projects. Other team members include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. All Small Grant Teams have reorganized the composition of their Teams for the 2021-2023 biennium. Representatives of all nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe serve on 21 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. This number has increased from 20 to 21 over the last biennium, likely due to the increased outreach OWEB completed in 2019. Some tribes sit on several Small Grant Teams and some Teams have more than one tribe participating together.

Open Solicitation Grant Program

OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Open Solicitation Grant Program also known as the Regular Grant Program. During 2022, three grants totaling \$581,967 were awarded to tribes (two grants totaling \$366,490 to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and one grant in the amount of \$215,477 to the Nez Perce Tribe). Tribal agencies have also submitted two applications in the most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made.

OWEB’s Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with appropriate tribal staff. They meet with interested tribes before grant application submission and throughout the life of each grant to ensure tribes can meet their goals and objectives. Tribes often partner with watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) by helping manage the projects and at times receive funding to implement projects as contractors. In 2022, approximately 19% of the applications that were submitted had tribal participation. Tribes participate in applications in several ways. They may be applicants, provide cash matches, landowners, contractors for project implementation, partners, board members of the applicant’s organization, or supporters of the applicant (such as writing letters of support). In 2022, applications with tribal participation have a 74% success rate (are funded) compared to applications without tribal participation which have a 63% success rate.

Open Solicitation Grant Program – Regional Review Teams

Applications received through OWEB’s Open Solicitation Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprised of state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. All six regional review teams have at least one tribal natural resource

professional participating in the review process. In 2022, seven tribal agency representatives participated in OWEB Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Land Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire interests in land from a willing seller to address the conservation needs of priority habitats and species. OWEB notifies all tribes after receiving a land acquisition application to solicit input in the decision-making process. Additionally, OWEB notifies tribes once a recommendation has been made allowing tribes to provide additional input before the OWEB Board's funding decision.

Water Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB's water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest in water from a willing seller to increase instream flow. Like the land acquisition grant program, OWEB notifies tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received and once a recommendation has been made to allow multiple opportunities to provide input in the decision-making process.



▲ Photos 4. Before and after photos from the Longley Meadows Fish Habitat Enhancement Project, implemented by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

Focused Investment Partnership Program

In 2022, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The OWEB Board made the initial FIP awards in 2016. Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively on long-term, landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives. These initiatives create measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board.

OWEB invested in five new FIP Initiatives in 2022.

- East Cascades Oak Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

- Coos Basin Coho Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians and the Coquille Indian Tribe
- Siuslaw Coho Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians and the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative includes the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.
- Klamath Siskiyou Oak Partnership works closely with the Inter-Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership (ITERP). ITERP is a collaboration of regional tribes, tribal community leaders, federal and state agencies, and non-profit conservation organizations throughout Oregon and northern California that is operated by the Lomakatsi Restoration Project.

The FIP Program is another great opportunity for tribes to pursue and receive grant funding from OWEB. In 2022, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received a grant for \$400,000 and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation received a grant for just over \$680,000, both through the existing John Day Basin FIP.

Focused Investment Partnership Technical Assistance Program

In 2019, the OWEB Board approved a new grant program, which evolved from the previously offered Development FIP grant program. The new Partnership Technical Assistance grants offer two tracks:

- 1) Partnership Development to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan and governance documents.
- 2) Partnership Capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation.

Partnership Technical Assistance applications were received in October 2021 and were awarded by the OWEB Board in 2022. Two of these funded partnerships include tribes as partners.

- East Cascades Oak Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs.
- Coquille Coho Partnership includes the Coquille Indian Tribe.

Post-Wildfire Immediate Response and Recovery Grant Program

At the July 2021 OWEB meeting, the board approved an allocation of \$300,000 for wildfire recovery immediate response grants under the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2021-2023 OWEB spending plan. Building upon OWEB's experiences in 2020, these limited grant offerings respond to short-term gaps in wildfire recovery funding. Two of the four fire areas were awarded grants to one lead entity that works in cooperation with area partners. Partners in the Skyline Ridge and Elbow Creek fire areas did not pursue a grant. The Cougar Peak Fire area was awarded \$49,876 and the Bootleg Fire area was awarded \$75,000 to fund short-term, high-priority needs for a limited set of implementation, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement activities.

Ongoing efforts to provide funding to the 2020 wildfire areas were expanded. Part of House Bill 5006 (2021) provided OWEB with a total of \$19.75 million in funding for grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2020 fire season. Funding was intended to support on-the-ground implementation activities focused on upland and riparian replanting and floodplain restoration. Eligible applicants included tribes, among other entities. As of October 2022, seven projects have been funded for 6 of the 14 fire areas. Six additional projects are pending and will be funded following approved application revisions. While no tribes have submitted applications, they have partnered with applicants to help scope and implement the projects.

Additionally, during the 2022 Oregon Legislative Session, OWEB received a total of \$5 million in funding to provide grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2021 fire season. Funding was intended to support on-the-ground implementation activities focused on natural resource recovery in upland, riparian, and instream habitats. Eligible applicants include tribes, among other entities. The first cycle closed on October 20, 2022, and received three applications, two of which have tribal participation and will be reviewed for funding consideration in late fall 2022. Additional cycles may be possible in early 2023.

Drought Recovery Grant Program

Senate Bill (SB) 5561 passed during the December 13, 2021, special legislative session and allocated \$11.627 million in General Funds to OWEB for grant-making and program administration to address the ongoing impacts of the drought. As part of program development, OWEB staff participate in a monthly Klamath livestock water working group to find solutions that will provide stock water and improve streamside vegetation. The group is comprised of representatives from agencies and the Klamath Tribes. OWEB conducted extensive outreach with local partners, reaching out to over 45 different groups, including Tribes to assist in designing the following grant programs.

- \$3,000,000 for distribution to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit the proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds.
- \$3,000,000 to provide grants for livestock watering wells and construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County. Funding is provided to help defer the cost for irrigated pasture owners to move livestock watering facilities away from riparian areas, minimizing grazing impacts to riparian areas and the dependency on in-stream water sources.
- \$2,000,000 to North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) for matching grants to support investments in irrigation modernization projects within the NUID boundary in Jefferson County.
- \$1,627,000 to irrigation districts for matching grants to support statewide investments in irrigation modernization projects.

- \$1,000,000 to support drought resilience projects in Jefferson County. OWEB opened a targeted grant offering for Drought Resiliency Technical Assistance Projects in Jefferson County. In addition, OWEB is working with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to develop an interagency agreement to support coordination and technical support activities for the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative.
- \$1,000,000 to support drought resilience projects in Klamath County. OWEB opened two grant offerings for Drought Resiliency Projects in Klamath County: one focuses on Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement, and a second focuses on on-the-ground drought resilience actions.

Other Grant Program Involvements

The Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) is a long-term, large-scale monitoring effort to evaluate watershed restoration projects. OWEB participates on the steering team and assists with securing funding for several aspects of the program. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs continues to be a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW and received \$19,000 in funding this year to continue their important work in this long-term watershed monitoring effort.

OWEB staff also participates in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation of the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP, as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.



▲ Photo 5. Middle Fork John Day River restoration work completed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

Tribal Liaison

In conformance with OWEB's tribal policy, OWEB's designated staff person, Ken Fetcho, continues to operate as a tribal liaison for the agency. The tribal liaison is responsible for ensuring that OWEB's programs and policy development adhere to our tribal policy. This includes coordinating program and policy notices to tribal natural resource key contacts and providing training to staff as appropriate.

In 2022, OWEB's tribal liaison continued to emphasize the importance of OWEB's tribal policy to new employees and board members. Starting in 2019, each new employee and board member is briefed on the tribal policy and receives a copy of the current Annual Tribal Report.

The tribal liaison continued to meet with Calla Hagle, the Natural Resources Director of the Burns Paiute Tribe, to explore the potential for planning training for OWEB staff that would occur in the future. The purpose of the training would be to learn more about the Burns Paiute Tribe and learn how OWEB can be a better partner in areas of mutual interest. OWEB is interested in learning more about how the Burns Paiute Tribe government is structured, their cultural and natural resource priorities, and how that might influence how they pursue our funding. OWEB looks forward to scheduling this training in 2023.

The tribal liaison worked with Jennifer Karson-Engum to provide tribal training at OWEB's All-Staff Meeting in October 2022. Jennifer is a cultural anthropologist and ethnographer for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Jennifer's presentation taught staff about the Tribe's traditional areas of use that spread across the Western United States and how the importance of the cultural resources being integrated into the Natural Resources Department. She highlighted their efforts to document the traditional place names for wide geography in NE OR and SE Washington. This training was extremely valuable to help OWEB staff learn more about the importance of place names and the rich information they provide for the Tribes and the broader public.

At the July 2022 OWEB Board meeting in Enterprise, partners from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, ODFW, Wallowa Lake Irrigation District and OWRD presented and hosted a field tour of the Wallowa Lake dam rehabilitation and fish passage project. These partners came together to describe the efforts to rehabilitate the dam, provide fish passage, instream flows for fish, irrigation, drinking water, and flood control.



▲ **Photo 6.** Wallowa Lake Field Tour (left to right): Bobby Hills- Nez Perce Tribe, Courtney Warner-Crowell - Governor's Office, Jeff Yanke- ODFW, Dan Butterfield- Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, Gary James- CTUIR, Joe Dawson- Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, David Bates- OWRD.

Tribal Water Task Force

In September of 2021, the nine Sovereign Tribes of Oregon wrote Governor Brown addressing the state of Oregon's 100-year Water Vision. The letter shared tribal perspectives on water and noted the importance of tribal engagement in any water planning process. The letter continued by requesting the establishment of a Tribal Water Task Force, which would serve two primary functions:

1. Educate Oregon's nine Federally Recognized Tribes to the full complement of State agencies that touch upon 'water' and that have a bearing on one or more of Oregon's water resources.
2. Educate Oregon's nine water-related agencies on the full complement of Tribal interests/issues that 'Oregon's Water Vision' needs to acknowledge and address.

In response to the request, Governor Brown directed the OWRD along with members of her team to help organize and convene a Tribal Water Task Force (Task Force) to address the above topics. OWEB has participated in the six Task Force meetings that occurred during the summer and fall of 2022. OWEB presented at the July 13 Task Force meeting to describe its roles and responsibilities that are related to watershed enhancement and protection. In addition, OWEB provided a thorough review and comments on the draft report that is currently under development. We look forward to working with the Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon to implement the Task Force's recommendations that are proposed in this report.

Oregon Water Data Portal

In 2022, OWEB began to work with several other state agencies to scope and design the Oregon Water Data Portal (OWDP). This is a project funded by the Oregon Legislature to help improve access to statewide data and information to make water and water infrastructure decisions. OWEB, ODEQ, and OWRD provided a briefing at the Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup in October. The discussion touched upon mutual interests in water and water data gaps, as well as tribal data sharing and sovereignty. As a result of the conversation, efforts are underway to engage with tribes through a formal consultation letter. Tribes were also invited to two additional listening sessions to discuss the planning for the OWDP project: one session focused on interested parties, and a session tailored to water data users, practitioners, and managers. Each of these three meetings resulted in key information that is being used to inform long-term strategic water and water infrastructure-related decisions, with a report anticipated to be provided to the Legislature in early 2023.

Cultural Resources Protection

OWEB continues to emphasize the importance of grantees and grant project managers complying with regulations that protect cultural resources. OWEB grants pay for expenses to comply with cultural resource regulations and legally implement watershed improvement projects. In 2022, OWEB continued to work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding programmatic agreements to address the potential effects that the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant program may have on cultural resources.

OWEB, NOAA, and their contractor hosted an informational webinar in March 2022. The webinar enabled tribal, state, and federal agencies to describe NOAA's plan to draft and execute a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the PCSRF Grant Program to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act in Oregon. Additionally, OWEB, NOAA, and their contractor presented at the Cultural Resources Cluster in July 2022 to further describe the PA development process and receive input from the tribes. NOAA is working to provide a draft PA for tribal review in early 2023 and additional engagement will occur to ensure their feedback is incorporated into this important document.

Assessment of Grant Practices Impact on Tribes

In October 2021, OWEB partnered with a Portland State University graduate student on an assessment of how OWEB's granting practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive grant funding to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives.

Results from this assessment are summarized in a final report and are available online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/2021-Oct-ItemO-Tribal-Granting-Practices-Assessment-Report.pdf>

The findings in the report were developed directly from interviews conducted with staff from each of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe. Using these findings, the PSU student developed recommendations to address barriers identified through the assessment. In 2022, OWEB staff prioritized these recommendations and started implementing them. One of the high-priority recommendations involves providing training for tribes on aspects of OWEB's grantmaking and clearing up areas of confusion, so OWEB has started to plan this training for 2023.

Climate Resolution

In January 2022, OWEB's board adopted a [Climate Resolution \(OWEB Resolution 01-2022\)](#). The resolution states that OWEB 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 the long-term sustainability of projects and acquisitions.
- Learn and apply diversity, equity, inclusion (DEI), 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.

Following the adoption of the resolution, OWEB staff embarked on a tribal and stakeholder engagement process with the intent of learning from partners about the potential challenges and opportunities associated with incorporating mitigation, adaptation, and DEI evaluation criteria in grantmaking. The public engagement process included a virtual tribal listening session. All nine of the federally recognized tribes in Oregon were invited to attend. Representatives from eight of the nine tribes attended, with multiple representatives from each tribe in attendance in almost all cases. Feedback from the tribal engagement process will be used to inform considerations around rulemaking to include the climate and DEI evaluation criteria in all grant programs.

At the July 2022 board meeting, the OWEB board approved the agency to start the rulemaking process to add these criteria into its grantmaking rules. The agency successfully recruited Helena Linnell, Biological Planning and Operations Manager for the Coquille Indian Tribe, to participate in the Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC). The rulemaking process will include extensive ongoing tribal engagement and OWEB anticipates the process will take at least one year.

Annual Tribal Summit and Tribal Work Groups

Director Charpilloz Hanson and Liaison Fetcho attended the Annual Tribal Summit and evening reception in Florence on October 3 and 4 to engage and listen to tribal representatives to understand the issues that are important to them. The tribal liaison also continued to attend the State/Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meetings in 2022.



▲ Photo 7. 2022 Annual Tribal Summit panel with Governor Kate Brown and tribal leaders, Florence, OR.

Meetings with Tribes

Director Charpilloz Hanson, Deputy Director Page, and Liaison Fetcho met with natural resource program leaders from each of the nine federally recognized tribes and the Nez Perce Tribe in 2022. These meetings aimed for OWEB's new leadership to introduce themselves and get to know the tribe's natural resource managers and establish a productive working relationship. These meetings were a great opportunity for OWEB to learn about the tribe's natural resource/fisheries priorities and how they might intersect with OWEB's grant opportunities and policy initiatives. We also described OWEB's current priority initiatives and learned how each tribe might be willing to engage in them. We hope that establishing these relationships and exchanging information is mutually beneficial so we can continue to foster and develop relations between OWEB and each federally recognized tribe in Oregon. OWEB looks forward to meeting with the tribes on their lands in 2023 to see some of their watershed enhancement projects and continue to learn more.

January 24-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update C-3 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on progress implementation of the 2018-2028 strategic plan.

Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new, ten-year strategic plan. Beginning with the July 2022 board meeting, staff developed a new template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities and report out to the board and stakeholders.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between October 2022 and January 2023.

During this quarter, OWEB was very active in the community, attending the annual tribal summit, meeting with several traditional and non-traditional partners, and presenting at conferences and meetings. OWEB continued to forge ahead on OAHP, Drought, Wildfire, and Water Acquisition grant offerings. Additionally, OWEB committed to support funding for DEQ's volunteer water quality monitoring program equipment and post-Klamath dam removal restoration.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager, at Courtney.Shaff@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7012

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Report January 2023

OREGON Watershed Enhancement Board



2018-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | January, 2023



Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.



Priority 1

Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds



Top recent [Instagram](#) post: video of Rock Creek restoration site (grantee activity).
Top recent [Facebook](#) posts: board and staff gatherings (OWEB activity).

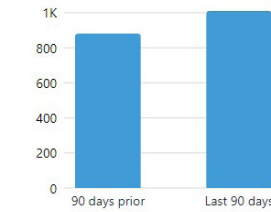
Continued **social media efforts** to create awareness about watersheds and highlight watershed work accomplished by OWEB partners. Post engagement continues to steadily increase, especially on the Instagram site shown here.

Engagement

Post likes, comments and shares ①

1K ↑ 14.6%

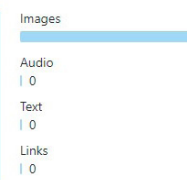
Total from last 90 days vs 90 days prior



Median post likes, comments and shares ①

per media type

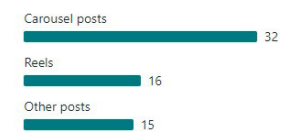
For posts created in the last 90 days



Median post likes, comments and shares ①

per content format

For posts created in the last 90 days



Annual Tribal Summit, 2022.

OWEB's Executive Director and Tribal Liaison participated in **annual Tribal Summit** in October, convening with leaders from each of Oregon's federally recognized tribes. The 2022 Tribal Summit, presented at the Oregon Water Resources Congress, included a panel focused on water management challenges and potential solutions.



Priority 2

Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians



Photo of Partners in Diversity "Say Hey" event. OWEB

OWEB leadership **continued to meet with non-traditional partners to expand relationships**. This quarter, leadership met with leadership from:

- SOLVE
- Audubon Society of Portland
- Pew Charitable Trusts
- Sustainable Northwest
- Organic Coalition
- Agricultural Organizations
- Conservation Stakeholders
- Attended Say Hey, a networking event for diverse professionals hosted by Partners in Diversity.



Lisa Charpillioz Hanson, OWEB Executive Director speaking at the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts annual conference.

OWEB Board members and staff attended and presented at the **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts annual conference**, learning directly from leaders on-the-ground about challenges they are facing and discussing potential solutions.



Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds



Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative meets to discuss the Restoring Resilience in Two Estuaries project, awarded an anticipated OWEB investment of \$7,834,950 over three biennia.



Select trees killed by wildfire are marked for restoration use before they are logged for timber salvage. Photo from the 2020 Archie Creek Fire area.

OWEB continued to support **Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs)**, collaborating with the [five newly awarded FIPs](#) to launch their initiatives and establish outcome tracking systems. OWEB also reached out to FIP applicants that were not awarded funding to gather feedback on the application process, as part of the program's effort to improve the application process for the next application cycle.

Launched the **2022 Wildfire Recovery Immediate Response grant offering** which provides assistance for restoration implementation, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement activities related to fire recovery in eligible areas.

OWEB's Executive Director and staff participate in a state-federal agency work group to develop a shared and all-lands fire stewardship plan.



Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio



A past Water Acquisition grant: [Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures \(FAST\)](#), implemented by The Freshwater Trust, was completed in 2015. Photo by Zachary Collier.

OWEB opened **Water Acquisitions grant program** in November 2022. These grants support the planning and implementation of an interest in water from a willing seller, including a range of project activities. The purpose is to maintain or restore instream flows to benefit watersheds and native fish and wildlife habitat.



Courtney Shaff, OWEB with agency representatives in Washington DC.

OWEB's leadership continued networking efforts with foundations and federal funding agencies to **identify additional opportunities for partner funding**. OWEB leadership joined ODFW along with agency representatives from Idaho and Washington to meet with federal agency partners in Washington DC to discuss the importance of federal funding to support local priorities.



Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Succession Planning

Mark Bennett
Secret Valley Ranch
Unity, Oregon



The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) launched the **first grant offering for conservation easements, covenants, and conservation management plans**. OWEB conducted extensive public and stakeholder engagement during the program rollout, and accepted public comments on the first round of grant applications. OWEB also offered an “OAHP 101” session for agriculture and conservation stakeholders.

Still from a [video about the OAHP Program](#) interviewing applicants, by Oregon Agricultural Trust.



Deschutes River Flow Restoration-Arnold Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project: view of main canal section in residential area.

The Drought Program held drought relief grant offerings to engage communities in Jefferson and Klamath counties to develop or plan **drought resilience and water use reduction projects**. The Drought Program provides grants to assist agricultural producers with:

- soil conservation
- off-channel livestock water
- irrigation modernization
- drought resilience to ensure sustainability of working lands during drought conditions



Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Welcome to the Oregon Water Data Portal
Scoping Project
Listening Session Oct. 12, 2022



Slide from an Oregon Water Data Portal listening session.

OWEB staff and leadership are participating in the steering committee and technical team for the **Oregon Water Data Portal project**, led by Oregon DEQ. The goal of this project is to make high quality water data readily available to support water planning, management, investments, and public access.



DEQ staff checking volunteer monitoring partners field instruments against National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) certified standards. Photo from [DEQ Water Quality Monitoring Strategy 2020](#).

At the October 25-26 OWEB Board meeting, the Board approved funding to the DEQ laboratory to support **water quality monitoring equipment replacements and updates for DEQ's volunteer water quality monitoring program**. In this program, DEQ loans monitoring equipment out to local groups to conduct the monitoring, and also provides technical assistance to volunteer groups, connecting diverse communities with information about the quality of their water.



Priority 7

Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

KEY FINDINGS: BROADER CONCERNS & OPPORTUNITIES

1. Restoration equipment transitions will be challenging.
2. Applicant capacity varies.
3. Be aware of unintended consequences.
4. Emissions reductions opportunities may be possible.



Initiated rulemaking and convened rules advisory committee to **implement the Board's climate resolution** and incorporate climate considerations into OWEB's grantmaking processes.

Slide from the [Climate Evaluation Criteria Rulemaking Advisory Committee Meeting](#).



Request for post-Klamath dam removal funding presented at the October, 2022 board meeting.

Worked closely with the Governor's Natural Resource Office, OWEB Board, and agency partners to present a **request from the Governor for funding for post-Klamath dam removal restoration**. The OWEB board approved the request at the October 2022 board meeting.

Strategies Chart July 2022 - May 2023

 highlighted in update

 July  October  January  May

1 Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

1.1 Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments.

1.2 Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches.

2 Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations.

2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table.

2.3 Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)

3 Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

3.1 Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding.

3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity.

3.3 Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships.

4 Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

4.1 Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision.

4.2 Align common investment areas with private foundations.

4.3 Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector.



4.4 Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources.

5 The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

5.1 Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

5.2 Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners.

5.3 Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands.

5.4 Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands.

5.5 Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations.



6 Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

6.1 Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts.

6.2 Invest in monitoring over the long term.

6.3 Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring.

6.4 Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners.



6.5 Define monitoring priorities.

6.6 Develop and promote a monitoring framework.

7 Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds

7.1 Invest in landscape restoration over the long term.

7.2 Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economics.

7.3 Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission.

January 24-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update C-4, Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration Update

This report provides the board with an update on the status of OWEB's investment in Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration costs associated with work by the Klamath River Renewal Corporation.

Background

The states of Oregon and California have been working together with PacifiCorp and federal regulatory agencies to plan and implement the removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River. PacifiCorp previously owned and operated these dams, three in California and one in Oregon (J.C. Boyle dam). PacifiCorp determined that it is in the best interest of the company and its customers to stop operating the dams rather than spending substantial amounts on improvements needed if they were to continue generating power.

The Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRC) is a private, independent nonprofit organization formed by signatories of the amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA). Signatories of the amended KHSA, including the States of Oregon and California, local governments, Tribal nations, PacifiCorp, irrigators, and several conservation and fishing groups, appointed KRRC to take ownership and oversee the removal of the four Klamath River dams.

PacifiCorp agreed to transfer ownership of the dams to KRRC, which is working with multiple contractors to remove the dams and restore the river to a free-flowing condition. Funding in the amount of \$450 million for removal and watershed restoration is committed.

As KRRC implements the dam removal, former reservoir areas will become exposed and require restoration and stabilization of bare sediment deposits for long-term water quality, long-term ecological benefits, and restoration of natural river functions and processes. KRRC submitted a Reservoir Area Management Plan (RAMP) to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the responsible entity for principal federal regulatory review of the project. The RAMP describes measures for restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management of the former reservoir areas and high-priority tributaries, including actions specifically planned for the former reservoir area upstream of J.C. Boyle dam, the section of the project located in Oregon.

During the FERC review, a question was raised about whether existing contingencies and risk tools provide a high enough level of certainty that the work will be completed on time and within budget. In response to this concern, the states and PacifiCorp agreed to provide up to \$45 million in additional financial support for the project, divided equally among the three partners.

On August 26, 2022, FERC released a Final Environmental Impact Statement and recommended approval of the proposed license surrender, decommissioning, and removal of the four Klamath River dams.

On October 26, 2022, the OWEB Board committed \$15 million over a period of 3-5 years for Klamath River post-dam removal restoration watershed restoration contingency costs incurred by KRRC. The funding is consistent with OWEB's constitutional and statutory authority to fund projects that address habitat needs for native fish and wildlife, along with water quality. Multiple funding sources administered by OWEB will be utilized for this commitment. The initial grant award made by the board is \$4.053 million, which was delegated to the OWEB Executive Director for distribution. The remaining \$10.947 million will be included in the OWEB Board's spending plans for future biennia, beginning in 2023-2025.

Status Update

The final License Surrender Order from FERC approving the decommissioning and removal of the dams was issued on November 17, 2022. Ownership of the four dams on the mainstem Klamath River previously owned by PacifiCorp was transferred to KRRC effective December 1, 2022. The removal of the J.C. Boyle facility located in Oregon is expected to occur in 2023.

Since the October 2022 board meeting, staff—in coordination with legal counsel—have developed a partnership agreement with KRRC. The agreement affirms the intent of OWEB’s investment in Klamath River post-dam removal watershed restoration and describes the framework, scope, tasks, and timeline for the overarching \$15 million in funding. The structure of the partnership agreement and the framework established in the agreement for distributing funds for the restoration work is like the structure of a Focused Investment Partnership.

The partnership agreement was fully executed on December 27, 2022. Staff also have drafted a project-level grant application and associated guidance documents for use by KRRC to propose projects that would utilize the OWEB’s post-dam removal watershed restoration funding. Grant applications submitted by KRRC will mirror the restoration actions for the J.C. Boyle area as outlined in the RAMP and will adhere to minor additional requirements included in FERC’s final order. Per the partnership agreement, on or before February 17, 2023, staff will make available for use the online grant application and guidance documents. Following this, staff will stay in regular communication with KRRC about implementation progress for post-dam removal restoration. Quarterly reports will be provided to the OWEB Board at each meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Fire, Klamath, and Drought Programs Manager, at renee.davis@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.

This report provides the board with an update on the status of OWEB's Post-Fire Recovery and Drought Relief grant programs.

Background

During the 2021 and 2022 Legislative sessions, OWEB received General Fund support for post-fire recovery grant-making. Allocations included \$19.75 million in grant funding to address impacts of the 2020 wildfire season and \$5 million in grant funding to address impacts of the 2021 wildfire season (in addition to program administration funding to OWEB). During the 2nd Special Session in December of 2021, OWEB received \$11.627 million in General Funds to support drought relief grants and grant program administration.

Post-Fire Recovery Grants

Following is a status update for each of the 2020 post-fire recovery allocations:

- \$10.75 million for riparian and upland replanting: Three grant cycles have been completed. More than \$5.3 million have been awarded or are pending in nine grants. These grants address priority post-fire recovery needs in eight 2020 fire areas: Beachie Creek, Brattain, Echo Mountain, Holiday Farm, Lionshead, Riverside, South Obenchain, and White River. A fourth grant cycle, which is anticipated to be the final grant cycle, closed on January 6, 2023. Eight grant applications from six fire areas—242, Almeda, Beachie Creek, Brattain, Holiday Farm, and Slater—requesting nearly \$4.3 million were received. The review process will occur in January-February 2023.
- \$5 million for floodplain restoration and reconnection: Three grant cycles have been completed. Approximately \$3.3 million have been awarded or are pending in five grants. These grants address priority post-fire recovery needs in four 2020 fire areas: Almeda, Beachie Creek, Holiday Farm, and Indian Creek. A fourth grant cycle, which is anticipated to be the final grant cycle, closed on January 6, 2023. Two grant applications from two fire areas—Brattain and Beachie Creek—requesting more than \$600,000 were received. The review process will occur in January-February 2023.
- \$4 million for restoration and targeted land acquisition to Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB): OWEB staff are working with EWEB and local partners such as McKenzie Watershed Council and McKenzie River Trust (MRT), for post-fire restoration and acquisition grant applications, respectively, in the Holiday Farm fire area. One restoration grant cycle has been completed and a \$3 million grant awarded. EWEB and MRT currently are completing due diligence for one land acquisition project to reduce post-fire impacts on riparian and floodplain areas.

For the 2021 post-fire recovery funding, staff developed the grant offering for this funding, and the first grant cycle closed on October 20, 2022. Just over \$4 million have been awarded or are pending in two grants. These grants address priority post-fire recovery needs in three 2021 fire areas: Bootleg, Cougar Peak, and Patton Meadow. A second grant cycle will run from January 13 to February 17, 2023.

Drought Relief Grants

General funds provided to OWEB support six categories of drought relief funding. These categories, the total grant funding allocated to each program, and status updates about the programs follow. Unless specified otherwise below, following the close of a grant cycle, a

technical review of applications will occur, and award decisions made within approximately 4-6 weeks of the application deadline.

- \$3,000,000 in grant funding to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds – OWEB staff created a grant offering for this funding, and a grant agreement was executed in early July. Nearly \$3 million in payments has been made to the SWCD for reimbursements to 85 local producers for soil conservation work. Jefferson SWCD will submit the required status reports to OWEB in the coming months.
- \$2,733,500 to support grants for livestock watering wells and construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County – The two grant cycles are complete, and three grants totaling \$1.66 million have been awarded. A third grant cycle closed on January 6, 2023. One grant application requesting \$412,599 was received. The review process will occur in January-February 2023. Access to well drillers continues to be a limiting factor for local partners utilizing this grant program.
- \$1,906,325 for matching grant funding to North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) for investments in irrigation modernization projects within the NUID boundary in Jefferson County – The grant agreement with NUID was finalized on December 20, 2022. OWEB and NUID staff communicate regularly about the use of this non-federal match funding for the longer-term watershed plan developed by NUID for the federal PL 83-566 funding program with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- \$1,550,752 to irrigation districts for matching grants to support statewide investments in irrigation modernization (IM) projects – One grant cycle is complete for the Statewide IM program, and two grants—to the Arnold Irrigation District in the Deschutes Basin and the East Fork Irrigation District in the Hood River Valley—totaling nearly \$1.16 million have been awarded. A second grant cycle closed on January 9, 2023. Two grant applications requesting \$784,208 were received. The remaining grant funding available totals \$392,104. The review process will occur in January-February 2023.
- \$852,073 to support drought resiliency projects in Jefferson County – Three grants totaling \$850,984 are pending or have been awarded under this targeted offering for Drought Resiliency Technical Assistance Projects in Jefferson County. The grants support work by NUID, Deschutes River Conservancy, and Jefferson SWCD. Under this funding, OWEB also developed an agreement with Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council to support coordination and technical activities for the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative.
- \$930,770 to support drought resiliency projects in Klamath County – OWEB created two grant offerings for Drought Resiliency Projects in Klamath County: one focusing on Technical Assistance (TA) and Stakeholder Engagement, and a second focusing on on-the-ground “Restoration” activities for drought resilience and water-use reduction. Given the demand for these programs, staff worked with the Governor’s Office to reallocate contracted services funding under this General Fund allocation to use for grants. A total of six grants—three TA and stakeholder engagement and three on-the-ground restoration projects—have been awarded, utilizing the full funding allocation.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Fire, Klamath, and Drought Programs Manager, at renee.davis@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7231.

October January 24-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) and Environmental Justice Committee Update

Committee Members

Kelly Coates and Dan Shively (co-chairs), Bruce Buckmaster, Liza Jane McAlister, Chris Allen, Aaron Curtis

Meeting Summary

The DEI and Environmental Justice Committee met on December 7, 2022. At the meeting, Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison provided the committee with an update on the Tribal Assessment Report, which was completed by Portland State University Intern Allie Miller in 2021. Ken and other OWEB staff are preparing training for tribes in 2023 to address some of the questions and concerns raised in the report. Ken will continue to provide updates to the committee as OWEB works to address topics raised in the report.

OWEB staff updated the committee on its efforts to reach out to non-traditional partners. Staff have committed to engaging with three new non-traditional partners each quarter. In addition, OWEB Executive Director Lisa Charpillioz Hanson fulfilled her commitment to holding government-to-government outreach meetings with all of Oregon's federally recognized tribes plus the Nez Perce Tribe before the end of her first year.

During the last quarter OWEB staff have met with the following organizations:

- SOLV
- SayHey
- Sustainable NW
- Pew Charitable Trust – Blue Carbon Program

Courtney Shaff and Eric Hartstein shared an updated draft equity statement with the committee. The committee members appreciated the reformatted draft and the new versions that incorporated previous comments from the committee. Members also recognized that developing an equity statement for the OWEB Board will be a journey and we need to take the time and be thoughtful of our approach and the words we use. The committee plans to review another draft at the March 2023 meeting and then decide on the next steps.

No written or public comment was submitted to the committee.

To Be Presented at the January 2023 Board Meeting by:

Dan Shively

Staff Contact

Courtney Shaff, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager
courtney.shaff@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7012

January 24-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Water and Climate Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster and Jamie McLeod-Skinner (Co-Chairs), Dan Brown, Stephen Brandt, Kelly Coates, Gary Marshall, Lindsay McClary, Eric Murray, Corey Owens, Meg Reeves, Dan Shively

Meeting Summary

The Water and Climate Committee met on December 15, 2022. Scott Altenhoff, Urban and Community Forestry Manager, and Josh Barnard, Forest Resources Division Chief from the Oregon Department of Forestry, presented to the committee on the emerald ash borer invasion in Oregon. The presentation included an update on the current emerald ash borer situation in Oregon and key actions to date, the threats and challenges related to climate and water resources, and opportunities for responding to and recovering from threats and challenges posed by emerald ash borer. Deputy Director Stephanie Page encouraged the committee to think about possible ideas and a role for OWEB in providing support to address these challenges.

Dr. Rose Graves, Natural Climate Solutions Scientist with The Nature Conservancy, shared information about a new statewide project aimed at measuring climate benefits of riparian reforestation, particularly carbon sequestration and storage. Several OWEB staff have been working with Dr. Graves on a proposal to add project parameters that would enhance understanding of climate adaptation-related benefits of riparian reforestation. Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho shared that at the upcoming OWEB board meeting, staff plan to request funds to support this monitoring project.

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the committee on the rulemaking process to implement the climate resolution. The first rules advisory committee meeting convened on December 5th to review draft climate evaluation criteria, which are planned to be integrated into the OWEB grant program administrative rules. The rules advisory committee consists of 12 members representing applicants, grantees, review team members, and non-traditional partners. Staff will take comments and revisions from the first meeting and incorporate them into the updated draft climate evaluation criteria.

Committee members briefly discussed cross-cutting topics from other board committees. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee reviewed a draft OWEB equity statement at its last meeting and discussed the importance of giving adequate time to statement development.

One public comment was received and sent to committee members prior to the meeting; the public comment will also be shared during the board meeting.

To Be Presented at the January 2023 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster and Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Staff Contact

Stephanie Page, Deputy Director
Stephanie.Page@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7004

Committee Members

Barbara Boyer and Dan Brown (co-chairs), Greg Addington, Chris Allen, Mark Labhart, Liza Jane McAllister, Lindsay McClary

Meeting Summary

The Grants Committee met on November 14, 2022, and December 1, 2022. The November 14 meeting was dedicated to lessons learned and areas for exploration of process improvements to the implementation FIP solicitation. The December 1 included a recommendation for an OWEB-appointed position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, a preview of two Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes items on the upcoming January board agenda, and an update on the Division 5 rulemaking process, which will also be before the board in January.

Following staff presentations and discussion, the committee reached a consensus on the following process improvements for the next FIP solicitation:

- Pre-application – include a self-assessment process in advance of the pre-application consultation so that partnerships are better prepared to submit applications that address evaluation criteria;
- Application – eliminate duplicate questions and streamline remaining questions so that information included in Partnership Strategic Action Plans is not repeated in application questions. Application questions will focus on partnership components and detailed work plans;
- Technical review – consolidate technical review from two teams to one that includes both partnership and ecological priorities expertise. Review teams will rank applications; the grants committee will continue to make a funding recommendation to the board. The technical review team will address criterion a) the extent to which the initiative addresses a board-designated priority, which previously has been evaluated only by the grants committee;
- Grants committee recommendation – designate a committee member as “lead presenter” for each initiative application. While committee members read all applications, the lead presenter is responsible for leading committee discussion;
- Board process – at the January board meeting, staff will present “FIP 101,” including a discussion of the 7 board-designated priorities.

The committee discussed whether to continue including eligibility for land acquisition grants within FIPs. The committee agreed that land acquisition grants are an important tool in some FIP initiatives and will discuss guidelines for successfully integrating land acquisition in FIPs at the February 6 committee meeting.

To Be Presented at the October 2022 Board Meeting by:

Dan Brown and Barbara Boyer

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7014

January 24 & 25 2023,

OWEB Board Meeting

Agenda Item E

Written Public Comment Placeholder



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item F supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health and priority.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grants Program Manager
Taylor Larson, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F –Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Appointments
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) oversees the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and makes funding recommendations to the OWEB board for all applications funded through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund. The OAHC is made up of 12 members appointed by the OWEB Board (Attachment A). Due to expiring term limits and retirements, there are currently three vacancies on the OAHC. At the January 2023 meeting, staff will provide an overview of the nomination process for the three vacant seats, present the nominated candidates, and request that the OWEB Board appoint candidates to the vacant OAHC seats.

II. Background

House Bill 3249 established the OAHP and was signed into law on August 15, 2017. In January 2018 the OWEB Board appointed the first 12 members to serve on the OAHC (Attachment B). Voting members of the OAHC can serve no more than two consecutive terms. Since then, the OAHC has drafted program rules and provided input on program guidance and structure. In March of 2023, the OAHC will review the first round of grant applications received and make funding recommendations to the OWEB Board.

III. OAHC Seat Representing Agricultural Interests

Ken Bailey has served on the OAHC since its inception in 2018. Ken was nominated by the Board of Agriculture to serve on the OAHC to represent the interests of farms and ranches throughout the State. Ken's second term expires in January 2023.

Staff solicited applications to fill Ken's seat earlier this year and received two applications (Attachment C). These applications were shared with the Board of Agriculture on August 18, 2022, OWEB staff received their formal nomination of Laura Masterson. If appointed to this seat, Laura would serve through January 2027 and be eligible for a second four-year term.

IV. OAHC Seat Representing Fish and Wildlife Interests

Mary Wahl was appointed to the OAHC in January 2018. Her second term was to expire in January 2023; however, she resigned on February 14, 2022. Mary was originally nominated by the Fish and Wildlife Commission to serve on the OAHC to provide expertise regarding fish and wildlife habitat.

Staff solicited applications earlier this year to fill Mary's vacant seat and received four applications (Attachment C). These applications were shared with the Fish and Wildlife Commission who in turn nominated Eduardo Contreras to serve on the OAHC at their September 19, 2022, Commission meeting. If appointed to this seat, Eduardo would serve through January 2027 and be eligible for a second four-year term.

V. OAHC Seat Representing Natural Resource Interests

Mark Bennett was appointed by the OWEB Board to serve on the OAHC in January 2018 to represent the interests of natural resource values. Mark's term was set to expire in January 2024; however, he resigned from the commission on August 5, 2022.

Staff solicited applications earlier this year to fill the vacant seat and received four applications (Attachment C). These applications were shared with the OWEB Grants Committee which considered them at their December 1, 2022, meeting and voted to recommend Russ Hoeflich be appointed to the vacant seat. If appointed to this seat, Russ would serve the remaining one-year term expiring January 2024 and be eligible for a second four-year term.

VI. Recommendation

OWEB staff recommend the OWEB Board appoint Laura Masterson, Eduardo Contreras, and Russ Hoeflich to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Attachments

- A. 2023 OAHC Roster
- B. 2018 OAHC Roster
- C. 2022 OAHC Applications

OAHP Commission Members 2023

	Name	Recommending Body	Residence City	Interest Represented	Term Beginning	Term Ending	Term Number
1	Chad Allen	Board of Agriculture	Tillamook	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2024	2
2	Dr. Sam Angima	OSU Extension	Corvallis	OSU Extension	Jan 2018	Jan 2024	2
3	Bruce Taylor	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Portland	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	2
4	Lois Loop	Board of Agriculture	Salem	Agricultural Water Quality	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	2
5	Woody Wolfe	Board of Agriculture	Wallowa	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	2
6	Doug Krahmer	Board of Agriculture	St. Paul	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2026	2
7	Nancy Duhnkrack	Land Conservation & Development Comm.	Portland	Easements	Jan 2022	Jan 2026	1
8	Nathan Jackson	OWEB Board	Myrtle Creek	Indian tribal	Jan 2018	Jan 2026	2
9	Ed Contreras	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Klamath Falls	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2023	Jan 2027	1
10	Laura Masterson	Board of Agriculture	Portland	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2023	Jan 2027	1
11	Russ Hoeflich	OWEB Board	Portland	Natural Resources	Jan 2023	Jan 2027	1
12	Barbara Boyer	OWEB Board	Yamhill	Ex Officio, non-voting	July 2019	*unspecified	*unspecified

OAHP Commission Members 2018

	Name	Recommending Body	Residence City	Interest Represented	Term Beginning	2nd Term Ending	Initial Term Length
1	Mary Wahl	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Portland	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2018	Jan 2023	1-year
2	Ken Bailey	Board of Agriculture	The Dalles	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2023	1-year
3	Mark Bennett	OWEB Board	Unity	Natural Resources	Jan 2018	Jan 2024	2-years
4	Chad Allen	Board of Agriculture	Tillamook	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2024	2-years
5	Dr. Sam Angima	OSU Extension	Corvallis	OSU Extension	Jan 2018	Jan 2024	2-years
6	Bruce Taylor	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Portland	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	3-years
7	Lois Loop	Board of Agriculture	Salem	Agricultural Water Quality	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	3-years
8	Woody Wolfe	Board of Agriculture	Wallowa	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2025	4-years
9	Doug Krahmer	Board of Agriculture	St. Paul	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2018	Jan 2026	4-years
10	Derek Johnson	Land Conservation & Development Comm.	Portland	Easements	Jan 2018	Jan 2026	4-years
11	Nathan Jackson	OWEB Board	Myrtle Creek	Indian tribal	Jan 2018	Jan 2026	4-years
12	Will Neuhauser	OWEB Board	Yamhill	Ex Officio, non-voting	Jan 2018	*unspecified	*unspecified



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Laura Masterson
Affiliation 47th Ave Farm
Occupation
☐ Retired Farmer
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Portland **State** OR **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

☒ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)

☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)

☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I've been interested in protecting Oregon farmland since I first started farming near the edge of the UGB 26 years ago. The 47th Ave Farm was started on my double lot in Portland. I expanded the farm by leasing small parcels of farmland across the Metro region. I now farm 50 acres in Clackamas & Yamhill Co. Though my farm has grown in scale, the philosophy is still the same: to grow healthy delicious local food, for local folks. Our organic vegetables are sold to year round through a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program and to award winning restaurants in the Portland Metro region.

In 2008, as a board member at the East Multnomah SWCD, I helped start a program that was dedicated to using easements to protect ag lands in our district. At that point, easements were a new concept in Oregon. Many people across the state thought that the EFU zoning was sufficient to protect our agricultural land base, but as the continued conversion of farmland has demonstrated, strong zoning is important but can't do the job alone.

Farms and ranches in Oregon are challenged by development near urban areas and by conversion to a variety of other non-farm uses. With very few exceptions, that conversion of farmland is a one way road resulting in the loss of an extremely valuable resource. Agricultural lands also support a variety of natural ecosystems including fish and wildlife habitat that can be lost if support is not provided to help protect them.

I have been helping farmers & ranchers come up with creative solutions to address these challenges for many years including my work on EMSWCD, Oregon Board of Ag and the OWEB Board. Given my long career of advocating for ag and natural resource land protection, I would look forward to bringing that perspective and passion to a position on the Oregon Ag Heritage Commission.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

47th Ave Farm, Owner
1996 - present

Member Board Of Directors
Oregon State Board of Agriculture
Oct 2010 - Oct 2018
Board Chair September 2015 - 2016
Vice Chair September 2014 - 2015
Chair of Land Use Committee
Food Safety & Marketing Committee

Member Board Of Directors
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
Feb 2016 - Oct 2018
2018 OWEB Committee Membership:

- Oregon Ag Heritage Program (OAHP) Member of the Technical Committee
- OWEB Board Subcommittee, Operating Capacity
- OWEB Board Subcommittee, Acquisitions

Elected Board of Directors, Zone 2
East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District
Jan 2007 - Present
Board Chair Jan 2009 - Jan 2014

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The main issues facing Oregon agriculture are conversion to non-farm uses including a myriad of allowed and conditional use exceptions to the original EFU zoning. Conversions that significantly shrink or fragment farmland make it especially challenging to support the regional ag economy over the long run.

Farmland can provide a variety of ecosystem services that the public cares about including clean water, fish & wildlife habitat, open space and carbon sequestration. Since the Dust Bowl, it has been a challenge to provide sufficient funds to help farmers and ranchers maximize these benefits at scale through additional conservation practices.

Equity is also an issue that the Oregon agricultural community needs to address. Women and BIPOC communities do much of the work on farms, but are underrepresented in the ownership of Oregon farms and ranches.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Nellie McAdams
Affiliation (if any) Oregon Agriculture Trust
Mailing Address 1050 Sunnyview Rd, NE
#7359
City/Town Salem
State OR
Zip Code 97303
Phone Number 971-409-6806
Email nellie@oregonagtrust.org

Reference #2

Name Stephanie Hallock
Affiliation (if any) Retired, DEQ Director
Mailing Address 1425 Greentree Circle
City/Town Lake Oswego
State OR
Zip Code 97068
Phone Number 503-799-1437
Email Stephanie.Hallock@gmail.com

Reference #3

Name Mike Guebert
Affiliation (if any) EMSWCD, Board Chair
Mailing Address SE Hurlburt Rd
City/Town Corbett
State OR
Zip Code 97206

Phone Number 503-849-8121

Email Guebertm@gmail.com

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Gary Horning
Affiliation Deerhaven Farms Inc
Occupation
☐ Retired Farmer
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Corvallis **State** Or **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

☒ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)

☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)

☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Born and raised on a family farm near Monroe I understand the issues concerning family farms in Oregon. From succession to conservation issues and of course the day to day business of farming we need to work together to insure the future of family farms is bright.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Work History

Part owner Horning Farms Inc 1980-1996

Owner Deerhaven Farms Inc 1996-present

Deerhaven is a 1500 acre farm along the Willamette and Long Tom rivers

600acres turf type tall fescue

700 acres hazelnuts

250 acre conservation easement

Past Committees

Benton County FSA

Oregon Processed Vegetable Commission

Willamette Waterworld 2100 (technical advisory group)

Southern Willamette Groundwater Management committee member

Skills

My family has survived succession in the past and realizes how difficult and important it is.

Having grown crops from mint, wheat, cattle, dairy, beans, corn, raspberries, and alfalfa as well as a conservation easement I understand the changes that happen in Ag and the flexibility we need to adapt for the future.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Concerns

Inheritance taxes

Out of state corporate farms

Bureaucracy

Labor Shortages

Changing climate

As you can see I listed many things that on the surface do not include fish and wildlife.

I believe the best thing for conservation is a strong partnership with family farms. We truly care about where we live. The same values are needed for fish and wildlife as for farmers to not only survive but to thrive.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Jessica McDonald
Affiliation (if any) Greenbelt Land Trust
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Corvallis
State Or
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Stan Gregory
Affiliation (if any) Oregon State
Mailing Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Terry Ross
Affiliation (if any) Hazelnut Growers Bargaining Association
Mailing Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

To Whom it may concern

My name is Steve Horning, together with my father and our families we own and operate Deerhaven Farms in Monroe Oregon. Throughout my life I have got to see firsthand my dad's passion and intelligence for the land that we have the privilege to steward. I believe his experience and perspective will make him an outstanding commission member. He has always understood the connection and impact that we have on the land, as well as the importance of making sure we are in a position to hand it down to future generations. Through an open mind and dynamic thinking, he has already navigated one generational transition, and we currently have a path for a second successful succession. Through this I believe you'll find he will make an enormous positive impact towards the goals of the commission.

Thank you for your consideration

Steve Horning



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

511 SE MORRISON ST. PORTLAND, OR 97214 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

June 30, 2022

CC: Oregon Department of Agriculture
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Letter of Recommendation for Gary Horning's Appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I am reaching out to offer strong support for the appointment of Gary Horning to serve as the farmer/rancher representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

COLT is a statewide coalition that works to serve and strengthen the land trust community of Oregon by increasing the effectiveness of land trusts, strengthening public policies and programs that are supportive of land conservation, and communicating to key audiences the value of conserving Oregon's natural heritage and the economic activities that depend on it.

As a multi-generational farmer and an experienced land steward, Mr. Horning will contribute indispensable knowledge to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission as Oregon confronts challenges facing our working lands. The Horning family has farmed along the Willamette Valley for four generations. Gary's father and uncle started their careers as vegetable farmers, and now Gary and his son Steve grow hazelnuts and grass seed.

In 2010, the Horning family worked with Greenbelt Land Trust to place an easement to protect and restore over 200 acres of their land along the Willamette River floodplain. The easement is a model example of how conservation can complement and enhance productive agricultural land. The Hornings used their family's knowledge of the land and farming equipment to help Greenbelt refine their restoration practices. Mr. Horning's commitment to this project helped build trust with other local landowners for similar projects.

23 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: BLUE MOUNTAIN LAND TRUST CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT
COLUMBIA LAND TRUST DESCHUTES LAND TRUST DUCKS UNLIMITED FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE LAND TRUST
FOREST PARK CONSERVANCY GREENBELT LAND TRUST KLAMATH LAKE LAND TRUST LOWER NEHALEM COMMUNITY TRUST
MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST NORTH COAST LAND CONSERVANCY NORTHWEST RANGELAND TRUST OREGON DESERT LAND TRUST
PACIFIC FOREST TRUST SOUTHERN OREGON LAND CONSERVANCY THE CONSERVATION FUND THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN OREGON
THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND THE WETLANDS CONSERVANCY WALLOWA LAND TRUST WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY
WILD RIVERS LAND TRUST **6 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** CLACKAMAS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EAST MULTNOMAH SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT HELVETIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION OREGON AGRICULTURAL TRUST
TUALATIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT YAMHILL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

511 SE MORRISON ST. PORTLAND, OR 97214 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

I have personally known Gary for over four years and I wholeheartedly recommend him to serve on the Commission. Gary is a well-respected farmer in the Willamette Valley who is dedicated to shaping a successful statewide agricultural protection program. I am confident that he will be an effective and valuable voice for Oregon's agricultural lands and the natural resources they provide. I urge the Board to consider him for this seat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley Beamer".

Kelley Beamer, Executive Director for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

23 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: BLUE MOUNTAIN LAND TRUST CENTER FOR NATURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT
COLUMBIA LAND TRUST DESCHUTES LAND TRUST DUCKS UNLIMITED FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA GORGE LAND TRUST
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TUALATIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT YAMHILL SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Eduardo Contreras

Phone: (208) 631-9212

E-mail: edcontreras483@gmail.com

Education

The University of Montana-Missoula, MT

2009-2013

- B.S. Wildlife Biology with Honors: Terrestrial Option
- B.S. Resource Conservation with Honors: Range Management and Grassland Ecology
- GPA: 3.44

Professional Experience

SONEC Conservation Delivery Coordinator

November 2018-Present

Intermountain West Joint Venture-Klamath Falls, OR

- Coordinate wetland habitat conservation efforts for migratory birds on public and private lands in Southern Oregon and Northeastern California (SONEC).
- Collaborate with state, federal, tribal, NGO's, and private landowners to fund and implement habitat enhancement and restoration activities.
- Oversee strategic private lands habitat conservation program focused on irrigation practices benefitting migratory birds. Manage two private land habitat biologists.
- Developed successful proposal for a \$3.8 million NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant focused on wetlands in the Klamath Basin. Coordinated implementation of \$2.6 million RCPP grant focused on irrigated wet meadows across SONEC.
- Build momentum for conservation easements in SONEC through partnerships with land trusts, agencies, local conservation groups, and landowners. Assist land trusts with securing funding for conservation easement acquisition.

SGL Range & Wildlife Conservationist

January 2014-October 2018

Pheasants Forever/NRCS-Mountain Home, ID

- Implemented Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs with a focus on the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI)
- Worked closely with agricultural producers to implement numerous habitat projects that complement agricultural operations on private and public lands.
- Planned, implemented and monitored structural, vegetative and management conservation practices on rangelands to improve wildlife habitat
- Collaborated with various agencies and organizations including: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation
- Conducted outreach for Farm Bill programs, applied for grants and funding, led and assisted with workshops and tours, and developed outreach materials.

Eduardo Contreras

Ranch Intern

May 2013-October 2013

Clark Fork Coalition-Deer Lodge, MT

- Assisted on all aspects of operating a conservation-focused, cow-calf and grass-finished beef operation
- Haying: irrigating, swathing, bailing, stacking
- Livestock: moving, feeding, branding, sorting, doctoring
- Applied progressive agricultural practices: temporary and permanent electric fence, cell grazing, range riding, soil moisture monitoring
- Applied riparian conservation practices: planting riparian vegetation, riparian fencing, maintaining water developments, managing livestock distribution.

Rangeland Research Technician

October 2012-May 2013

University of Montana-Missoula, MT

- Provided plant data summaries for developing a Rangeland Vegetation Simulator
- Reviewed scientific literature and collected information on plant characteristics and response to management and disturbance.
- Formatted and edited reports. Produced maps and geospatial files.

Rangeland Conservationist Intern

July 2012

U.S. Forest Service-Bishop, CA

- Monitored grazing allotments: fencing, lessee compliance
- Conducted vegetation inventories and identified vegetation in the field
- Collected measurements on grazing utilization

Wrangler/Mule Packer

Summers 2010, 2011, 2012

Rock Creek Pack Station-Bishop, CA

- Guided day rides and multi-day horse packing trips
- Hosted clients in backcountry camps.
- Cared for horses and mules.
- Observed U.S. Forest Service, Wilderness, and National Park Service stock grazing and outfitter regulations
- Trained new employees

Boards and Community Activities

Klamath Lake Land Trust-Board Recruit

2022-Present

HDTR Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon-Board Member

2020-Present

Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative-Participant

2018-Present



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



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Applicant Information

Name Eduardo Contreras
Affiliation Intermountain West Joint Venture
Occupation
☐ Retired Habitat Program Coordinator
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Klamath Falls **State** OR **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature 

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☒ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Private agricultural lands play a vital role in sustaining multiple ecosystem services. In the arid West, settlement patterns influenced by access to water have concentrated private ownership over some of the most productive and biodiverse areas on the landscape. The stewardship of these natural resources by landowners and agricultural producers has been integral to the continued persistence of wildlife habitat, clean water, open vistas, and many other natural assets that we all treasure today. Conserving habitat by developing partnerships with agriculture has been a space where I have dedicated my career. Many natural resources challenges in Oregon and across west are intertwined with agriculture. Through my work, I have learned how agricultural practices interact with the environment and I have found that developing solutions that include agricultural producers, systems and practices as a way to conserve and enhance ecosystem functions have led to great outcomes in conservation. Working with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to protect special agricultural lands and the many natural resource values they support, would be an energizing opportunity and responsibility that I would invest in wholeheartedly.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Over the last 9.5 years I have worked with farmers and ranchers to implement habitat projects on rangelands and wetlands in the states of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and California. My education and interests in rangeland resource management and wildlife biology have set me on a trajectory to work at the intersect of wildlife habitat and livestock production. My work experience has ranged from being a ranch intern and laborer, conducting the day-to-day activities common on a working ranch, to developing and implementing new collaborative conservation programs for strategic habitat conservation on private lands.

I am especially familiar with Farm Bill Conservation Title programs and have worked closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in three states since 2014. I have applied habitat projects using the Environmental Conservation Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE), and Regional Collaborative Conservation Program (RCPP). Some of the NRCS funded projects I am most proud of involve partnerships with other agencies or NGO's to leverage technical resources and complement financial investments.

I have long had an affinity for conservation easements and have sought opportunities to become involved with this important conservation tool. In my current position, one of my first tasks was to oversee the implementation of \$1.6 million in ACEP-ALE funds as part of an RCPP funded project. I developed a competitive and targeted application and review process to identify conservation easement projects that would protect wetlands on irrigated ranches. This effort resulted in two conservation easement projects with multiple funding partners. Since then, I have continued developing partnerships with land trusts in Oregon and California, assisted with writing technical and biological summaries on grant proposals for easement acquisition, transferred science for strategic conservation easement planning, and helped landowners in the early development of their conservation easement projects. To date, I have helped landowners and land trust partners with conservation easements on approximately 7,000 acres of farm and ranchland resulting in the strategic protection of upland and wetland habitats.

Outside of my professional employment I have participated in boards of community organizations. Over the last two years, I have served as a board member of the High Desert Trail Riders Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon. This organization is dedicated to maintaining open trail for all users on public, and we volunteer regularly with agencies to assist in trail clearing or habitat projects like fish stocking in remote locations where pack stock is required. Recently, I accepted to participate as a Board-recruit for the Klamath Lake Land Trust, a local land trust based in my community of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The primary threat to Oregon's agricultural lands and the natural resources they sustain are land use changes that upset the delicate balance of agricultural production and environmental sustainability. Stressors that drive these changes are often economic, policy, or climate related.

In arid Eastern Oregon, for example, climate induced drought and water demands are resulting in an accelerated level of water scarcity with measurable impacts to both agricultural production and wetland/riparian habitats. Water quantity concerns are not a new issue in this region and are increasingly widespread but are generalized as a competition between users for an overallocated resource. However, these issues can be more complex than they appear. Approximately 70% of wetlands for waterbirds and mesic habitat for species in the sagebrush biome are found on private lands in this part of the state, making private lands essential to stable wildlife populations. In many cases the same water that is growing forage for livestock using "inefficient" systems like flood-irrigation are providing foraging areas for migrating waterfowl or brood-rearing habitats for sage grouse. Policy changes that attempt to address water quantity concerns, without a system wide perspective, could have adverse impacts to both the sustainability of ranching and the habitats they maintain. Understanding watershed function and how agriculture uses interact with water is essential to developing lasting solutions and preventing unintended impacts.

Farm economics are an unavoidable element that have and will continue to drive the future of agriculture. Economic assessment and cost studies of agricultural operations show how scant margins can be for family-owned farms and ranches. Across the nation, the limited profitability of smaller agricultural operations has resulted in the consolidation of agricultural lands and development to non-agricultural uses. Clean water and wildlife can be products of good stewardship of a ranch but these are often not financially rewarded. Identifying appropriate ways to compensate or incentivize the ecosystem services provided by private lands may be essential to the economic sustainability of family-run, conservation-minded agricultural operations.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Ron Alvarado

Oregon NRCS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Larry Maxwell

Rancher/Conservation Easement

Landowner

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Bruce Taylor

Former OAHC Commissioner

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

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INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Amanda E. Lowe
Affiliation Employee of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Occupation
☐ Retired Soil Conservationist
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Pendleton **State** OR **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☒ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I believe I can represent the needs and interest of both agricultural producers and conservationists, due to my years of experience working as an intermediary between the two groups. Through graduate school, I studied communications and education specific to agricultural communities and commodities. I have put this to practice for the last 6 years working in Eastern Oregon with wheat producers and cattle ranchers. The producers are well aware that ecologically sustainable management decisions will provide them with an economically sustainable operation; it's my job to help provide them with the tools, information, and connections necessary to make their plans a reality.

In my current position as soil conservationist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, my work operates under the First Foods Mission, "to protect, restore, and enhance the First Foods – water, salmon, deer, cous, and huckleberry – for the perpetual cultural, economic and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR. We will accomplish this utilizing traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science to inform: 1) population and habitat management goals and actions; and 2) natural resource policies and regulatory mechanisms." Applying this mission to the farm and grazing conservation plans I am responsible for has helped me to develop a whole-system view to conservation and agricultural, wherein knowing that a fully functioning ecosystem is capable of balancing and producing for both sets of management goals.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Resume attached.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

I believe the primary issue of concern for the future of both agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat within Oregon is the current and impending implications of climate change which all parties are facing. Within the last 2 years in our own local area, we have seen catastrophic and unpredictable flooding events, caused by variations in the historic timing and intensity of rain events. These heavy precipitation events have been followed only a few months later by devastating drought, decreasing crop and forage yields, and leaving both agricultural and wild animals at a loss for feed. The way forward for producers and conservationists, through these variable and unpredictable swings in climate patterns, is to create more resilient systems that are equipped to withstand shifts in weather.

The status of the supply chains and inflation within the U.S. are also causing damaging effects to the agricultural community in Oregon, and challenging the ability of historic farm and ranch operations to stay in business. These operations are not seeing commodity prices keeping pace with input costs, and that challenges their capacity to provide wages to family or employees that can keep pace with the inflating cost of living. It is within the best interests of the fish and wildlife community to continue to work with these operations and find areas of communal interest, as these working lands provide protection from urban development, and greater loss of habitat.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name: Eric Quaempts

Affiliation (if any): Confederated Tribes of the UIR

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: Pendleton

State: OR

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name: Gordy Schumacher

Affiliation (if any): Confederated Tribes of the UIR

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: Pendleton

State: OR

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name: Sarah Silbernagel

Affiliation (if any): USDA NRCS & Wallowa County SWCD

Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

Amanda E. Lowe

Professional Objective:

To serve my community utilizing my knowledge and experiences in soil and plant science to help landowners and operators manage their land sustainably into the future; and to further develop my knowledge and skills within an organization with whom I share the value of promoting sound conservation science and research principles.

Education:

Master of Science: Agricultural and Extension Education, May 2016

University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844

Area of specialization: Adult Education and Communications

Topic of Research: Extension Clientele Preferences in Facebook Strategies Utilized by County Extension 4-H Programs

Major Professor: Dr. Erik Anderson

Bachelor of Science: Agricultural Communication, Public Relations, May 2010

Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164

Work Experience:

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

46411 Timine Way, Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Supervisor: Gordy Schumacher, 541-429-7238

Soil Conservationist: December 2016 – Present

Integrate the protection, conservation, utilization and enhancement of Indian lands for the desires of the beneficial owners. Utilize conservation practices consistent with NRCS planning documents, as well as prioritizing management actions through ecological touchstones and First Foods priorities as described in the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources Upland Vision document and First Foods Mission. Advises and works with landowners and producers to develop soil and water conservation plans on farm and pasture leases. Inspects farm and pasture tracts to determine conservation needs based on the resource inventories and soil health assessments. Provide for involvement of Indian landowners in management of trust assets and administer natural resources as outlined in federal law and regulations as well as tribal law. Provides educational and technical information to tribal committees/commissions and other relevant groups that promotes sympathetic interests in cultivating natural resource values. Pursue liaison with other federal, state and local entities to the fullest possible in protecting treaty rights and planning/implementing management systems on intermingled land ownership. Collaborates with United States Department of Agriculture to insure Tribal eligibility and participation in various conservation programs relevant to conserving and enhancing Trust assets and First Foods. Ensure compliance with relevant Federal, State, Tribal land management policies and regulations. Lead staff member for the pasture leasing program.

Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District

1 SW Nye Ave. Suite 130 Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Supervisor: Kyle Waggoner; 541-278-8049

CREP Technician: July 2016 – November 2016

Worked with NRCS staff for project specification design, monitoring, implementation, inspection and status reviews. Utilized NRCS Customer Service Toolkit, ArcMap, and WIN-PST in the documentation and management of conservation plans and technical assistance. Conducted Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP2) for analysis of Oregon CREP eligibility and for design of NRCS Conservation Practices. On-the-job training from the NRCS State Soil Scientist for field soil testing and soil survey report interpretation. Cultivated a working knowledge of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide to create job sheets for contracted practices and to review practice standards. Provided professional technical assistance to landowners and managers, regarding natural resource concerns. Communicated and worked directly with landowners and operators through face-to-face contact, telephone, and written correspondence. Assisted with inventorying and surveying projects to help develop conservation practice designs for implementation. Conducted outreach on natural resource issues, water quality, and conservation activities at workshops, seminars, fairs, and conventions. Application of numerous environmental and cultural resource laws, regulations and policy in relation to trust responsibilities.

University of Idaho – Office of Research Assurances

875 Perimeter Dr. Moscow, Idaho 83844

Supervisor: Arch Harner; 208-885-2142

Administrative Coordinator: August 2015 – September 2016

Laboratory Animal Technician: September 2013 – August 2015

Began employment as a laboratory animal technician; applied for and gained promotion to administrative coordinator. Interim coordinator for the university-wide conflict of interest program. Researched federal regulations and interpreted for coworkers and investigators. Provided oral and written communications to investigators on federal regulations. Developed and maintained an information and document management system for organizing and cataloging correspondence, contracts, and agreements. Supported research compliance committees by processing protocol applications, maintaining records databases, and issuing notifications to researchers. Managed web content and social media presence for the Northwest Knowledge Network, a big data service center. Coordinated appointment and travel schedules for staff. Arranged meetings and scheduled training events for both large and small groups. Supported the communication and production processes of a project management and research compliance system. Wrote news articles for departmental newsletter. Managed colonies of research animals, including mice, rats, guinea pigs, kangaroo rats, and zebra fish. Applied and interpreted federal regulations and university policies to deliver excellent animal care. Worked with diverse individuals from varying backgrounds at all organizational levels to ensure successful collaboration. Provided customer service to UI researchers and applied interpersonal skills to create mutually beneficial relationships.

Washington State University – Department of Animal Sciences

1815 NE Wilson Rd., Pullman, Washington 99164

Supervisor: Dr. Margaret Benson; 509-335-1521

Animal Care Facility Manager: September 2011 – September 2013

Managed the swine center and a research animal vivarium, including husbandry of mice, rats, rabbits, chickens, sheep, swine, and cattle. Mediated between veterinarians and investigators to ensure best care and use of research animals. Performed liaison activities with internal and external researchers. Explained meat processing practices to buyers and 4-H youth. Interpreted, applied, and explained federal regulations and university policies for the execution of research activities. Supported the work of project teams by interpreting and applying research protocols, procuring supplies, and organizing and delegating workloads. Balanced and coordinated workload for multiple facilities and directly supervised 15 employees. Managed facility budget.

The Scotts – Miracle-Gro Company

14111 Scottslawn Rd, Marysville, Ohio 43040

Supervisor: William Barber; 509-952-3231

Merchandiser and Product Counselor: February 2011 – August 2011; March 2010 – July 2010; March 2007 – July 2007

Educated and counseled customers and store employees on chemical uses and application, including: herbicides (glyphosate, triclopyr and 2, 4-D); insecticides; fertilizers (N-P-K ratio, micronutrients); and soil management and remediation practices. Self-assigned training to maintain knowledge of current best practices in agriculture. Provided information on organic management practices.

Certifications:

- National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Wildland Firefighter Type 2. 2018 – Present

Training:

- Native American Rangelands Training Initiative, Oregon State University
 - 12 week course on Rangeland Science, covering site evaluation, conservation, and sustainable land management
- NRCS Conservation Planning Course
 - Coursework and fieldwork on NRCS conservation planning documents for certified planners

Community Involvement:

- Umatilla County Weed Board, Member at Large. 1/2018 – Present
- Umatilla County 4-H Association Board, President. 5/2019 – 5/2020
- Pendleton Little League, Volunteer Coach. 2022

References:

Available upon request



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Kenneth F. Bierly

Affiliation personal

Occupation

☒ Retired

Mailing address

Town/City Salem

State OR

Zip Code

Phone Number

Cell or Alternate #

Fax Number

Email

Applicant Signature

Kenneth F. Bierly

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☒ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I grew up in Jefferson County and grew peppermint to put me through college at Oregon State University. I studied ecology and received a M.S. from Colorado State University in Plant Ecology. I was a private environmental consultant from 1972 until 1983. In 1983 I was hired by the Division of State Lands (now the Department of State Lands). I worked with the agency in their Removal-Fill program and was the primary technical staff in the development of the 1989 Freshwater Wetlands Law (Senate Bill 3) that passed both houses of the legislature with a single dissenting vote. I became the Wetlands Program manager and led the development of the state wetlands management program.

In 1996 I was asked by Governor Kitzhaber's Natural Resource Advisor to take the position of Program Manager for the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB). As part of the Governor's Natural Resources team, I was involved in the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. I was also involved in the development of the GWEB grant program from the relatively small program that was developed in the 1980's to a more substantial program with a variety of funding sources.

I was responsible for developing and negotiating the Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that brought the Secretary of Agriculture to Oregon for a signing ceremony in 1998. The program was based on agricultural economics research from Oregon State University and designed to help private landowners comply with water quality and native fish habitat recovery. The Oregon CREP program is a state-federal partnership incentive program that helps landowners to comply with Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Program.

With passage of a November 1998 ballot measure that dedicated State Lottery funds for conservation, I was the technical staff assigned to assist the development and negotiate implementing legislation. Following the long process during the 1999 Legislative Session, I was appointed Deputy Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that was created by the legislation. As Deputy Director I assisted with program and staff development for a growing grant program. I was part of the Willamette Initiative that developed a partnership with the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation which was awarded the Thiess International RiverPrize in 2012.

I currently manage a 1,000-acre ranch in northern Jefferson County. I have been manager for the last 4 years for my wife's family who own the inherited ranch. I am aware of the difficulty of making any kind of a profit off dryland agriculture.

I have seen the implementation of Oregon's Land Use program and been party to efforts to connect land conservation with regulation and have seen firsthand the struggle to address "working lands" through a conservation lens. I have broad experience from all corners of the state.

See Attached Resume

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

As a fourth generation Oregonian, I am very interested in the future of Oregon as a home for my granddaughter and her (possible) children. I am proud of the Donation Land Claim for the homestead in Benton County of my mother's great grandfather, signed by President Johnson only 8 months after the assassination of President Lincoln, that hangs in our home. With a long history in Oregon and a hoped-for future, I would like to use my talents to help shape that future.

I have had the opportunity to visit all corners of Oregon and have become familiar with the incredible diversity of ecosystems, economies, and people in the state. I am passionately interested in understanding the socio-ecological systems of the state and finding ways to protect and restore the resiliency of our communities and ecosystems.

I am a student of ecology and have a deep interest in socio-ecological systems. I have coauthored peer reviewed papers on Oregon's wetlands and restoration of Oregon's estuarine wetlands. I have seen the shift from a purely regulatory "protection" approach to add a more economic based conservation approach using incentives that have a basis in economics as well as ecology.

I have participated in Legislative and public conversations about conservation in Oregon for more than 30 years. During that time, I have seen changes in both public awareness and citizen involvement in issues associated with land conservation. I have seen a greater awareness of the complexity and integrated nature of Oregon's socio-ecological systems.

I was raised in a small, agricultural, rural community (Madras) and obtained an intimate connection to the agricultural economy and lifestyle. My father was a County Extension Agent and often took me on field tours and farm visits. I grew potatoes and peppermint to put me through college. My High School classmates were dependent on farm income either directly or indirectly for their support. I would like to see the opportunities that I had continue for others.

I believe that I have a breadth of experience, depth of knowledge and openness to opportunities that would allow me to help the Commission function in the best interest of all Oregonians.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Oregon agriculture is facing significant pressures of water resource availability, climate change, economic pressure and land use compatibility. While the Oregon Land Use program has reduced conflicts seen in other areas there remains conflicts at the edge of urban areas and in a political sense between urban centers and rural areas of the state.

Water resource conflicts are acute in the Klamath, Harney, Lake, Umatilla, and Malheur basins and likely to be felt throughout the East side. While water resource conflicts are evident west of the Cascades, they are often between instream uses and domestic water uses on the coast.

Oregon's diversity is a major factor affecting the complexity of both agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat conservation. The diversity of Oregon's agriculture makes it difficult to generalize when more than 220 commodities are produced in the state. I have seen a significant shift in the dominant forms of agriculture over the years. The Oregon Land Use Planning program has slowed the conversion of agricultural and forest lands to urban and rural residential uses. The effects are dramatic when compared to land use change in Washington.

There are, however, significant remaining issues associated with agricultural land tenure and management. There have been a number of significant recent reports looking at the issues facing agriculture in the state. Oregon's farm operators are aging with the average age of 60. Over the next 20 years nearly 65% of Oregon's farmland will change ownership. This transition could have a significant effect on rural communities throughout the state. Creating alternative opportunities for agricultural landowners will only become more important in the future.

Other factors affecting agriculture is water security, urban-rural conflicts, and legacies from past policies. Water availability is especially problematic in the arid two thirds of the state. Locations such as the Harney Basin are facing water well curtailment due to over allocation of groundwater permits.

Urbanization is a primary driving force linked to population change. Those areas with the highest growth rates often have the greatest conflicts.

Legacy policies such as dikes and revetments constructed under the Flood Control Acts of the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's have a legacy of diked lands that in only a few locations retain significant agricultural value. Projects such as the recently constructed Beaver Slough Drainage District project in the Coquille Valley has worked towards a balance between agricultural production and fish and wildlife enhancement. In a similar manner projects such as the easement on Deer Haven Farm in Benton

County provides for the opportunity to retain a Century Farm yet restore floodplain function.

In other locations irrigation districts with senior water rights are being rapidly urbanized while junior water right holders are producing high value agricultural products. The balance between the rights based on historical precedent and current need/value is difficult to achieve.

Issues facing Oregon's natural resources are similar in that habitat loss and fragmentation is the leading cause of species declines. The Oregon Conservation Strategy provides a good starting point for the primary issues that pose the greatest potential impact to Oregon Fish and wildlife resources are Climate Change, Land Use Changes, Invasive Species, Disruption of Disturbance Regimes, Barriers to Animal Movement, Water Quality and Quantity. These result in challenges and provide opportunities for private landowners. The significant mix of public and private lands in Oregon are both a significant benefit and a challenge for fish and wildlife management. Addressing these issues also affects people by considering land productivity, opportunities for recreation, water supplies, or risk of severe wildfires.

The greatest challenge is looking at the fish and wildlife species and ecosystems that support them in context of the social and economic systems that have developed around them. Understanding the connections and feedback loops is critical for wise policy choices.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Mark Owens
Affiliation (if any) Oregon State Legislature
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Burns
State OR
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Brenda Smith
Affiliation (if any) High Desert Partnership
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Hines
State OR
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Mary Wahl
Affiliation (if any) Wahl Ranches
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Langlois
State OR
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

Kenneth F. Bierly

Resume of Experience and Education

Professional Accomplishments

Awards

- 2013 Pacific Northwest Region U. S. Forest Service, Special Appreciation Award, Program Partnership
- 2012 International River Foundation, Thiess Riverprize winner for Willamette River Initiative
- 2012 Ecological Society of America, ESA Regional Policy Award for Informing Policy with Ecological Science
- 2012 U.S. Forest Service, Collaborative Aquatic Stewardship Award
- 1997 Vice President Al Gore, Hammer Award
- 1992 Environmental Law Institute, National Wetlands Award

Non-Profit Boards

- 2014-2017 Glenn Gibson Creek Watershed Council
- 2015-2017 Institute for Applied Ecology
- 2013-2017 Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Scholarship Fund
- 2017 Straub Environmental Center Advisory Board

Public Boards

- 2002-2004 Chair, Environmental Commission –Salem, Oregon
- 2015-2017 Fish passage Task Force – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 2015- present Institute for Applied Ecology, Chair

Bierly & Associates LLC 2013 - present

- Harney Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan technical writer
- Strategic Plan for Harney County Watershed Council
- Strategic Plan for Tillamook Bay Watershed Council
- Assistance with Lower Nehalem Community Trust acquisition of Bott's Marsh
- Grant facilitation for Winter Lake tidewater restoration project

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 1999 - 2013

- As Deputy Director oversaw the development of staff and program for the newly developed agency
- Developed grant program offerings, evaluation criteria and procedures
- Supervised contracts to develop land acquisition and restoration priorities
- Reviewed policies and proposed actions with the OWEB Board
- Coordinated with other agencies in the implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
- Led the Willamette Initiative for OWEB, coordinating with Meyer Memorial Trust and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.
- Established an applied research project review process with OSU Sea Grant Program.
- Provided tribal coordination for OWEB

Governor Kitzhaber Staff, Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board Program Manager 1996-1999

- Contracted for and oversaw the development of the Oregon Watershed Assessment Guide
- Technical lead for legislative interaction with Oregon Legislature for a portfolio of natural resource agencies

Kenneth F. Bierly

- during legislative sessions 1997 and 1999
- Developed and negotiated the Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) with U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Governor's staff for the Healthy Streams Partnership to integrate water quality and salmon recovery
- Participant in the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Wetlands Program Manager, Oregon Division of State Lands 1983-1996

- Drafted Administrative rules for wetland and waterway permitting
- Provided administrative enforcement of state wetland and waterway alteration laws
- Agency technical lead for Oregon Freshwater Wetlands Act during legislative session in 1989
- Development of agency Wetlands Program
- Provided testimony to Oregon legislative committees, administrative law judges, and state court settings on Oregon wetlands laws
- Testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act
- Developed detailed technical comments on the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual
- Project Manager for Astoria Airport Mitigation Bank
- Responsible for review of wetland delineations by consultants

Wetland and Waterway Resource Consultant 1974-1983

Montagne & Associates, Inc., Montagne-Bierly & Associates, Inc., Bierly & Associates, Inc.

- Environmental Impact evaluation of proposed offshore oil platform fabrication facility, Warrenton, Oregon – Client Brown & Root, Inc.
- Wetland delineation and Estuary Planning information for Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan, Grays Harbor, Washington – Client Wilsey & Ham, Inc.
- More than 200 consulting assignments throughout the Pacific Northwest for private and public clients with an emphasis on wetland and waterway resources and regulation

Education

1972	M.S.	Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado
1966	B.S.	Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Thesis

Meadow and Fen Vegetation of Big Meadows, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado 1972

Publications

Boule, M.E. and K.F. Bierly. 1987. History of estuarine wetland development and alteration: what have we wrought? Northwest Environmental Journal. 3(1): 43-61.

Bernert, J.A., J.M. Eilers, B.J. Eilers, E. Blok, S.G. Daggett and K. F. Bierly. 1999. Recent wetlands trends (1981/82-1994) in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA. Wetlands. 19(3): 545-559.

Flitcroft, R.L., D.L. Bottom, K.L. Haberman, K. Bierly, K.K. Jones, C.A. Simenstad, A. Gray, K.S. Ellingson, E. Baumgartner, T. J. Cornwell, and L.A. Campbell. 2016. Expect the unexpected: place-based protections can lead to unforeseen benefits. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 26. (Suppl 1):39-59.

Wiley, Pam, Ken Bierly, Todd Reeve, and Kendra Smith. 2013. When Local Solutions Aren't Enough: A Strategic Funding Partnership to Restore a Large River System. The Foundation Review. 5(1):89-104.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Gregory Green
Affiliation Ducks Unlimited
Occupation
☐ Retired Director of Conservation Programs – Pacific Northwest (AK, ID, OR, UT, & WA)
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Vancouver **State** WA **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☒ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Oregon's farm and ranchlands provide valuable benefits to fish and wildlife throughout the state, including migratory birds. It's estimated that a significant portion of wetlands in Oregon (~70%) are located on private land. Maintaining and protecting those resources while keeping farms and ranches sustainable is an important component of Ducks Unlimited's conservation program delivery. As DU's Director of Conservation Programs for the Pacific Northwest including Oregon, I oversee a team of biologists and engineers that deliver a suite of conservation actions on private working lands, including conservation easements, habitat restoration and enhancement actions, and farm efficiency and infrastructure improvements. I am interested in being a representative to the Commission, as I believe that my background, experience, and appreciation for protecting and improving private working lands will provide context and value to a successful Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, as well as the longevity of Oregon's working lands.

Organizational Disclaimer: Ducks Unlimited (DU) is a 501(c)3 private corporation with a mission dedicated to protecting and conserving habitats important to North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people through numerous ecosystem services. Founded in 1937, DU has conserved more than 15 million acres of habitat in North America including 126,817 acres in Oregon. DU / Wetlands America Trust (WAT) is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Holding conservation easements to more than 479,000 acres of private lands in the United States, DU/WAT is the third largest land trust in North America. DU may be a potential applicant or sponsor to OAHP funded programs, and may also provide capacity and assistance to other partnering land trusts. As a voting member of the OAHP Commission for approving fund allocations, DU would remove itself if concerns of Conflicts of Interest are warranted.

<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/land-protection>

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

- Grew up on family-owned small farm and forest lands in rural north Louisiana.
- Strong ethic for responsible land management coupled with wildlife conservation.
- BS in Wildlife Conservation (Louisiana Tech University). MS in Ranchland & Ecology Management (Texas A&M University).
- 20+ years as a restoration practitioner/project manager. With Ducks Unlimited since 2003; worked in numerous states including California, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.
- DU's Director of Conservation Programs – PacNW since 2015.
- First wildlife related job was a Wildlife Internship at Malheur NWR in 1995.
- Coordinated and delivered numerous projects on private lands including habitat restoration, water efficiency improvements, land purchases and conservation easements.
- Manage DU's land protection program in Pacific Northwest, which includes 6 CEs in Oregon (622.52 acres).
- Have collaborated with other Oregon Land Trusts to bring pass-through funding from state and federal sources to aid their conservation easement actions.
- Familiar with land transaction processes including title review and due diligence, appraisals, purchase agreements, and conservation easement language.
- Have monitored CEs and provided landowner stewardship.
- Familiar with calculating easement monitoring and land stewardship costs.
- Delivered the first purchased easement for the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program in 2010.
- Member and organization representative to Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT).
- Participated in OAHP lobby day with COLT in June 2017.
- Served on numerous Boards and working committees including COLT, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture Coastal Wetland Committee, Coastal Prairie Partnership Board (Texas), San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Technical Committee, Gulf Coast Joint Venture Implementation Teams, and Salmon Creek Lions Club Board.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

- Water availability and use in competitive markets complicated by droughts and changing climate scenarios.
- Rapid development and loss of working lands through conversion pressures and increasing land values.
- Aging infrastructure with challenging regulatory processes.
- Loss or conversion of wildlife friendly farming crops and practices to less beneficial ones, primarily driven by market factors.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name: Kelley Beamer

Affiliation (if any): COLT

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: Portland

State: OR

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Daniel Upshaw

Affiliation (if any): Prvt. Landowner / Farmer

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: McMinnville

State: OR

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email :

Reference #3

Name: Monica Iglecia

Affiliation (if any): Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture
US Coordinator

Mailing Address

City/Town: Portland

State: OR

Zip Code

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Sara Evans-Peters

Affiliation Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture

Occupation

☐ Retired U.S. Assistant Coordinator

Mailing address

Town/City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Cell or Alternate #

Fax Number

Email

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

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- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
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- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Please consider this application as my letter of interest in filling the seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to represent natural resource interests.

I am interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission because the impact of this program not only will reduce conversion and fragmentation of Oregon's working lands but will increase the economic viability and resilience of Oregon's agricultural operations and local communities. These are core tenants to Pacific Birds work over the last 30 years. I joined Pacific Birds in 2010. In my current role as U.S. Assistant Coordinator my emphasis is on building strategic partnerships and initiatives and incorporating working lands concepts into how we plan for, and implement conservation across Oregon and the West. I lead the development and implementation of Pacific Birds' conservation programs and work to thoughtfully bridge the gap between science and delivery. Through my work I strive to preserve our natural resources while meeting the needs of Oregonians including local communities, farmers, producers, ranchers, hunters, birders, and recreationists.

As a Commissioner I would bring a high-level non-bias understanding of the natural resource issues in Oregon and a strong connection to partners across the state. Partnerships are the backbone to the Joint Ventures and central to my work experience. Pacific Birds is a collaborative, international partnership of hundreds of organizations and individuals implementing strategic conservation actions across private and public lands in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, Alaska and the Pacific Islands. As a Joint Venture, we work to accelerate conservation through our partners which takes a landscape level understanding of the conservation landscape and the natural resources issues we face. My work is guided by diverse partners including local producers, conservation and recreation-based non-governmental organizations, local government, tribes, and state and federal agencies. I work closely on initiatives with Ducks Unlimited, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, land trusts, Audubon, and other NGOs. I work to support program goals and bring capacity to local Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Watershed Counsels and OSU Extension programs. I work to align and advance state and federal priorities by maintaining connection to the Director Offices and program staff of the Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, OWEB, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Understanding the diversity of partners and missions has helped shape the context for how I work and understand the issues in this state and beyond.

I own a small farm in the heart of the Willamette Valley, hunt, fish, and recreate across the state, and have a deep appreciation for the natural resources of Oregon and the communities and farmers that make Oregon, Oregon. I surround myself with farmers and ranchers both in work and in my personal life. I support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program goals and view conversion of farmland to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and generational transfers as one of the biggest threats to land use and our natural resources in Oregon.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program advances Pacific Birds mission and well as my personal commitment to multiple benefit conservation and farmland preservation. Providing voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain both agriculture and natural resources is one of the most effective tools to advance conservation today. I bring a ground-up, landscape scale, solution-oriented approach to my work and feel this skillset will be valuable to the program and the Commission. I am dedicated to finding solutions that move conservation forward by making conservation the rational choice, by catalyzing conservation actions, and by leveraging resources across partners to find economies in scale. My career is about making conservation the rational choice—for generations of families, nature-lovers, hunters, and farmers to come.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

My work experience, personal interests, and connection to Oregon's landscapes provide me with a unique skillset to successfully represent the natural resource interests on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Please see attached résumé for additional background.

Currently, I serve on the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program Wildlife Advisory Committee, The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Technical Advisory Committee, NRCS Washington State Advisory Committee, Oregon Wildlife Foundations Grant Review Committee, the Trinational Partners in Flight Executive Team, Western Forest Birds Working Group Leadership Team, and as the Pacific Flyway Council Joint Venture Liaison. I have led the development of over 6 formal governance agreements for partnerships across the state and serve on the Steering Committee of each. I co-developed the Pacific Birds International Board Bylaws and Operating Procedures. I also serve on the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Wildlife Advisory Group and the Oregon Wildlife Foundation Project Committee.

Though Pacific Birds geographic scope does not cover the entirety of Oregon, I work across issues and boundaries through numerous facets of my work. Recently, I have been working in close partnership with the Intermountain West Joint Venture to develop a joint Western Forest Bird Initiative that takes into consideration all forest types and the issues that face them. Using a One Health lens we are working to inform active forest management on both private and public lands across the West. Advancing active restoration increases forest health, resulting in clean air, increased freshwater availability, more resilient rural communities, recreation and tourism opportunities, more carbon storage and sequestration, and vital habitat for declining species.

My work through the Pacific Flyway Council addresses largescale natural resource concerns across the Pacific Flyway. The Pacific Flyway Council is an administrative body that forges cooperation among public wildlife agencies for the purpose of protecting and conserving migratory birds that inhabit western North America. As the Joint Venture Liaison, I inform how Joint Ventures within the Pacific Flyway can intersect with Council decisions, like water resources issues and energy development in Oregon, including the Klamath Basin and the Intermountain West.

By serving on both the NRCS Oregon Technical Committee and the NRCS Washington State Advisory Committee I engage with producers and conservation partners from across the state to provide advice for technical considerations and technical guidelines necessary to implement conservation provisions of USDA legislation. The committee also helps assure that Civil Rights requirements in Program Delivery are met. The NRCS State Conservationist and Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Director co-chair the committee. Additionally, the State Technical Advisory Committees provide recommendations on several issues within a variety of conservation programs.

Pacific Birds is focused on the highest-priority conservation needs in the West, in habitats where investments in private and public lands will accelerate bird habitat conservation and benefit local communities: resilient coasts and healthy forests. To address these challenges, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture is working to

- Protect, restore, and manage resilient intertidal and freshwater wetlands and adjacent farmlands in coastal watersheds to benefit wetland-dependent birds.
- Halt the loss of oak and prairie habitat and reverse the declines of oak-dependent species through oak-friendly conservation options for private landowners and producers.
- Halt and reverse declines of Western Forest birds by informing active forest management on small family forests, private industrial, and state and national forests that aligns multiple benefits for our most imperiled birds and people.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands is loss of habitat and agricultural land due to conversion (development, generational turnover, sea-level rise, energy development), water availability and water quality, catastrophic wildfire, soil health, invasive species and pests, and the decline of pollinators. And, with expected climate change, all these existing issues are expected to be exacerbated in coming years.

Equally important, is the ability of farmers and ranchers to keep farms in production, while simultaneously providing co-benefits for fish and wildlife. This is critical to how we increase the economic viability of agricultural operations and support the next generation in being successful through generational land transitions. Strong incentives for farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agricultural and natural resources on agricultural lands is needed. Though underfunded incentives are being provided through this program as well as other state and federal programs. Supporting farmers and ranchers for the benefit of communities, economies, and natural resources is a critical issue facing the future of Oregon agriculture.

Oregon Agricultural Trust summarize the issue well, 25% of Oregon is in farming and ranching and 64% of that land will change hands in 20 years. The average age of Oregon farmers and ranchers is 60 and unfortunately, 81% of Oregon farmers and ranchers don't have succession plans. The threat of land conversion and development and subdivision of farmland remains the highest conservation concern in Oregon.

Now, more than ever, drought and climate change are fundamentally altering the valuable wetland and irrigated agricultural lands in Eastern Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and the Willamette Valley. These lands provide vital habitat for migratory birds, sustain floodplain function, and recharge aquifers, but are at risk from competing water demands, fragmentation from rural subdivision, and climate change. Additionally, Oregon is home to approximately 30 million acres of forestland which is deeply rooted in Oregon's history and current economy. Beyond the economic, social, and wildlife benefits of forests, an estimated 2.8 million Oregonians rely on water that comes from forested landscapes.

Oregon's coastal communities are already seeing the effects of climate change. Rising sea level is already inundating low-lying lands, eroding coastline, and exacerbating coastal flooding. Tide gates are failing making it difficult for family farms to economically sustain themselves into the future. Along the West Coast, tidal and freshwater wetlands and adjacent agricultural lands, provide important habitats for Pacific Flyway bird species and maintaining agricultural uses on lands vulnerable to sea level rise, as long as feasible, benefits family farms and increases the resiliency of coastal communities.

Landward, an estimated 80% of western forests have been lost since European settlement and most forest dependent species are rapidly declining. Birds dependent on Western forests have plummeted nearly 20% since 1980, and almost half have declining populations. Across the Western U.S., approximately 4.5 million homes and millions of acres of forested watershed are at high or extreme risk of wildfires. While the causes of increased catastrophic wildfires are complex, climate change and declining forest health are at the core of these trends. Climate change and 100-years of fire suppression in Western forests are yielding bigger, more frequent, and more severe wildfire. The benefits of resilient forests and watersheds extend beyond forest-dependent birds and healthy fish populations –healthy forests result in clean air, increased freshwater availability, more resilient rural communities, recreation and tourism opportunities, more durable and stable carbon storage and sequestration, and biodiversity and habitat for species.

Sagebrush rangelands drive our nation's economy through energy and livestock production and provide critical regional water resources. Equally important, sagebrush provides important wildlife values, for many species including sage grouse, mule deer, and migratory birds. These valuable rangelands are at risk from encroaching trees that displace native birds and other wildlife and reduce livestock forage. Deep-rooted western livelihood, from Native American cultural traditions to ranching to big game hunting, all rely on healthy sagebrush rangelands (IWJV 2022). Sagebrush once covered roughly 247 million acres in western North America and although some sagebrush habitats are still common and widespread in eastern Oregon, some sagebrush habitat types are of conservation concern due to large-scale threats like catastrophic wildfire and cheatgrass.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name **Steve Denney**

Affiliation (if any) **Landowner, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number **541** [REDACTED] **1803**

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name **CalLee Davenport**

Affiliation (if any) **US Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners Program State Coordinator**

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name **Ken Bierly**

Affiliation (if any) **Bierly & Associates, LLC**

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate # [REDACTED]

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by Oct 26th, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

SARA EVANS-PETERS

US ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

CONTACT

503.957.3282
sara@pacificbirds.org
Independence, OR 97351

SKILLS

- Ability to work across political and social lines
- Working lands priority
- Passion for conservation
- Effective communicator
- Landscape-level perspective
- Knowledge of state and federal policies
- Knowledge of state and federal funding programs

INTERESTS

- Backcountry hunting
- Waterfowl hunting
- Gardening and canning
- Backpacking horse packing
- Supporting 4H and FFA

EDUCATION

M.S. Wetland Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon State University
2009 - 2012
Advisor: Dr. Bruce Dugger, GPA 3.8

Bachelor of Science
Department of Biology
Southern Oregon University
2000-2003
Advisor: Dr. Karen Stone, GPA 3.6

PROFESSIONAL STRENGTHS

Working lands and compatible use planning; migratory bird management; multi-species and approach to conservation; building and fostering cooperative partnerships; strategic planning; landscape-level/regional planning; conservation policy; land protection and acquisition; restoration ecology; human dimensions and social science, species habitat relationships; habitat and nutritional ecology

WORK EXPERIENCE

US ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture | 2013 - Present
Supervisor: Monica Iglecia, U.S. Coordinator

Build and implement Pacific Birds programs. Forge relationships with conservation and agriculture leaders, local community, and tribal leaders to promote Pacific Birds priorities. Developed and lead of Pacific Birds Oak and Prairie program, developing a Joint Venture lead western states Western Forest Initiative and reestablishing Pacific Birds Coastal Wetland Program.

Program Development and Strategic Planning

Design, build, and implement Pacific Birds Conservation programs. Lead and facilitate strategic and adaptive management planning for external partners and partnerships. Participate in and contribute to local, national, and international planning efforts.

Partnership Development

Build a stronger bird habitat conservation partnership in the Pacific Northwest by fostering and building partnerships at the local, regional, and multi-state, and international levels. Work across sectors, including agriculture, community, tribes, and the conservation community.

Communication and Outreach

Serve as the subject matter expert, providing program information and content that is showcased on the program website. Build awareness of conservation priorities by writing recurring articles that are included in the monthly electronic newsletter. Serve as a liaison to connect partners to Pacific Birds Outreach and Education Specialist to provide updated content for blog posts and newsletter stories. Assist with partner communication activities.

Grant Assistance and Project Development

Serve as a conduit to provide awareness of federal, state and private funding sources that are available for conservation partners. Provide consultation and assistance to partners on project and grant development.

WORK EXPERIENCE CONTINUED

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Oregon State University | 2009 - 2011

Supervisor: Dr. Bruce Dugger, Professor and Associate Department Head

Designed primary scientific research project, collected and analyzed data and clearly reported results, both written and orally. Hired, supervised and trained research technicians and advised an undergraduate capstone project.

Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) Foraging Ecology in the Pacific Northwest

Characterized the diet of wild turkeys in Oregon and Washington by examining the crop contents of wild turkeys. Organized a widespread collection effort targeting hunters through state agency mailings, media outreach, multimedia communication, and presented to groups including the National Wild Turkey Federation, Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service and youth hunt programs. Used relatively new and advanced non-parametric statistical procedures to test the null hypothesis of no difference in diet composition between region and season.

Wild Turkey Seed Dispersal in the Pacific Northwest

Evaluated the ability of turkeys to disperse plant seed by examining viability of fecal samples collected during the fall/winter in Oregon and Washington. Fecal samples were collected with assistance of multiple volunteers across both states.

RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

Oregon State University | 2008 - 2010

Supervisor: Dr. Bruce Dugger, Professor and Associate Department Head

Assisted with designing and implementing numerous academic research projects. Projects: Comparative Foraging Ecology and Habitat Use of Cackling and Dusky Canada Geese and Waterfowl Food Resource Assessments.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST I

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | 2005 - 2008

Supervisor: Don Kraege, State Waterfowl Coordinator

Assisted State Waterfowl Coordinator in the implementation of Wildlife Program goals, objectives and assignments. Key responsibilities included conducting various wildlife surveys, managing wildlife populations, managing wildlife related recreation (hunter access and land acquisition), managing wildlife habitat public uses, and conducting various wildlife management tasks (direct volunteers, communicate with public, participate in public meetings). Major projects: Land Acquisition, Restoration, Private Lands Hunter Access Program, Landowner Incentive Program, surveillance for H5N1 avian influenza virus in wild bird populations, Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring (seabirds), Avian Mortality Investigations, Western Pond Turtle Reintroduction.

LEAD RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Southern Oregon University | 2004 - 2005

Supervisor: Dr. Karen Stone, Department Head

Coordinated and directed fisher (*Martes pennanti*) survey effort. Trained and managed staff and volunteers, managed budget and assigned project area goals.

BIOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNICIAN

Bureau of Land Management | 2003 - 2004

Supervisor: Jeff Stephens, Wildlife Biologist

Compiled and tabulated wildlife inventory data conducted field surveys on proposed actions for federally listed and sensitive wildlife species. Determined pair status, nesting status, and nest success for great gray owls, northern spotted owls, northern goshawks and peregrine falcons through capture, banding, radio attachment, calling and telemetry surveys.

MAJOR PROJECTS

PACIFIC BIRDS WORKING LANDS INITIATIVE (Lead, 2022-current)

Unique, large-scale funding opportunities, such as the Inflation Reduction Act, can add beneficial capacity to Pacific Birds Conservation Priorities. Pacific Birds recognizes this opportunity and will work with other Joint Ventures and with partners in the Pacific Birds region to strengthen relationships with NRCS, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry and other state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations dedicated to conservation on private lands. This includes co-leading an Oregon-specific and national effort to formalize relationships between Joint Ventures and NRCS.

WESTERN FOREST INITIATIVE (Leadership Team 2021-current)

Co-leading development of a shared initiative between multiple Joint Ventures. Pacific Birds and Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) examined opportunities for the Joint Ventures to add value and momentum to Western Forest conservation. Through a shared investment of Pacific Birds and IWJV, a data synthesis was completed to select forest types and step-down priority birds within each Joint Venture's geography. This unique, shared, Joint Venture planning has created additional momentum for, and interest in, Western Forest conservation.

COASTAL WETLANDS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (Co-lead, 2020-current)

Co-leading development of Pacific Birds coastal wetland program. This includes strategic planning and facilitation with a subcommittee of experts from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and California from across sectors. Additional review and synthesis of relevant coastal planning documents and resources. Development of Joint Venture Strategic Plan

PACIFIC BIRDS ACTION PLANS (Coastal Wetland and Oak and Prairie Co-Lead, 2020)

Led development of Pacific Birds Pacific Northwest Coastal Wetland and Oak and Prairie Action Plans including development of assessments, gathering and collating partner input, and developing strategies, actions, and measures of success.

PACIFIC BIRDS AND PEW JOINT COASTAL WETLAND LISTENING SESSIONS (Co-lead, 2019-2020)

Held small group meetings and one-on-one interviews during the fall and winter of 2019-20 to better understand the critical gaps in Pacific Northwest coastal conservation. Total participants equated to over 150 individuals. Four of the six small group meetings were co-hosted with Pew Charitable Trusts. Participants included representatives from multiple state and federal organizations, tribes, land trusts, granting agencies and foundations, and researchers and university staff.

NAWMP PLAN COMMITTEE REVIEW (Content and joint international presentation lead, 2019)

Developed presentation for North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee's review of Pacific Birds. Developed content with Pacific Birds U.S. and Canada Coordinators. Built and formatted presentation including collating content from multiple technical team members and science coordinators from both the U.S. and Canada.

CANADA INTERMOUNTAIN JOINT VENTURE AND PACIFIC BIRDS CANADA STRATEGIC PLANNING (Co-lead 2018)

Led Open Standard based strategic planning workshop with Canada Intermountain Joint Venture and Pacific Birds Canada technical teams. Trained Canadian Wildlife staff on Open Standards methodology, provided online training for participants, and developed online threat assessment. Provided guidance and assistance in data analysis and workshop outcomes.

PRAIRIE, OAKS, AND PEOPLE: A CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN (Co-lead, co-investigator, and co-author 2016)

Pacific Birds, American Bird Conservancy, Klamath Bird Observatory, the Cascadia Prairie Oak Partnership, and Klamath Bird Observatory collaborated on an oak and prairie business plan to illustrate oak and prairie conservation needs. The plan addresses multiple species (birds, plants, invertebrates and mammals), most listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Pacific Northwest state agencies.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT LANDBIRD CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE U.S. AND CANADA (Contributing author 2016)

The Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan provides a continental synthesis of priorities and objectives that guide landbird conservation actions at national and international scales. The Plan comprises an entire section that presents information on the Joint Ventures' roles and efforts in landbird conservation.

PACIFIC AMERICAS SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION STRATEGY (Participant 2016)

International effort to develop strategy using methods from the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation with the goal of developing and maintaining a network of highly functioning conservation sites throughout the Pacific Flyway.

PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT CONSERVATION PRIORITIES (Lead, investigator and author 2015)

An evaluation of numerous existing international, national and state bird conservation plans was undertaken by Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture (Pacific Birds) with a purpose of identifying key habitat conservation needs to assist in strategic conservation planning. Conservation plans under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative and State Wildlife Action Plans were reviewed with identified priorities summarized to determine high ranking needs within the Pacific Birds region. This process is dynamic and new information will be considered in Pacific Birds planning when it becomes available. Important habitat types were identified based on overall need emphasized by each plan, plus Pacific Birds partner input solicited at numerous scoping meetings.

COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP TEAMS

WESTERN FOREST WORKING GROUP - Leadership Team

PARTNERSHIP IN FLIGHT – National Executive Committee

WILLAMETTE WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROGRAM - Wildlife Advisory Committee

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE - Oregon Technical Advisory Committee

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE - Washington State Technical Advisory Committee

PACIFIC FLYWAY COUNCIL – Joint Venture Liaison

OREGON WILDLIFE FOUNDATION - Grant Review Team

PACIFIC BIRDS - Policy Committee

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP LEADERSHIP

EAST CASCADES OAK PARTNERSHIP - Steering Committee

KLAMATH SISKIYOU OAK NETWORK - Steering Committee

UMPQUA OAK PARTNERSHIP - - Steering Committee

WILLAMETTE VALLEY OAK AND PRAIRIE - Steering Committee

INTERTWINE OAK AND PRAIRIE WORKING GROUP - Steering Committee

SOUTH SOUND PRAIRIES SENTINEL LANDSCAPES - Steering Committee

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ORNITHOLOGY - FW311 (2011-2013)

Winter, spring and summer terms with average of 32 students per section. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the field of ornithology by providing an overview of the avian body plan, the biology of birds and the challenges faced when trying to conserve and manage birds in North America. Learning objectives are to learn vocabulary relevant to the structure, function and ecology of birds, understand the structure and function of parts of the body that are unique or specially adapted in birds and to understand key concepts about the biology and conservation of birds.

PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

2020. Alexander, JD, Gillespie CR, Evans-Peters, S. Brown B. Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network strategic conservation action plan version 1.0. Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network and Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR.

2020. Krueger, J. Menske, C. and Evans-Peters, S. Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative strategic action plan. Corvallis OR.

2018. The Intertwine Alliance Oak and Prairie Working Group Steering Committee. The Intertwine Alliance Oak and Prairie Strategic Action Plan. Portland OR.

2017. Altman, B., S. Evans-Peters, E. H. Kim, N. Maness, Stephens J. L., and B. Taylor. Prairie, oaks, and people: A conservation business plan to revitalize the prairie-oak habitats of the Pacific Northwest. Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Portland, Oregon.

2016. K. V. Rosenberg, J. A. Kennedy, R. Dettmers, R. P. Ford, D. Reynolds, J.D. Alexander, C. J. Beardmore, P. J. Blancher, R. E. Bogart, G. S. Butcher, A. F. Camfield, A. Couturier, D. W. Demarest, W. E. Easton, J.J. Giocomo, R.H. Keller, A. E. Mini, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, T. D. Rich, J. M. Ruth, H. Stabins, J. Stanton, T. Will. 2016. Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan: 2016 Revision for Canada and Continental United States. Partners in Flight Science Committee. 119 pp.

2016. Evans-Peters, S., K. Bierly, and T. Mielwald. Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative Conservation Plan Synthesis. Report for North Pacific LCC.

2015. Evans-Peters, S. T. Pacific Birds Habitat Conservation Priorities. Report for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.

2014. Evans-Peters, S. T., and B. B. Bales. Pacific Coast Joint Venture Operational Review Process and its Future in Bird Conservation. Report for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.

2011. Paroulek, S. T. Foraging Ecology and Seed Dispersal of Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the Pacific Northwest. Annual Report to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 33pp.

2010. Paroulek, S. T. Diet and Seed Dispersal Capabilities of Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the Pacific Northwest. Annual Report to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 29pp.

Samuel A. Iverson, John Y. Takekawa, Steven Schwarzbach, Carol J. Cardona, Nils Warnock, Mary Anne Bishop, Greg A. Schirato, Sara Paroulek, Joshua T. Ackerman, Hon Ip, and Walter M. Boyce. 2008. Low Prevalence of Avian Influenza Virus in Shorebirds on the Pacific Coast of North America. *Waterbirds* 31: 602-610.

2008. Paroulek, S. T. Western Pond Turtle Head-Starting and Reintroduction at Goat Ranch Pond, WA. Progress Report for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 8pp.

VOLUNTEER

BASKET SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT (2017-2020)

Youth waterfowl hunt - assist with hunter check-out.

COLUMBIA LAND TRUST (2012)

Assisted with land steward program including wildlife and habitat site evaluations and project selection. Participated in conversations with landowners regarding acquisition and restoration options.

WA OUTDOOR WOMEN; INTRODUCTION TO WATERFOWL (2012)

Worked with Ducks Unlimited staff to teach other women about the tradition, techniques and ethics of hunting waterfowl with shotgun patterning, shooting moving clays, setting decoys, duck calling, the use of blinds, and the importance of dogs.

OREGON YOUTH OUTDOOR DAY (2011-2012)

Helped teach children ages 5-14 about conservation of habitat, hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor activities.

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION (2011-2013)

Presented on wild turkey biology and assisted with activities at youth hunt day programs.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, CAMP UKANDU (2002-2012)

Lead counselor for camp of over 200 children affected by childhood cancer.



RESTORING ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES

October 31, 2022

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

I am writing this letter to offer Lomakatsi Restoration Project's support for Sara Evans-Peters to fill the seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission representing natural resource issues. Lomakatsi has partnered with Pacific Birds for over a decade to address shared conservation concerns. Sara has a wide breadth of understanding on natural resource issues across Oregon and works proactively with conservation partners across the state to strategically leverage resources and bring needed capacity to partnerships across Oregon. Pacific Birds programs extend far beyond birds, bringing a habitat-based all-species approach to conservation that thoughtfully incorporates the needs of farmers, ranchers, and other producers, while rooted in local community outcomes. We believe Sara has a local and landscape knowledge of natural resource concerns and issues and if selected, will work proactively as part of the Commission to move the program forward.

Sincerely,

Marko Bey | Executive Director
Lomakatsi Restoration Project
645 Washington St. Ashland OR 97520

LOMAKATSI.ORG

P.O. BOX 3084 ASHLAND, OR 97520 541 488 0208



WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP

October 31, 2022

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

RE: OAHC is Recruiting for a Commission Seat

I am writing this letter to offer Willamette Partnership's support for Sara Evans-Peters, U.S. Assistant Coordinator of Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, to fill the seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to represent natural resource issues.

Pacific Birds (Pacific Birds) Habitat Joint Venture is a valued partner to Willamette Partnership's programs, working to advance habitat conservation for wildlife and people. Pacific Birds uses a ground-up approach to conservation that takes into consideration farmers, ranchers, and other producer needs, as well as local community outcomes. With Sara's leadership, Pacific Birds has incorporated working lands and producer needs into habitat conservation programs and priorities. As a member of the Commission, Sara would bring a perspective for natural resource concerns and issues, rooted in an awareness of the values of working lands and the people that depend on their resilience.

If selected, I have no doubt that Sara will work proactively as part of the Commission to move the program forward.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sara O'Brien
Executive Director



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Russell Hoeflich

Affiliation Oregon Conservation leader since 1986

Occupation

☒ Retired I have been retired since summer of 2021

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED] Cell or Alternate # [REDACTED] Fax Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature [REDACTED]

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)

- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)



Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

My interest in this position goes deep into my lifelong commitment to conservation through service in the public and nonprofit sectors. With over 43 years as a conservation leader, I am deeply entrenched in all facets of water, land, and wildlife conservation. As National Vice President and Oregon Director of The Nature Conservancy I had the opportunity and honor to work with Senator Mark Hatfield as an original architect and financial lead behind the 1998 voter approved Measure 66 that created OWEB and passage of the 2010 Measure 76 which placed OWEB and its funding source into the Oregon Constitution. As the recent past Executive Director of 1000 Friends of Oregon, I was an active and persistent voice for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and the growing need for a permanent funding source to meet the ever-increasing interest and need for this program.

I have developed a deep understanding of the state's unique land use laws and respect for those in the private sector who are a part of Oregon's working lands network. Over the years, I have developed a unique skillset and expertise in both the multitude of options available to mitigate the escalating pressures of generational transfers with specialty in the forest and agricultural sectors as well as the mitigation tools available to help abate the impacts to fish and wildlife from a changing climate. I have also worked with many of the NW tribes including the Klamath, Warm Springs and Burns Piute to collaborate on the acquisition and restoration of priority conservation areas and restore access to their homelands.

As a past member of the Governor's Global Warming Commission, board member of the World Forestry Center and most recently Governor Brown's Wildfire Response Council and chair of its Land Use Subcommittee, I have helped shape multiple policy and programs that are taking hold today. Throughout my career I have had to raise literally \$100's of millions of dollars from multiple sources and work through the often-difficult challenge to prioritize projects that provide the most enduring impact.

On a personal note, I want to invest my time in retirement on issues that are vital to the future of our state. This position is in direct alignment with my values and career experiences on tangible and enduring outcomes. I want to focus in on efforts that will leave a legacy to our state that I can be proud of.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Education:

Bachelor degree in both Biology and Environmental Science Southampton College
Stonybrook University and a Master's Degree in Environmental Management from
Long Island University

Employment:

The Nature Conservancy-Founding Director South Fork Shelter Island Chapter, New
York 1978-1986

The Nature Conservancy-National Vice President and Oregon Director 1986-2014

The Nature Conservancy- VP and Senior Policy Advisor of its Restoring Americas
Forest Initiative 2014-2017

1000 Friends of Oregon- Executive Director 2017-2021

Recent relevant present/past Boards, Committee work:

Governor appointment to the Global Warming Commission

World Forestry Center Board member

Forest Bridges President's Council of Advisors

Governor Brown appointment to Wildfire Response Council and chair of its Land Use
Subcommittee

I offer up the following specific aligned experiences which are central to my position
qualifications:

- 43 years of national conservation experience with 35 years of high-level conservation contacts and relationships in Oregon
- Knowledge of the DC and State natural resource focused agencies, their leaders, partners and politics
- Board governance and collaboration team cohesion expertise

- Deep understanding of the Oregon land use laws and system including its 19 land use goals with a deep understanding of the underpinning natural resource laws
- Fire risks and mitigation expertise and working knowledge of the full suite of tools available to working lands owners
- Natural resource focused partner outreach capacity and more significantly, the time to do it well
- Comprehensive knowledge of the state and willingness and travel to project sites statewide
- Dual residency in both Portland and Lincoln City and history and understanding of the natural resource issues and politics of both geographies as well as working relationships in most counties of our state
- Experience in supporting State Legislative budgets and policies
- Unique working knowledge behind the full suite of natural resource focused private funders and supporting foundations and critical understanding of the network behind both here in Oregon and nationally
- Comprehensive knowledge of the public funding community network and relationships.
- Deep NGO partner, tribal and working lands sector relationships
- Comprehensive understanding of the operations of the Oregon legislature and all of its natural resource agencies

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

From the lens of natural resource value and interests; climate extremes, late frost, high winds, summer heat extremes, acidification of our oceans, sea level rise, loss of pollinators. Additionally, the expansion of number, duration and size of fire events and extreme variability of moisture events including an escalation of lightning strikes will rank among the dominant issues.

From a social perspective, global famine, national climate driven population movements (climate refugees) to relatively resilient geographies, Oregon will be a focus. Its rich and diverse agricultural lands will become vital to the mitigation of global famine.

In the near term, the aging of the owners of Oregon's family farms and the inherent challenges to generational transfer will dominate. The need to find solutions that keep the lands in production will become vital to the state, our nation and globally.

Lastly, the lack of a permanent conservation funding source to address the full scale and scope of the problem must be priority number one for those who believe in the power of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name **Randy Labbe**

Affiliation (if any) **Past OWEB Board Chair**

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town **Portland**

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate # [REDACTED]

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name **Will Neuhauser**

Affiliation (if any) **Past OWEB Co-Chair**

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate # [REDACTED]

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name **Mark Bennett**

Affiliation (if any) **Past Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Member, rancher and Baker County Commissioner**

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate # [REDACTED]

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by Oct 26th, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

X OWEB Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Application 2022



Main Office • 133 SW 2nd Ave, Ste 201 • Portland, OR 97204
Willamette Valley Office • 454 Willamette St, Ste 213 • Eugene, OR 97401
Southern Oregon Office • PO Box 2442 • Grants Pass, OR 97528

October 7, 2022

Dear Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board of Directors:

1000 Friends of Oregon recommends Russ Hoeflich as the natural resource value interests appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Russ has dedicated over four decades to creating inspiring initiatives to conserve iconic natural and working lands, diverse ecosystems, and prepare for more severe and frequent natural disasters. Russ has combined his ability to maneuver through politics with his passion for a better planet to realize new funding, partnerships, and conservation projects.

Most recently, Russ served as the fifth Executive Director for 1000 Friends of Oregon. Russ possesses strong working knowledge of the policies, programs, and people necessary to sustainably steward Oregon's natural and working lands. He understands the need to defend and enhance our state's special and unique land use planning program to prevent runaway sprawl and fragmentation of our farms, forests, and natural areas.

Russ also understands the importance of listening about new issues and learning from people different from him to better create policies and programs. He demonstrates his appreciation of community engagement, coalition building, and open lines of communication in order to find a solution.

During his tenure at 1000 Friends, he shared his knowledge and skillset with the Oregon Global Warming Commission and the Governor's Wildfire Task Force. 1000 Friends has no doubt that he would bring the same thoughtful, intentional, and strategic approach to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Thank you for your consideration of this recommendation and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Diaz".

Sam Diaz, Executive Director

sam@friends.org

(503) 694-3892

From: mbennett@bakercounty.org
To: [MACK April * OWEB](#)
Cc: [Russ Hoeflich](#)
Subject: Reference for Russell Hoeflich , Applicant OAHC
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 10:17:55 AM

I have had the distinct privilege to work with Russ the past several years while members of the Governor's Wild Fire Response Council.

As a rancher, former member of the OAHC and county commissioner I believe that he is uniquely qualified to fill the role of OAH Commissioner as his Natural Resource values and interests align with the goals and objectives set forth for the program.

In our often partisan climate Russ is able to work collaboratively across lines on issues of Natural Resources , with high levels of effectiveness with federal, state, county and tribal leaders. His experience in the Oregon land use programs would be invaluable to the Commission as he understands both the strengths and the vulnerabilities to the protection of and stability of the natural resources of our state. Because of his leadership skills and Land Use expertise, the governor had him lead the Land Use Subcommittee where he built a pragmatic hard-working team whose recommendations are being implemented today to aid in the reduction of catastrophic wildfire impacts.

A critical role of the commission to insure the next generation of farmers and ranchers are able to successfully transition on the land. He has experience in working on issues where he understands this and will be able to translate this into programs that not only aid and assist this goal but protect working lands where the operators are positive stewards of the lands.

He is known for his leadership in the conservation of agricultural, forest, rangeland and water issues facing Oregon, and has a heart for service to our state.

Russ will be a focused, engaged , well connected, results orientated member.

Mark Bennett, Commissioner
Baker County
Chair, Oregon Wildfire Programs Advisory Council
Office: 541.523.8200
Cell: 541.519.8421
Res: 541.446.3547

From: Randy Labbe
To: [MACK April * OWEB](#)
Cc: [Russell Hoeflich](#)
Subject: Reference for Russ Hoeflich
Date: Thursday, September 29, 2022 3:54:46 PM

Hi April,

It is fun to see my computer pop up your OWEB email address in its' proper place for I have missed your efficient and cheerful manner. I hope our paths will cross again now that in- person meetings are a part of the rotation. My mission today is to submit the following reference in support of Russell Hoeflich's expression of interest in the open seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission:

TO: the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and Staff

FROM: Randy Labbe

Subject: Reference for the Application of Russell Hoeflich to serve on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

The OWEB Board and Staff are deserving of praise for the nurturing stewardship of OAHP and the patient and persevering effort to secure initial funding from the Oregon Legislature.

I served as a trustee of the Oregon Chapter of The Nature Conservancy during some of the eventful years of Russ's long tenure as Director of the Oregon Chapter and we worked closely together when I was Board Chair of the Chapter. I believe that his skill sets and background would be a perfect fit on the Commission for helping OAHP reach the next level of effectiveness and support.

The resume that Russ has submitted speaks loudly regarding his credentials and I can validate their accuracy but he would bring several strengths that I would like to highlight as particularly relevant to OAHP's current stage of development.

- Russ downplays his role in the 1998 passage of Measure 66 and the passage of Measure 76 in 2010 securing permanent funding for OWEB's work. I would argue that he was the driving force in 1998 for mobilizing TNC's lead role and securing private financial support for the Referendum. He has a proven track record as a master fundraiser in both the public and private sector. Similarly, in 2010 he was pivotal in securing TNC's authorization to take a lead role in the effort including incredible financial support. He used his people skills to persuade skeptics on his board that the timing was right to pass this Referendum in the face of a seemingly insurmountable economic downturn.
- Russ has a great ability to work "across the aisle" in both the public and private sector. He recognized the need to recruit TNC board members with diverse political beliefs in the same manner that gender, race, age, and economic diversity are a necessity. He understands the need to eliminate the so-called urban/rural divide and how to grow an apolitical culture in an organization.

Russ is a passionate conservationist who also understands that farmers and ranchers share the same passions. A strong and enduring agricultural and ranching community is a prerequisite for a healthy environment in Oregon.

Warm regards to all of my OWEB friends,

Randy

Randy Labbe
Director
Kerr Pacific Corporation
1211 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204-1001
503-221-1301 Office
503-702-3058 Cell
erlabbe@kerrpacific.com

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From: Will Neuhauser
To: [MACK April * OWEB](#)
Cc: [Russ Hoefflich](#)
Subject: OAHC Natural Resource Value Interests position recommendation for Russ Hoefflich
Date: Saturday, October 8, 2022 12:18:44 PM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301
april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov

Re: Recommendation for Russ Hoefflich for the OAHC Natural Resource Value Interests position

I am a former at-large board representative and co-chair of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), served on the group that defined the Oregon Agricultural Heritage program, and was its initial OWEB liaison to the OAHC after it was created. I continue to follow its actions attentively. I am currently on the steering committee of the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative, and a board member of The Freshwater Trust, and on the Government Relations committee of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, but am only speaking for myself.

I strongly recommend Russ Hoefflich for the upcoming OAHC Natural Resource Value Interests position on the OAHC board.

With its recent first funding under its belt, OAHC is in a key phase of implementing the funding and overseeing the easements and conservation plans vital to sustaining farm productivity and succession coupled with conservation values.

From his leadership with the Nature Conservancy and 1000 Friends of Oregon, Russ Hoelich brings a rich experience in working with all aspects of the challenges OAHC is engaged in: not only with the core mechanisms of restoration and of land preservation, but also with the intersection of land use with conservation and with farming, building coalitions with farmers and foresters, the importance of sustaining a strong farm economy in concert with land-use and conservation imperatives, and the climate impacts on water, people, and habitat.

As a former trustee with the Nature Conservancy in Oregon, I also saw how he lead the The Nature Conservancy in Oregon with his open, considerate and inclusive management style that led to the organization being named the #1 Nonprofit to Work for by Oregon Business Magazine in 2014.

At the Conservancy, he lead many land preservation agreements in Oregon and is intimately familiar with the challenges and creative solutions for constructing win-win arrangements for land owners and for conservation. I believe there is no one more qualified and capable to have a leading role working through the first sets of grants and ensuring OAHC's on-going effectiveness.

I recommend Russ Hoefflich for the OAHC Natural Resource Value Interests position because

he will bring broad expertise, openness and collaborative skills that will be valuable to OAHC.

I would be happy to chat anytime if that can be of assistance in reviewing his candidacy.

Thank-you,

Will Neuhauser
2333 NE Multnomah St
Portland, OR 97232
503/799-6639

- Will

Will Neuhauser
will@ThreeCedarSprings.com
503/799-6639 (c)



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Chris Colson

Affiliation Ducks Unlimited

Occupation

☐ Retired Regional Biologist

Mailing address

Town/City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Cell or Alternate #

Fax Number

Email

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

My professional experiences in eastern Oregon have afforded me an understanding of the conservation role and economic dynamics of agricultural easements in landscapes that are not necessarily experiencing traditional development pressure. In some cases, there may be no pressure, or the pressure may be associated with energy development (e.g. solar, wind, and geothermal) that is not well characterized in appraisals ultimately resulting in lowered values. Additionally, I've observed instances across the rural West where conservation easements can reduce the flexibility of a community and its agricultural landowners to maintain local ownership – under increasing property values, larger properties held intact by easements can become unaffordable for the local community, adversely affecting generational agricultural operations, beginning producers, and community resilience. My awareness and appreciation for these collective issues, among others, has been garnered through direct experiences and interactions with innumerable agricultural landowners

I would bring valuable experience and perspective to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. During my professional career I have regularly worked with private agricultural landowners to facilitate easements for a variety of conservation and development actions. These easements have utilized traditional conservation easements, deed restrictions such as those executed for regulatory mitigation, and rights-of-way often established for industrial developments. These were undertaken with interests in conservation and/or economic return. And within each transaction, I have observed only broad trends among landowners, typically associated with a common interest in genuine conservation. Beyond that, economic interests in easements, even when combined with a conservation desire, can be initiated by boundless and evolving socioeconomic interests and values, and often enough by 'need'.

Throughout my career I have monitored numerous easements with regards to compliance of terms, whether it be a traditional conservation easement, mitigation, and even bond-release. I have gained considerable appreciation for easement terms applied to landowners that fail to appreciate limiting factors within their operation, are inconsistent with expectations established with the landowner, applied inconsistently across transitions of easement managers, or fail to satisfy the intent of the easement. These outcomes are regularly encountered in eastern Oregon where its conservative culture already distrusts conservation easements. Conservation in eastern Oregon is further confounded by the historical lack of funding and easement-holding interests. With the creation of the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program, and the establishment and/or expansion of new regional land trusts, there is outstanding opportunity to increase conservation delivery in eastern Oregon, but it must be conducted strategically and with an adeptness for landowner values, interests, and socioeconomic trends.

I support coordination of the OAHP with Farm Bill easement programs. My long-standing experiences with those programs allow me to appreciate the significance of funding that can complement OAHP. However, all the conservation easements I have facilitated, have been executed with the use of North American Wetland Conservation Act federal funding. My experience with additional federal programs will increase the Commission's perspective.

Finally, my professional natural resource experiences have spanned 17 western and midwestern states, regularly in rural landscapes and private ownership scenarios. These experiences have all been natural resource focused within a variety of industries and conservation pursuits including energy and resource development, transportation, real estate development, private timber management, public lands management, and water and wildlife conservation. I have exposure and applied experience across the respective agricultural commodities and land uses, local socioeconomic values, and state statutory and regulatory frameworks.

My attached resume and subsequent responses will further demonstrate the value of my professional experiences and broad ranging perspectives I will bring to the Commission and the State of Oregon. I have developed deep and personal relationships with the landowners I have and will continue to work with. My experiential resources and value-based perspective will allow me to beneficially serve them and all Oregon agricultural producers on the OAHP Commission.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

My academic background consists of a B.A. in Environmental Science and an M.S. in Forestry, where my research focused on wetland biogeochemical processes in managed timberlands. Following graduate school, I served as a contracted researcher for Boise Cascade conducting stream thermodynamic experiments on their industrial timberlands in Oregon (Ladd Creek and Little Catherine Creek – Union County) and Idaho. Following the completion of the research, I served as a term Botanist for the Boise District BLM. I then took a position as an environmental lobbyist for the non-profit Californians for Alternatives to Toxics. From there I moved on to natural resource consulting leading the Natural Resource Group of Tetra Tech's Boise Office. The company focused services in the hard rock mining and energy development and distribution industries. The latter, particularly wind farm development and linear energy distribution, involved considerable private lands engagement where landowners regularly exhibited a spectrum of interest and opposition to the proposed actions. I then transitioned to my current position with Ducks Unlimited where my roles and responsibilities include landowner engagement, project and funding development, regulatory compliance, collaborative/initiative representation and facilitation, public policy and advocacy, organizational member stewardship, and internal team management.

My career at Ducks Unlimited has included more than 10 years of direct conservation experience in Oregon almost wholly focused on working lands conservation. Collectively, I have overseen the delivery of, or am presently engaged in, 82 eastern Oregon projects and/or initiatives, with 73 being associated with private agricultural lands. Over the course of those 10 years, I have been personally responsible for the delivery of 4,987 acres of wetland conservation, restoration, and enhancement. I have authored four successful standard NAWCA grants, co-authored two successful RCPP grants, and served as a core contributor to the successful Harney Basin Wetlands OWEB FIP grant.

Throughout my tenure at Ducks Unlimited, I have advocated for and delivered conservation measures related to the restoration and conservation of historical wet meadows and floodplains, typically long-converted and now managed as flood-irrigated working wet meadows on private livestock ranches. The maintenance and improvement of this land use addresses proven habitat resources limitations to continental populations of Pacific Flyway birds. But it also upends common perceptions on the agricultural practice of flood-irrigation where it is viewed as an abusive use of water. Devotees of this perception overlook the surrogate role of flood-irrigation in floodplains where it mimics overbank flooding and associated floodplain functions and processes. Conversion away from this practice to sprinkler irrigation results in a direct loss of habitat and floodplain function, ultimately removing the hyporheic exchange of water between the floodplain and its stream, the primary driver of cool, late season flows. I only mention this dynamic of my profession to illustrate the regular position I undertake requiring tactful communication among supporters and opposers of this land use centered on the livelihood of agricultural private operations. Additionally, it demonstrates my regular immersion in the climate-driven ecological and socioeconomic considerations facing agricultural producers, particularly as it relates to water.

Also of note, I am currently enrolled and completing the Western Conservation Leadership Development Course. It is a rigorous 9-month residency and virtual leadership training program focused heavily on productive, high-pressure dialogue surrounding controversial issues, while placing profound weight on diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. This will enhance my existing depth of experience serving in collaborative forums in various capacities as demonstrated on my attached resume.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Changing climate, specifically the availability and quality of water, will be the principal limiting ecological and economic factor for Oregon's agricultural producers. This will be further compounded by rising temperatures and increased climatic variability and frequency of extremes. These factors are expected to dramatically constrain the operational capacity, flexibility, resilience, and ultimately viability of Oregon's producers. The vitality of any individual producer will be maintained through the strength and collective stability of the community. Adaptively structuring OAHP to serve as a continuous support resource for agricultural communities, through strategic conservation inputs to individual landowners, will maximize the program's efficacy to the state's producers.

The respective terms of reserved agricultural rights within conservation easements will be challenged with protecting the intended natural resources while not limiting the management options to producers responding to a changing climate. The state of Oregon continues to broaden its awareness for the roles agricultural lands do and can serve in providing fish and wildlife habitat and maintaining ecological functions and processes. However, if easement terms prevent a producer's ability to adapt, through alternative commodities and/or land use, for instance, the cooperative balance of agricultural production and natural resource contributions can be upset. Awareness for and maintenance of this balance in OAHP is paramount to both Oregon's producers and natural resources.

With regards to water specifically, conservation easements and maintaining larger intact operations can contribute to basin-scale complementary water management and maximized water use. As parcels are broken up, collaborative efforts require more parties, more infrastructure, and increasingly complex adaptive approaches to water balance. Additionally, the economic inputs provided by OAHP can enable producers to implement adaptive measures, and these can be designed to provide benefit at a basin-scale and to adjacent producers. OAHP can provide the strategic vision to ensure these inputs are maximized at community levels.

As a restoration and conservation practitioner that focuses nearly exclusively on private agricultural lands, I employ an ever evolving and adaptive approach to the development and application of conservation-based resources to provide producers with the support they need to adapt to a changing climate. In my estimation, the State of Oregon continues to refine their understanding of how a changing climate is influencing the interdependence of agricultural operations and natural resources. Acknowledgment of this continuing education and applying OAHP inputs under this consideration will ensure state and federal resources are continuously applied with the greatest efficacy.

The nature and scope of my professional responsibilities place water balance at the daily forefront of my program planning. Increasing deficits of water quantity and quality and our understanding of historical ecological balance, require conservation actions based on long-term projections of climate, land use, and subsequent socioeconomic dynamics. My regular practice and application of these climate considerations will be a valuable input to Commission efforts.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Kelley Beamer, Executive Director
Affiliation (if any) Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State [REDACTED]
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Nellie McAdams, Executive Director
Affiliation (if any) Oregon Agricultural Land Trust
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State [REDACTED]
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Larry Maxwell, Owner and Board Member
Affiliation (if any) [REDACTED]
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State [REDACTED]
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by Oct 26th, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

Chris Colson
2533 North 26th Street
Boise, Idaho 83702
ccolson@ducks.org
208-608-2441

EDUCATION

B.A., Environmental Science, Catawba College, Salisbury, North Carolina, 1998.

M.S., Forestry (wetland biogeochemistry thesis research emphasis), Auburn University, Alabama, 2008.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

REGIONAL BIOLOGIST II, Ducks Unlimited, Boise, Idaho. July 2010 - present.

Deliver Ducks Unlimited's (DU) conservation program in eastern Oregon and southern Idaho, while also supporting program delivery in Utah, northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and western Oregon. Primary job responsibilities are to deliver a robust wetland conservation and restoration program while recovering most costs through public funding. Directly responsible for conducting landowner outreach and engagement to identify prospective projects consistent with science-based program goals and objectives, developing conceptual alternatives in coordination with engineering staff on restoration efforts, establishing effective collaboration with project partners and securing funds, negotiating and establishing acquisitions and/or easements, obtaining project permits, managing multi-million dollar complex budgets and grants, and conducting post-construction monitoring and reporting. Maintain stewardship and provide long-term management planning for completed projects on public and private working ownerships. Regularly conduct public education, outreach, advocacy, and policy efforts. Frequently provide formal presentations on program to a variety of audiences. Represent DU in numerous capacities across states, regionally, and nationally on technical committees, working groups, and collaborative partnership conservation initiatives. Program is chiefly focused on restoration of historical floodplain hydrology in priority conservation landscapes, primarily on flood-irrigated grass-based agricultural working lands. Currently manage and develop workload for two engineers, two Farm Bill partnership biologists, and shared workloads for several support specialists. Serve as conservation staff liaison to science, policy, fundraising, grassroots, and volunteership across program area. Typically oversee a \$1 million annual budget composed of an allowable operating budget augmented by awarded public and private funds. Annually generate \$400-700k in revenue from competitive funding programs and deliver ~500+ conserved wetland acres across program area.

For the past four years represented DU on DOI stakeholder coalitions in the Klamath Basin. From that collaborative, established and facilitated a formal working group comprised exclusively of Klamath Project stakeholders. Structured and co-authored an NRCS RCPP application that was recently awarded for \$3.8 million.

ECOLOGIST / PROGRAM MANAGER, Tetra Tech, Inc., Boise, Idaho. June, 2004 – June, 2010.

Managed the Boise office's natural resources group and served as the company's technical lead for wetland and botany resources in the Intermountain West. Directly supervised five employees within the program. Independently generated approximately \$100,000+ annually in proposal awards and maintained many long-term clients. Technical responsibilities included wetland delineation, assessment, permitting, mitigation design and monitoring, serving as discipline lead on NEPA documents and baseline data collection efforts, and regularly conducting rare plant surveys, vegetation mapping, vegetation monitoring and habitat characterization and assessment. Regularly worked on large-scale projects within an interdisciplinary team. Clients spanned a variety of disciplines including mining, forestry, energy production and distribution, residential and commercial development, and public land management.

PUBLIC LANDS PROGRAM MANAGER, Californians for Alternatives to Toxics, Eureka, California. October, 2003 – June, 2004.

As Program Manager, monitored all mission-related forestry and public land issues that occurred in the state of California. Submitted scientifically grounded public comment in response to NEPA documentation on national forests, state water quality declarations and private timber harvest plans. Represented the organization at public meetings and provided input to management and/or action plans that might affect the organization. On behalf of the organization, served on the North Coast Chapter of the California Native Plant Society Invasive Species Committee. Developed a database for monitoring national forest issues, maintained forestry and water quality library of scientific publications and developed and maintained a forestry-related pesticide alternatives webpage. Developed public outreach and education and collaborated on a non-toxic fuel reduction workshop and a reference text addressing plantation forestry.

BOTANIST, Bureau of Land Management, Four Rivers Field Office, Boise District, Boise, Idaho. April, 2002 - October, 2003.

Provided technical expertise and management recommendations in support of the botanical resources of the BLM Four Rivers Field Office as a contracted term employee. Wrote and reviewed NEPA documents, coordinated research projects, implemented management projects/objectives with respect to the district's first federally proposed plant species *Lepidium papilliferum* (slickspot peppergrass), developed species lists for project sites, identified BLM special status plants and Idaho state listed noxious weeds, reviewed past project actions for compliance, located viable populations of desired species for the international Seeds of Success program, monitored rare plant populations and Research Natural Areas, and evaluated impacts following fire events. Often worked within a team consisting of specialists in weeds, archaeology, wildlife, and range management.

CONTRACTED RESEARCH ECOLOGIST, Boise Cascade Corporation, Boise, Idaho. June, 2001 – March, 2003.

Contracted to assist with the design and implementation of a study investigating the effects of canopy shade on downstream temperature and its potential to regulate fish activity. Project utilized hemispherical photography and stream temperature data recorders that were deployed in forested mountain streams in western Idaho and eastern Oregon. Additional work included stream discharge measurements, electroshock and snorkeling fish surveys, and aquatic invertebrate sampling and habitat surveys. Also assisted with various tasks in support of watershed management and fisheries needs on Boise landholdings as

well as Threatened and Endangered species filtering for the benefit of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) audits. Designed and deployed stream temperature recorders to delineate perennial fish bearing stream segments in northeast Oregon and provided quality assurance/quality control of temperature recorders. Surveyed in-stream large woody debris and sediment check dams in support of the restoration of salmon spawning habitat following a catastrophic fire in southwest Oregon. Developed a comprehensive list identifying rare and endemic fauna, flora and ecological communities that occur within Alabama and Washington land holdings to support SFI audits. Research resulted in two peer-reviewed publications.

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Auburn University, Alabama. August, 1998 – May, 2001.

Designed and implemented a study to examine the influences of forest management (including best management practices) within riparian buffers on nutrient cycling and water quality. Utilized a paired watershed approach. Initially the study encompassed intensive water sampling of headwater intermittent streams following storm events. During a record drought year, the project was forced to adapt and exclusively scrutinize management effects on terrestrial indices of riparian biogeochemistry, primarily productivity and decomposition. Overall response variables included water quality (total suspended solids, total dissolved solids and nutrient analysis), stream volume and discharge, decomposition (mass loss and nutrient analysis), coarse woody debris (total biomass), litter fall (total biomass and nutrient analysis), herbaceous vegetation (total biomass and nutrient analysis), aboveground woody biomass, soil microbial biomass, soil temperature and rainfall. Also participated and contributed to other research projects within the graduate group and taught undergraduate Forest Ecology labs. Research resulted in three peer-reviewed publications.

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICIAN, Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, Wadesboro, North Carolina. June – August, 1997.

Performed wood duck, bluebird and red-cockaded woodpecker nesting box surveys and wood duck and neo-tropical migratory songbird banding. Assisted in completion of Pee Dee herbarium, white-tailed deer parasite study, timber marking, and several administrative and public outreach services. Supervised Youth Conservation Corps interns.

CURRENT STATE AND REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ROLES

Klamath Basin DOI Coalition of the Willing, DU representative

Tule Lake / Lower Klamath Lake Working Group, Facilitator

Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative, Core Contributor

Harney Basin Place-based Water Planning, Participant

Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, past *in lieu* Board Member

Idaho NRCS, State Technical Advisory Committee Member

Intermountain West Joint Venture, Idaho State Conservation Partnership Co-Chair

DU Ecological Goods and Services, National Water Replenishment Committee Member

Idaho Bird Conservation Partnership, Steering Committee

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Western Conservation Leadership Development Program, *ongoing*
DEIJ training –Intermountain West Joint Venture, 2021
Streambank Soil Bioengineering, Pendleton, Oregon, 2016
Wetland Ecology and Management, Gray's Lake, Idaho, 2013
Ducks University (Waterfowl Ecology), Bismarck, North Dakota, 2012
Grant Writing for Conservation, Boise, Idaho, 2011
Project Management 2 Training, Tetra Tech, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2009
Carex Identification Workshop, Boise, Idaho, 2009
Juncus Identification Workshop, Boise, Idaho, 2008
GIS Remote Sensing Short Course, Boise, Idaho, 2008
Project Management 1 Training, Tetra Tech, Boise, Idaho, 2007
Arid West Regional Supplement Wetland Delineation Training, Portland, Oregon, 2007
Northwest Herbaria Symposium, Boise, Idaho, 2007
Bryophyte and Lichen Identification, Opal Creek, Oregon, 2006
Biological Soil Crust Ecology and Management, Boise, Idaho, 2006
MSHA Part 48 Mine Safety Training, Elko, Nevada, 2005-2010
Rangeland Health Assessment Standards and Guides Training, Boise, Idaho, 2005
Prescription Grazing Management Training, Boise, Idaho, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

- Danehy, R.J., **C.G. Colson**, and S. D. Duke. 2010. Winter Longitudinal Thermal Regime in Four Mountain Streams. *Northwest Science*. Volume 84, Number 1.
- Cooper, D.J., E.C. Wolf, **C. Colson**, W. Vering, A. Grande, and M. Meyer. 2010. Alpine Peatlands of the Andes, Cajamarca, Peru. *Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research*. Volume 42, Number 1.
- Fritz, K.M., J.W. Feminella, **C. Colson**, B.G. Lockaby, R. Governo, and R.B. Rummer. 2006. Biomass and decay rates of roots and detritus in sediments of intermittent Coastal Plain streams. *Hydrobiologia*, Issue: 556.
- Danehy, R. J., **C.G. Colson**, K.B. Parrett, and S.D. Duke. 2005. Patterns of thermal heterogeneity in small mountain streams in a forested setting. *Forest Ecology & Management*, Issue: 208.
- B.G. Lockaby, R. Governo, B. Rummer, and **C. Colson**. 2004. Silvicultural management within streamside management zones of intermittent streams, effects on decomposition, productivity, nutrient cycling, and channel vegetation *Southern Journal of Applied Forestry*, Issue: 28.



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

511 SE MORRISON ST. PORTLAND, OR 97214 • 503-719-4732 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

October 31, 2022

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Recommendation for Chris Colson as OWEB nominee to OAHP Commission

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I am writing to offer strong support for the appointment of Chris Colson to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. COLT is a statewide coalition that works to serve and strengthen the land trust community of Oregon by increasing the effectiveness of land trusts, strengthening public policies and programs that are supportive of land conservation, and communicating to key audiences the value of conserving Oregon's natural heritage and the economic activities that depend on it.

Mr. Colson is a long-time conservation leader in Oregon whose career is devoted to supporting the conservation of wildlife and the vitality of rural communities. Mr. Colson is a regional biologist with Ducks Unlimited, whose mission is to *conserve, restore, and manage wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl*.

Chris has spent years building trusting relationships across Eastern Oregon where he works to support the management of wetland and waterfowl conservation areas. He is an active partner with the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative (HBWC) and in the Klamath Basin where he brings elements of science, planning, policy, education and outreach to strategies that span public and private lands.



24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust
Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon

The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Wallowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust
8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

Mr. Colson is uniquely suited to serve on the OAHP Commission and will bring the following:

- Expertise on federal conservation funding programs that align with OAHP
- Proven experience building trust and partnerships with private agricultural landowners
- Easement expertise and experience supporting private real estate transactions
- Insight into regional conditions that impact Oregon's working lands and strategies that benefit both agriculture and wildlife

I am confident that Mr. Colson will be an effective and valuable voice for Oregon's agricultural lands and the natural resources they provide. I urge the OWEB Board to consider him for this seat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelley Beamer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelley Beamer

Executive Director for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts





Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Monday, October 31, 2022

RE: Letter of Recommendation for Chris Coleson on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Agricultural Trust to express our strong recommendation for Chris Coleson on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Oregon Agricultural Trust is a statewide agricultural land

I have known Chris in his capacity as Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for many years. Chris has a deep knowledge of agriculture, conservation, and the nexus between these two activities on the landscape. He understands and works with farmers and ranchers, especially in Southern and Eastern Oregon. And he is well-versed in the funding streams that exist for agricultural land protection – especially the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. We have worked with Chris on a project utilizing these funds and matched with NRCS funding, and he was a dedicated partner – passionate about agriculture and conservation and dedicated to creating real outcomes.

Chris would be a great asset to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. He has deep knowledge on ecological concerns from water quality and quantity to associated habitat on agricultural lands. He is a collaborator and connector, and would serve the state well on this Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Nellie McAdams
Executive Director

Maxwell Cattle, Inc.
23036 Maxwell Road
Lakeview, Oregon 97630

October 31, 2022

RE: Chris Colson's application to Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commission Seat

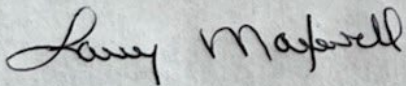
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves to demonstrate my support for Chris Colson's application for a seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Commission. As the owner of Maxwell Cattle, Inc. in Lake County, Oregon, and a long-standing board member of the Northwest Rangeland Trust, I have known Mr. Colson personally and professionally for more than 10 years. In his capacity as a Ducks Unlimited Regional Biologist, he has supported the Maxwell Ranch with the implementation of multiple restoration treatments and two conservation easements. These conservation inputs to our family agricultural operation have enabled the expansion of the ranch to accommodate future generations, increased the water resilience and production of the ground, and reduced management burden while increasing capability and removing all fish passage barriers across the ranch.

Through our interactions, I am keenly aware of Mr. Colson's professional capabilities and the value and perspective he brings to natural resource issues. I can also attest to Mr. Colson's commitment to and consistent engagement with Oregon's producers. He has secured state and federal resources and specialized support to the benefit of our family operation and many of our neighbors in the Goose Lake Basin. I'm confident the OAHP and the State of Oregon will find him a dedicated asset on the Commission.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of Mr. Colson's application. Please feel free to contact me directly to discuss further.

Respectfully,



Larry Maxwell
Owner, Maxwell Cattle, Inc.
Board Member, Northwest Rangeland Trust



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Robin Vora
Affiliation
Occupation
☒ Retired Natural Resource Manager, Wildlife Biologist, Forester, Ecologist
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City [REDACTED] **State** [REDACTED] **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**
Email robinvora1@gmail.com

Applicant Signature /s/ Robin Vora

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I have long been interested in working farms and ranches that also maintain fish and wildlife habitat, and to some extent native natural communities. My mother's side of my family in Mississippi grew cotton dating back to the 1830s and later raised cattle while maintaining some native forest that provided the seed source for the forest there today, some of which I inherited. As a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service I worked with Farmers Home Administration to delineate important wetlands to be maintained on operational farms. I have submitted letters or emails to state governments developing policies on riparian buffers, hedge rows and conservation reserves. I presently serve on the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District Board and am in my 3rd elected term.

I also have an interest in history, am a member of the Deschutes Historical Society, and often participate in local history presentations. I served on the Bend Historic Landmarks Commission for 10 years. I was founder and President of the Mesabi Heritage Society in Aurora, Minnesota.

I am familiar with committee and Oregon State meeting procedures, and working within a committee to achieve common objectives. I have good analytical skills. I have worked on many teams, committees, commissions and boards as a volunteer with local government and in my professional career at work. I understand the need to work collaboratively on a committee, reaching consensus if possible and if time permits, and to develop viable recommendations. I recognize that reaching a consensus may mean not getting everything an individual committee member might want in a recommendation. I am soft spoken and try to listen to what others, including the public, are saying. I believe public involvement is important in developing good recommendations.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

I have participated in local land use policy development and planning everywhere I have lived as an adult and in my professional work. I had substantial natural resource management experience with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over a total of 39 years in seven U.S. states, and completed short-term natural resource planning assignments in seven other countries. I worked as a manager, forester, wildlife biologist, ecologist and hydrologic technician. I published 30 technical articles in peer-reviewed journals on subjects such as applied ecology, ecological restoration, ecological classification, land use planning, timber harvest effects, wildlife habitat & populations, climate change effects and adaptation, and watershed management. I made several presentations at national and regional meetings, public meetings and workshops, and to college classes. I have Masters degrees in wildlife and forestry from the University of Idaho, and a Bachelors degrees in natural resource management from the University of California at Berkeley. I graduated with honors from both universities.

I have served on several city of Bend committees, boards or commissions over the past 15 years: historic landmarks commission, core area urban renewal and earlier central area planning, urban growth area expansion, transportation, public transit, parks and recreation citizens advisory committee, and my local neighborhood association (Vice President). As I mentioned, I am presently serving in my third term on the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board. I led the development of the Deschutes SWCD Long Range Plan. I have been involved with local conservation groups everywhere I've lived.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

As the owners of farms, ranches and forests age, and younger generations move elsewhere for other kinds of work, the state (and nation) is in danger of losing this important family heritage, its contribution to meeting the nation's resource needs, and the local community. Many of these properties that are larger or in key locations maintain fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values. Fragmentation of the properties for other purposes, such as residential or other urban development, reduces their natural resource values. Many farms provide habitats in floodplains or along rivers that are not well represented on National Forest, Bureau of Land Management or other public lands. Local communities may lose when family farms, ranches and forests are sold to national or regional corporate interests.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Heidi Kennedy
Affiliation (if any) Senior Planner with Landmarks Commission,
City Bend,
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State [REDACTED]
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Jerry Sebestyen
Affiliation (if any) Chair Bend Landmarks Commission
and former La Grande City Councilor
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State [REDACTED]
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email jsebestyen@eoni.com

Reference #3

Name Glen Ardt
Affiliation (if any) Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife, wildlife biologist, retired
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State [REDACTED]
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email ardtglen@gmail.com

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by Oct 26th, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
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Agenda Item G supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Lisa Charpillouz-Hanson, Executive Director
Stephanie Page, Deputy Director
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item G –Legislative and Budget Update
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the agency budget and the 2023 legislative session.

II. Background

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. First, each agency submits a requested budget. The Governor then releases a recommended budget, and the Oregon Legislature approves a final budget.

Agencies must specifically request additions to the base budget and justify the need for each addition. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called Policy Option Packages (POPs).

The board approved OWEB's 2023-2025 POPs at the July 2022 meeting. The POPs focus on OWEB's agency structure and request the resources needed to continue existing work, launch new programs, and address board and state priorities, including climate change, inclusive engagement, and the protection of farm and ranch lands. These POPs were included in OWEB's Agency Request Budget (ARB) that was submitted in August 2022.

OWEB does not have any agency legislative concepts that would be addressed in bills separate from the agency budget. OWEB will be tracking other concepts that may affect the agency. The 2023 legislative session will begin on January 17, with a target ending date of June 15 (see Attachment A for the full legislative session calendar).

III. Budget

Governor Kotek is expected to release her budget for state agencies in early February. This is the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) and is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the legislative session, agencies may only advocate for POPs that are included in the GRB.

When the GRB is released, OWEB will update the agency's 2023-2025 budget documents. OWEB will also present the agency budget during legislative hearings between February and early April. Staff will update the board as OWEB's budget progresses through the legislative budgeting process.

IV. Policy Legislation

In addition to the agency budget, staff are tracking other legislation that may affect OWEB or its partners. At the time of writing this staff report, known legislative concepts that staff are tracking include:

- The creation of an Oregon Soil Health Initiative to promote and support farming and ranching systems, and to improve soil health by collaborating on voluntary incentive-based soil health strategies. The legislative concept includes an appropriation to OWEB to fund voluntary soil health practices, and associated technical assistance, through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.
- Directing OWEB to establish a grant program for the removal of western juniper, and appropriating funding to the agency for that purpose.
- The establishment of state policy regarding natural climate solutions. The legislative concept includes an appropriation to OWEB for a Watershed Natural Climate Solutions Fund to develop a grant program to provide incentives to help landowners, land managers, and environmental justice communities adopt practices that support natural climate solutions.

At the January board meeting, staff will update the board on updates to these legislative concepts and any others that may affect OWEB.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. 2023 Oregon Legislative Session Calendar

2023 Session Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2 New Years Day Obs.	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9 Org. Days - Swearing In	10 Trainings	11 Trainings	12 Trainings	13 LC Draft Request Deadline	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16 MLK Day	17 Session Begins	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17 LC returns drafts	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20 President's Day	21 Measure Intro Deadline	22 Revenue Forecast	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28				

MARCH							APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
5	6 Begin Daily Floor	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4 1st Chamber WS Deadline	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17 Post Work Session	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5 Post work session	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17 Revenue Forecast	18	19 2nd Chamber WS	20	11	12	13	14	15 Target Sine Die	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19 Juneteenth Holiday	20	21	22	23	24
28	29 Mem. Day	30	31				25 Constitutional Sine Die	26	27	28	29	30	

Dates subject to the adoption of CR (2023 Regular Session)

Organizational Day	Member swearing in; organization; and first reading of pre-session filed bills
Training Days	Member and staff trainings
Leg. Counsel Deadlines	Deadlines for bills to be requested, returned by LC, and introduced (after these deadlines, subsequent drafts and intros count against per legislator limits. See SR 13.15(2); HR 12.35
State Holiday	Holiday
Important Session Dates	Deadlines do not apply to Rules, Revenue, or Joint Committees. Joint Transportation and Joint Gambling Regulation adhere to the second chamber deadline only.
Floor Sessions	Senate and House floor sessions will be announced by the Senate President or House Speaker. Daily floor sessions begin on Monday, March 6th, 2023.



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Agenda Item H supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds and priority #7: Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Monitoring and Reporting Manager
Katie Duzik, North Coast Program Representative
Liz Redon, Willamette Valley Program Representative
Denise Hoffert, Partnerships Coordinator
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – OWEB 101-Focused Investment Partnership and Council Capacity Grant Programs
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Recently, the OWEB Board experienced member turnover that has led to the inclusion of 'OWEB 101' topics at board meetings. At the January 2023 meeting, staff will provide an 'OWEB 101' presentation highlighting the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) and Council Capacity grant programs.

II. Background

In 2013, the board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy (Attachment A) to guide its investments over time. The emphasis of the strategy is on grant programs focusing on Open Solicitation, Effectiveness Monitoring, Operating Capacity, and Focused Investments. These programs also inform the broad categories of the board's core spending plan, with effectiveness monitoring woven throughout the spending plan. All are also featured prominently in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's 2018 Strategic Plan.

III. Focused Investment Partnership Program

Following the adoption of the Long-Term Investment Strategy, the board developed and implemented the FIP program. A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified focused investment priority of significance to the state; achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes; uses integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

FIP funding supports partnerships in pursuing conservation initiatives with board awards of up to \$12 million over six years. In the past, the board has supported focused investments accounting for ~ 25% of the biennial board spending plan. Attachment B is a FIP Fact Sheet that provides additional details on the program.

IV. Council Capacity

Council capacity grants fall within the Operating Capacity category of OWEB's Board adopted spending plan and help support the operating costs of effective watershed councils. OWEB has provided council capacity grants to watershed councils for more than 20 years. OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils; they are locally designated but may provide grants to councils in support of those actions described in Measure 76.

Council capacity grants are awarded biennially. These grants support watershed council community engagement to encourage community participation in collaborative, voluntary restoration projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats and watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only. At the January 2023 meeting, staff will provide interactive presentations with the board on the FIP and Council Capacity grant programs.

Attachments

- A. Long-Term Investment Strategy
- B. FIP Fact Sheet



OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

OWEB **OWEB's Mission:** To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment

Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development

Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement

Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development

Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration

Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity

Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation

OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments

OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring

OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.



OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**



About

The OWEB Board established the Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) grant program in January 2016 with an initial \$13.7 million commitment for the 2015-2017 biennium. Since then, the OWEB board has awarded an additional \$13.3 million to support partnerships with both implementation and development grants. The OWEB Board approves funds for partnerships for 6 years of funding, and each biennium those funds are reviewed and approved as part of the spending plan.

The OWEB Board created the FIP grant program to invest in a conservation approach that strategizes restoration actions among partners and measures ecological outcomes. In the Open Solicitation grant program, measuring ecological and social benefits can be difficult as projects typically do not include coordinated monitoring in a watershed context. The FIP grant program encourages local partners to collaborate, plan, prioritize, implement, and monitor projects around a common purpose and monitoring framework.

A FIP is an OWEB investment that addresses a board-identified ecological priority, achieves clear and measurable outcomes, uses integrated and results-oriented approaches identified in a strategic action plan, and is implemented by a high-performing partnership with a formal decision-making process.

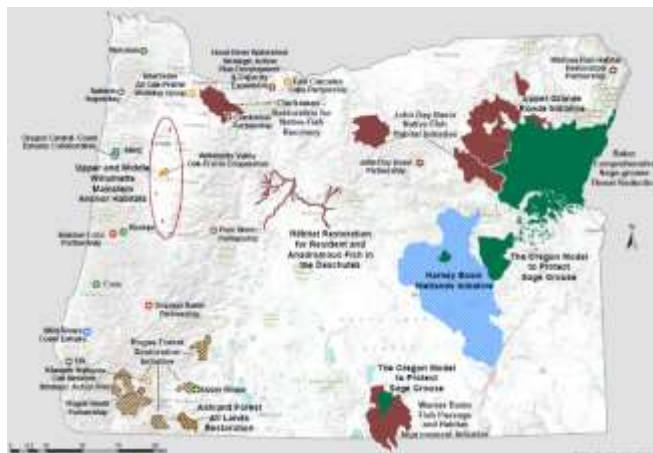
FIP Implementation grants provide up to \$12 million over 6 years for high-performing partnerships that have an existing strategic action plan and are ready to implement projects.



Board-Identified Ecological Priorities for Oregon

The Board approved the following ecological priorities of significance to the State in 2015, and updated these priorities in 2019. They require Board approval at least every 5 years and are determined with public input and scientific rigor.

1. Coastal Estuaries
2. Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
3. Closed Lake Basin Wetlands
4. Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast
5. Oak Woodland and Prairie
6. Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe
7. Dry-Type Forest Habitat



FIP Investments 2015-2021

Rationale

Strategic Action Plan

Each FIP also holds, or develops, a Strategic Action Plan that identifies goals and activities for collaborative work and coordinated action over the long term (10+ years). It outlines a monitoring framework to measure near- and long-term outcomes. Key components of the plan include:

- Definition of goals and outcomes
- Identification of conservation strategies, metrics, milestones, and benchmarks
- A communication strategy that includes non-profit, agency, private landowner, and community partners

High-Performing Partnerships

A fundamental aspect of the FIP program is the support for high-performing partnerships that have a formal governance structure and leverage additional resources beyond OWEB funding. When organizations work together collaboratively, rather than individually, they achieve more. To be eligible for FIP funding, high-performing partnerships must have:

- Defined relationships that outline roles and responsibilities of each partner.
- Capacity to operate under a common vision, implement work at a scale larger than a single project, and realistically achieve identified ecological outcomes.
- A clear link that shows how outcomes relate to each organization's mission and scope.
- A strong record of conservation achievement by partners individually and collectively.

Measuring Progress Towards Goals

To measure progress in achieving goals, each FIP develops a theory of change and results chain within their Strategic Action Plan. The theory of change is a description of the logical causal relationships among a strategic approach. It outlines a step-by-step process for how the partnership intends to achieve their goals. A results chain is a diagram or graphic representation of a theory of change.

Programmatic Lessons Learned

Resources to Support Partnerships

Partnerships are dynamic and require time and resources to grow. This collaborative work often takes more time than expected by partners and requires financial and technical support. Professional facilitators play a role in fostering relationships and ensuring contributions by all partners are recognized. Memorandums of Understanding provide decision-making processes and address partner needs more formally. Engaging landowners in strategic action planning is challenging due to time constraints and diverse business models.

Time to Develop a Monitoring Plan

Strategic action planning allows for the development of a shared monitoring framework among partners to measure trends over time. As they get to know each other's work, it takes time for partnerships to develop an appropriate monitoring plan that accounts for all the different types of restoration projects in a FIP. To measure effectiveness, monitoring must take place before and after project implementation.

Measuring Ecological Outcomes May Take Decades

Ecological outcomes take time to achieve; it could take 20 or more years to see tangible results. For example, it requires decades for tree planting projects to mature and achieve measurable stream-shading benefits. A large financial investment in monitoring over a decade or more is required across a portfolio of projects in a watershed to put indicators in place that detect environmental trends. These challenges are partly due to the inherent variability of natural systems. This variability makes it difficult to find true differences – often many things are changing at once.

Strategic Action Plan

Outlines collaborative actions among partners to achieve and measure the desired impact

Strategies

Strategies to reduce the threat and restore conditions for species/habitats to thrive

Outputs

Collaborative actions based on strategies and monitoring metrics

Ecological Results

Includes near-term and long-term outcomes and outlines the response of target habitat or species

Desired Ecological Impact

Conditions are now improved for Ecological Priority

This diagram is based on [Conservation Action Planning/Open Standards](#) planning approach and provides a generic example of the process and core components of a results chain.





Tina Kotek, Governor



Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I-1 – Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes Funding Request – Telling the Restoration Story
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes (Quantifying Outcomes) investments evaluate specific types of restoration actions within large areas and/or duration of time through targeted funding. Quantifying Outcomes are targeted investments that are identified and developed collaboratively by staff and local partners. Quantifying Outcomes is the title for the previously named Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in OWEB's spending plan.

II. Background

Beginning in 2016, the board expressed strong interest in a measurable approach to 'tell the story' of the agency's restoration investments. In response, staff analyzed OWEB's restoration investments for geographic and restoration action diversity, considered historical and possible approaches, and then identified relevant data for selected locations and identified areas of 'high potential' for pairing restoration information and monitoring data to tell the restoration story. Staff then explored the need and opportunity to offer targeted funding to help the board and grantees better communicate the ecological outcomes of restoration funded by the agency.

Telling the Restoration Story grants support compilation, analysis, and/or interpretation of existing data from a watershed restoration project or projects, and the production of outreach materials that describe outcomes from that work. Outreach products typically include fact sheets, videos, and online content such as StoryMaps. The audience includes board members and legislators. Each grantee also identifies a specific audience, so the materials developed can be used to communicate with landowners, restoration practitioners, and natural resource managers working to restore similar landscapes in Oregon.

Nine projects have been completed under this offering so far, with project highlights presented at several Board meetings and available on [OWEB's website](https://www.oregon.gov/oweb). In addition, three 'Telling the Restoration Story' projects are currently funded. These projects are actively compiling data and

developing outreach products focused on: (1) pollinator habitat in the Zumwalt Prairie acquisition; (2) fish recovery improvements under the collaborative Lostine flow agreement in Wallowa County; (3) and bull trout restoration in Sun Creek, located in the Klamath Basin.

III. Overview of the Funding Request

Monitoring staff engages with each Regional Program Representative regularly to identify potential new projects. Currently, staff has three projects poised to submit applications by early 2023 (Ni-les'tun on the Oregon Coast; Little Butte/Bear creeks in the Rogue watershed; and Sandy River Basin near Portland). In addition, at least three more projects are currently under exploration to determine the timing of available data and partner roles to advise on the outreach products.

Telling the Restoration Story grantees are typically offered up to \$30,000 for project completion. Additional funding is needed to provide the offering to new potential grantees. Staff presented an overview of this proposal to the board's Grant Committee, where support was expressed for advancing the request for consideration by the full board.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends the board allocate up to \$150,000 in support of Telling the Restoration Story with funds from the Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the OWEB spending plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 24, 2023.



Tina Kotek, Governor



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Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I -2 - Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes Funding Request – Carbon and Riparian Condition Monitoring of Riparian Reforestation Projects
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes (Quantifying Outcomes) investments evaluate specific types of restoration actions within large geographic areas and/or over-time through targeted funding. Quantifying Outcomes are targeted investments that are identified and developed collaboratively by staff and local partners. Quantifying Outcomes is the title for the previously named Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in OWEB's spending plan.

II. Background

Streamside revegetation efforts can lead to large increases in carbon sequestration and storage per acre. These types of restoration actions are common activities within OWEB grants. In a recent journal article, Dr. Rose Graves and her colleagues reported that at the state scale, replanting forests in habitats alongside streams and rivers has the second-highest climate mitigation benefit of the 12 activities that were evaluated.

Despite many ongoing streamside restoration and reforestation efforts around the state, there is a lack of data from on-the-ground projects which can inform estimates of long-term carbon mitigation potential and support the development of climate mitigation and co-benefit targets and metrics associated with streamside reforestation projects. To address this immediate need, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is partnering with the University of Oregon, Clean Water Services, OWEB, and others to evaluate carbon storage resulting from streamside revegetation projects across a range of project conditions and ages.

This information will help develop better estimates of climate benefits from OWEB-funded streamside reforestation projects and guidance for our applicants who are interested in implementing these projects. The project directly informs the Oregon Global Warming

Commission's recommendation for carbon sequestration on the states' natural and working lands. Along with the state departments of Agriculture and Forestry, OWEB is a partner in efforts to better quantify carbon sequestration throughout the state, as called for in the recommendation by the Oregon Global Warming Commission.

III. Overview of the Funding Request

OWEB is working with TNC to support a new statewide monitoring project to assess the effectiveness of streamside revegetation projects for restoring riparian function and evaluate what project characteristics and management practices lead to climate benefits as well as restored riparian function.

The primary objectives include the following:

- Evaluate streamside conditions resulting from revegetation projects across a range of conditions.
- Evaluate carbon storage from streamside revegetation projects and evaluate how carbon storage varies with project age and across site characteristics

Using a combination of field data collection and statistical modeling, this effort will lead to updated estimates of carbon accumulation over time in reforested streamside areas. The study will include rapid stream site condition assessment. The aim is to demonstrate the effectiveness of streamside reforestation as a natural climate solution and explore the relationship between streamside site conditions and carbon storage.

Staff presented an overview of this proposal to the board's Grant and Water and Climate Committees, and both committees expressed support for bringing this funding request to the full board for consideration.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommends the board award up to \$100,000 for monitoring of carbon and riparian condition of riparian planting restoration projects with funds from the Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the OWEB spending plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 24, 2023.

Attachment

- A. Overview of Carbon and Riparian Condition Monitoring Project

Monitoring the Effectiveness of Riparian Reforestation for Carbon Storage and Conservation Outcomes

The proposed study will evaluate the effectiveness of riparian reforestation projects in providing carbon storage and climate mitigation benefits and restoring functioning riparian conditions across the state of Oregon. Using a combination of field data collection and statistical modeling, the study will lead to updated estimates of carbon accumulation over time in revegetated riparian areas, updated evaluation of the riparian condition outcomes, and insights into the management practices that lead to successful restoration of riparian function and carbon storage. The proposed study will be conducted in partnership between The Nature Conservancy, University of Oregon, and Clean Water Services. The resulting data will support ongoing efforts by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to evaluate the efficacy of riparian revegetation programs and to estimate the climate impacts of OWEB programs. In addition, the resulting data will support the Water Quality and Nonpoint Source Programs of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Project Lead: Dr. Rose Graves, Natural Climate Solutions Scientist, The Nature Conservancy, rose.graves@tnc.org

Partners: Dr. Lucas Silva, University of Oregon; Clean Water Services; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Background

Climate change is a huge challenge for humankind and meeting that challenge requires immediate and urgent action to reduce fossil fuel emissions and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. Natural climate solutions (NCS) -- restoring, conserving, and managing natural and working lands in ways that sequester and store more carbon -- provide an opportunity to drive progress toward GHG reduction goals alongside reductions in fossil fuel emissions in other sectors. Oregon's Global Warming Commission (OGWC) recently recommended that the State adopt a goal to increase net carbon sequestration from natural and working lands by 5 MMT CO₂e per year by 2030 and 9.5 MMT CO₂e per year by 2050¹. In addition, OWEB recently passed a Climate Resolution which identifies climate mitigation and adaptation as priorities for the agency moving forward.

Riparian revegetation is a common riparian restoration tactic in Oregon, with more than 22,000 acres of revegetation occurring on 2809 project sites between 1995 and 2020, according to OWEB's Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI). Riparian revegetation, specifically re-establishing woody vegetation in habitats beside streams and rivers, can lead to large increases in carbon sequestration and storage per acre and is a critical pathway toward reaching the ambitious goals set by the OGWC. At the state scale, replanting forests in habitats alongside streams and rivers is estimated to have the second highest climate mitigation benefit of 12 evaluated NCS activities².

Despite many ongoing riparian reforestation efforts around the state, we lack data from on-the-ground riparian reforestation projects which can inform estimates of long-term carbon mitigation potential³ and support the development of climate mitigation targets and metrics associated with riparian reforestation projects^{4,5}. To address this immediate need, TNC is partnering with the University of Oregon and Clean Water Services to evaluate carbon storage resulting from riparian revegetation projects across a range of project conditions and ages. Simultaneously, this study will assess the effectiveness of riparian revegetation projects for restoring riparian function and evaluate what project characteristics and management practices lead to climate benefits as well as restored riparian function.

Primary Objectives:

- 1) Evaluate carbon storage from riparian revegetation projects and evaluate how carbon storage varies with project age and across site characteristics.

- 2) Evaluate riparian conditions resulting from riparian revegetation projects across a range of conditions.

Key monitoring questions addressed by this project are:

- 1) How do carbon stocks in restored riparian forests vary with time since establishment?
- 2) How does carbon storage and riparian site condition vary with species composition, management history, and across biophysical and climatic gradients?
- 3) How do riparian carbon stocks and riparian site conditions vary among restored riparian forests and between restored sites and control sites?

Proposed Methods

The study follows an extensive posttreatment (EPT) approach wherein several treatment and control sites are sampled to evaluate revegetation program effectiveness⁶. The study design, sample size, site selection, and protocols for this study are informed by published literature^{3,7,8}, regional EMAP protocols⁹, prior OWEB monitoring projects, and the Washington Department of Ecology stream shade and canopy monitoring protocols.

Site Selection

All study sites will be located within the 20-year floodplain of a river or streams¹⁰. To determine the impact of riparian revegetation efforts on carbon storage and riparian condition, data will be collected at treatment and control (i.e., untreated) sites with a target ratio of 5:1 treated to untreated sites. Reference (relatively undisturbed riparian areas) sites will also be sampled to compare treated site characteristics to reference conditions. Due to logistical constraints, the study will sample unpaired (i.e., in different streams and reaches) treatment, control, and reference sites.

Treatment sites will be selected from existing riparian revegetation projects ranging from 5 to 25 years post-planting. Sites less than 1.0 ha will be excluded. Site selection will follow a stratified random sampling design. Stratification criteria may include stream size/classification (McManamay and DeRolph 2019), gSSURGO soil texture and pH, climate water balance (as a measure of droughtiness), and time since planting. Reference and control sites will be selected from within the same sampling strata as the treatment sites.

As our database of potential sites is compiled, we will consider using management variables (e.g., site prep or maintenance) and local slope in site selection but anticipate that these will become covariates in our analysis. Project area boundaries will be compiled from Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), and partner reporting. For CREP projects, sites will be considered only if the contract is currently active.

Field Data Collection, Laboratory, and Statistical Analysis

Data collection is anticipated from May to October 2023. Data collected will include the indicators shown in Table 1. Specific sampling methodologies are to be developed in partnership with collaborators and reviewed by outside experts. Laboratory and statistical analysis are expected to occur from October 2023 - December 2022.

Deliverables

This project is anticipated to result in several deliverables. These include an initial results presentation (Fall/Winter 2023) and a publication submitted to a peer-reviewed outlet by April 2024. This study will also result in a publicly available dataset (with all confidential information and landowner identifiers removed) and will aid in the development of a carbon calculator for use by restoration practitioners to estimate the climate benefit of their riparian reforestation work. We anticipate several additional presentations to share results with interested groups and land managers.

Table 1. Attributes and associated metrics/indicators to be collected at riparian revegetation project sites, control, and reference sites during spring and summer of 2023.

Objective	Attribute	Metric/Indicator
Assess carbon storage at riparian revegetation sites and evaluate how carbon storage varies with time and among sites	Carbon storage	Carbon stock in tree, shrub, woody debris, and soil pools measured at sample plots (see methods for detailed description of field measurements)
Assess the efficacy of riparian revegetation for restoring healthy riparian vegetation and restored riparian function	Vegetation structure and diversity	Percent cover of each vegetation layer and by species; stem density by species; herb, shrub, and tree diversity indices
	Canopy cover and streamside canopy overhang	Plot center, stream edge, and where possible mid-channel hemispherical photos
	Invasive species presence and cover	Visual estimate of % cover of invasive species
	Plant condition and vigor	Average height of each species and estimated plant vigor based on the percent healthy foliage using the following percent categories: 0 = <5%, 1 = 5-25%, 2 = 26-50%, 3 = 51-80%, 4 = > 80%
	Bank stability	Percent of each reach transect with actively eroding banks
	Livestock exclusion	Evidence of livestock presence (yes/no); fencing intact (yes/no)

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3. Dybala, K. E., Matzek, V., Gardali, T. & Seavy, N. E. Carbon sequestration in riparian forests: A global synthesis and meta-analysis. *Glob. Chang. Biol.* **25**, 57–67 (2019).
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10. Wing, O. E. J. *et al.* Validation of a 30 m resolution flood hazard model of the conterminous United States. *Water Resour. Res.* **53**, 7968–7986 (2017).



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Denise Hoffert, Partnerships Coordinator
Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – FIP Biennial Progress Reporting
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on Cohort 2 and 3 Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) initiatives and helps fulfill biennial reporting requirements to the board. For the Cohort 2 FIP initiatives, staff will introduce the biennial reporting and partnerships, and partners will report on their FIP initiative progress. For the Cohort 3 FIP initiatives, staff will update the board on progress made since the partnerships were awarded in July 2022.

II. Background

In January 2019, the board selected five partnerships for FIP funding beginning in the 2019-2021 biennium. They comprise OWEB's second cohort of FIP initiatives. In July 2022, the board selected five additional partnerships for FIP funding beginning in the 2021-2023 biennium, which is the third cohort of FIP initiatives.

Attachment A includes a table of Cohort 2 and 3 FIP initiatives and the biennial funding associated with each partnership. Attachment B is a map displaying the initiatives, as well as the FIP priority they are implementing.

FIP administrative rules in OAR 695-047-0130(4) require a report to the board on the progress of initiatives at the end of each biennium. Staff and the FIP partnerships will update the board at the January 2023 meeting on progress made in the initiatives, as well as provide budget and work plan updates at the April 2023 meeting.

III. FIP Progress Reporting

The Cohort 2 FIP initiatives have worked with staff to develop Progress Tracking Reports (Attachment C) that provide a written and visual account of each partnership's progress in implementing their initiatives. Progress Tracking Reports are the primary tool to communicate with the board about the progress and evolution of each FIP initiative as they proceed with strategic action plan implementation, outcomes monitoring, and adaptive management of the partnership. The reports summarize each partnership's work and synthesize actions to provide a high-level portrait of progress. In addition, at the January 2023 board meeting, partners from each of the Cohort 2 FIP initiatives will present a progress update to the board.

As the Cohort 3 FIP initiatives were awarded funding by the board in July 2022, FIP progress has been mainly organizational and includes the development of a Partnership Technical Assistance grant that will help provide for partnership capacity to implement their FIP initiative in the first biennium, executing a partnership agreement with OWEB that outlines roles, responsibilities, and expectations for each FIP, meeting with OWEB staff, and helping establish technical review teams to evaluate project-level grant applications that each partnership will submit as the biennium progresses. Some Cohort 3 FIP initiatives have begun developing these project-level applications. Attachment D provides a table displaying the progress of each Cohort 3 FIP.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. At the April 2023 meeting, staff provide the board with updated work plans and budgets for each FIP initiative as a part of the broader 2023-2025 Spending Plan discussion.

Attachments

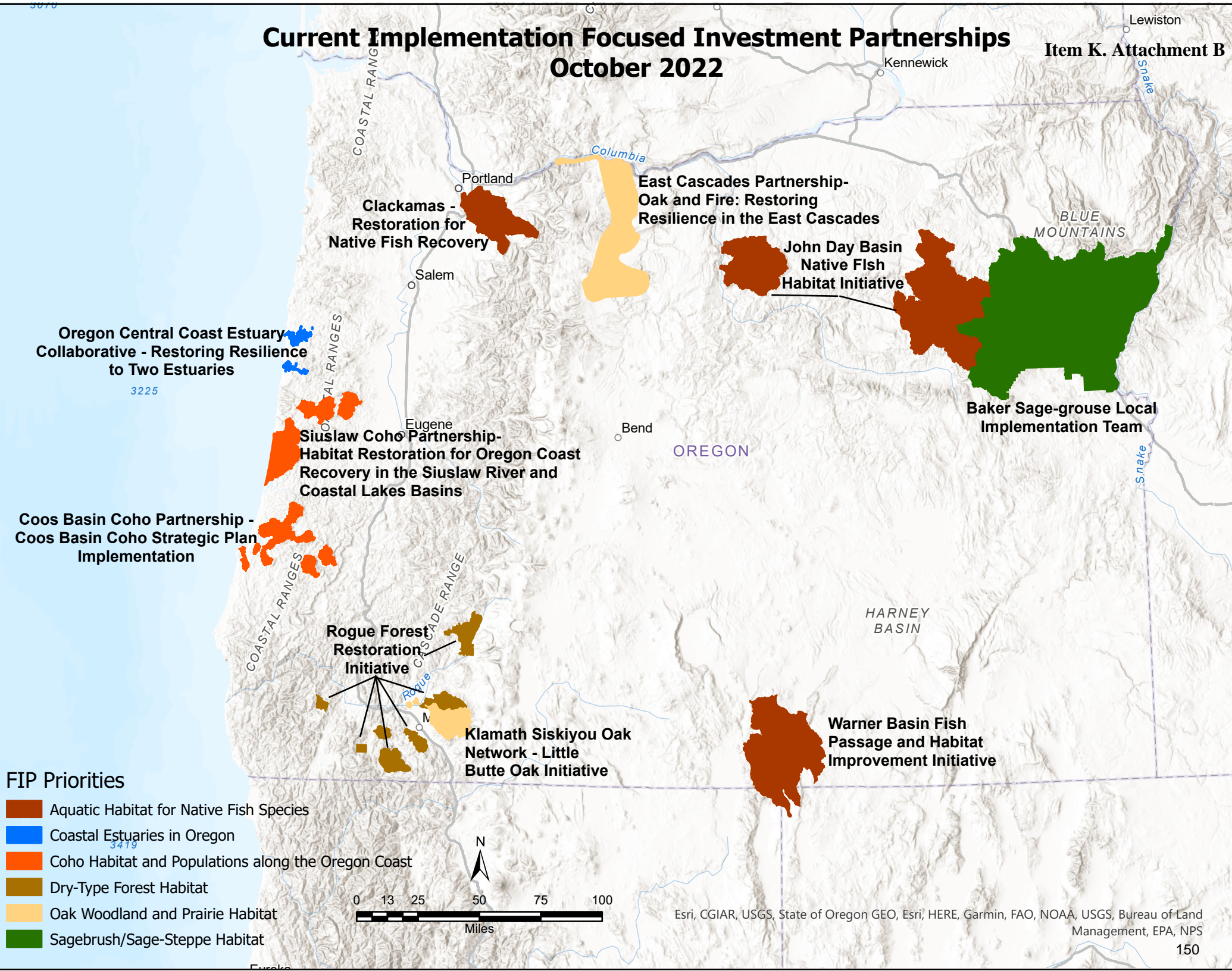
- A. FIP Cohort 2 and 3 Initiatives
- B. FIP Initiatives Map
- C. FIP Cohort 2 Progress Tracking Reports
- D. FIP Cohort 3 Progress

FIP Cohort 2 and 3 Funding

FIP Partnership	FIP Cohort	2021-2023 Award Amount	2023-2025 Requested Amount
Baker Sage-Grouse Local Implementation Team	2	\$2,435,000	\$2,347,620
Clackamas Partnership	2	\$3,082,000	\$2,309,000
John Day Basin Partnership	2	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Rogue Forest Partnership	2	\$2,700,000	\$1,800,000
Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership	2	\$2,293,000	\$1,857,000
<i>Cohort 2 Subtotal</i>		\$14,510,000	\$12,313,620
Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	3	\$1,373,266	\$2,714,735
East Cascades Oak Partnership	3	\$2,544,000	\$2,433,000
Siuslaw Coho Partnership	3	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000
Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative	3	\$1,523,000	\$3,921,700
Coos Basin Coho Partnership	3	\$3,469,614	\$3,858,971
<i>Cohort 3 Subtotal</i>		\$12,909,880	\$16,928,406
Grand Total		\$27,419,880	\$29,242,026

Current Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships October 2022

Item K. Attachment B





OWEB FOCUSED INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
CUMULATIVE PROGRESS REPORT 2023
COVERING BIENNIA 1-2



Baker Sage-grouse

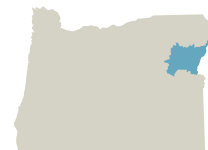
Local Implementation Team

Baker Comprehensive Sage-grouse Threat Reduction

SAGEBRUSH/SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT

The Baker Local Implementation

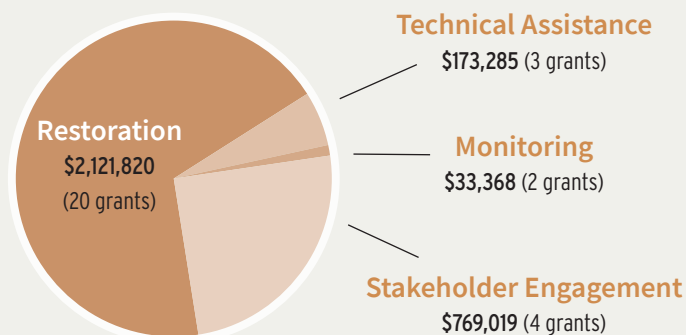
Team (LIT) is working collaboratively with private landowners and managers to enhance sage-grouse habitat within Baker and Union Counties to reverse local sage-grouse population declines.



The Baker Priority Area of Conservation is considered to be the most strategically important area for sage-grouse conservation in Baker and Union Counties and is the primary location of restoration efforts. Efforts also expand into general sage-grouse habitat throughout Baker County where restoration can help support thriving leks and habitat corridors.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$3,097,492 in funding that leveraged \$3,678,169 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Improvement to sage-grouse habitat quality and quantity
- Promoting wildfire prevention and restoration activities
- Improved understanding of sage-grouse threats including West Nile virus, raven predation, and more
- Grazing and land management to promote healthy sage-brush ecosystems

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded a FIP grant to the Baker Sage-grouse Local Implementation Team (LIT). This report documents cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2019. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in Baker LIT Planning Area. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding, with some additional information described on page 3.

PARTNERS

Core Partners: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Baker County, Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, Bureau of Land Management, Powder Basin Watershed Council, Private Landowners

Supporting Partners: Oregon State University Extension, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, The Nature Conservancy, Baker Valley Vector Control, Institute for Natural Resources, Agricultural Research Service, Rural Landowners, United States Geological Survey

GOAL

Increase the quality and quantity of sage-grouse habitat and ultimately increase the Baker sage-grouse population.

STRATEGIES

- Promote awareness and enrollment in voluntary habitat conservation programs
- Prevent, treat, and adaptively manage invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds

- Protect, enhance, and expand extent and connectivity of areas with adequate sagebrush cover
- Address key information gaps

IMPLEMENTATION

Program Enrollment

51

LAND OWNERS
ENROLLED IN
HABITAT
PROGRAMS

2

LANDOWNERS
ENROLLED IN THE
BAKER SAGE-GROUSE
PROGRAMMATIC
CCAA PROGRAM

Weed Treatment & Prevention

1

OHV WASH STATION PRELIMINARY
PLAN COMPLETED
+
PORTABLE OHV WASH
STATION OBTAINED

Fill Information Gaps

2

YEARS OF RAVEN
NEST REMOVAL
COMPLETED

1

MESIC HABITAT MAP
DEVELOPED SHOWING
SAGE-GROUSE BROOD HABITAT

7

ALTERNATIVE FORAGE OPTION
ANALYSIS MEETINGS HELD

Restoration & Planning

3

STRATEGIC FUEL
BREAK PLANNING
MEETINGS

4

LETTERS OF
INTENT FOR CCAA
ENROLLMENT

1

COOPERATIVELY
SHARED SEED DRILL
+
OHV HERBICIDE
SPRAYER OBTAINED

1

UNDERSTORY
ENHANCEMENT
PROJECT
UNDERWAY

1

SAGE-GROUSE
COMPATIBLE GRAZING
ANALYSIS COMPLETED

17

WEST NILE VIRUS
SITES SAMPLED
ACROSS 3 YEARS

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-5 YEARS

- Extent and abundance of invasive annual grasses and other noxious weeds is reduced
- Sagebrush/sage steppe plant communities including native bunchgrass and forb diversity and abundance are suitable to support all life history stages of sage-grouse

Mid-Term 5-10 YEARS

- Sage-grouse nest success increases

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Sage-grouse population is stable or increases



FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-2

Progress on metrics shown below represents actions completed through OWEB grants.

STRATEGY	PROGRESS	OBJECTIVE
Treatment of annual grasses	<div><div></div></div> 4,310 non-overlapping acres	→ 25,000 acres
Treatment of noxious weeds	<div><div></div></div> 2,811 non-overlapping acres	→ 25,000 acres
Acres seeded	<div><div></div></div> 955 acres seeded	→ 5,000 acres

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is a key organization contributing to this restoration work, and has provided significant in-kind contributions towards the restoration strategies:

ESTIMATED NRCS IN-KIND CONTRIBUTION

Treatment of annual grasses and noxious weeds **2,420** acres
Seeding **1,870** acres



Monitoring Approach

Baker LIT is using standard sage-grouse habitat monitoring methods to ensure consistency with ongoing data collection efforts already underway in Oregon. Baker LIT is proposing to work with Oregon State University, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the United States Geological Survey to evaluate biological and habitat datasets along with tracking sagebrush restoration. The project would help track restoration, including pre- and post- treatment data, in a manner that is compatible with Oregon’s Threat-based Ecostate Models and the Bureau of Land Management monitoring so that metrics can be integrated at a landscape scale and inform Oregon’s Sage-grouse Action Plan. In addition, the Baker LIT has incorporated a new Rapid Ocular Photo Assessment field protocol to provide supplemental data and increase overall rigor of the data collected.

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Implementing restoration actions required adaptations to shifting climate impacts under drought conditions, and local contractor capacity constraints.

Establishing a permanent Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Wash Station included some unforeseen challenges in navigating the environmental review process on federal lands.



LESSONS LEARNED

Baker LIT partners remained flexible to plan and adapt to challenges under drought conditions and limited local contractor capacity.

Baker LIT learned about the federal permitting process and implications for the location and logistics for establishing an OHV Wash Station. These lessons will help if future objectives require federal permitting.



ADAPTATIONS

Recalibrating project deadlines and exploring potential budget modifications helps maintain project deliverables and goals.

Baker LIT has included more adaptive management strategies in each restoration grant.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Although the Baker LIT collects quantitative pre and post-treatment data, it has been challenging to analyze these data to develop a comprehensive understanding of the progress of the LIT towards achieving its overarching ecological goal.



LESSONS LEARNED

The Baker LIT learned that supplemental data and additional expertise and capacity was necessary to comprehensively evaluate its effectiveness in improving sagebrush habitat and increasing sage-grouse populations.



ADAPTATIONS

The Baker LIT is collaborating with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to develop and implement a rapid visual ocular assessment. The USGS will also assisting in analyzing all monitoring data collected pre/post restoration treatments.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

The Baker LIT experienced turnover in the coordinator role, as well as in some of its member organizations. This delayed some FIP projects.

Some private landowners were hesitant to work with the entire Baker LIT partnership.



LESSONS LEARNED

A thoughtful approach to maintain and delegate tasks among members maintained stakeholder participation and continue progress on key projects.

Hesitant landowners will benefit from clearer information about the purpose, goals, and collaborative nature of the Baker LIT and the role of each member organization.



ADAPTATIONS

The Baker LIT re-hired a coordinator to manage FIP projects, maintain working relationships, and increase collaboration. The partnership has worked hard to maintain structure and function to facilitate the transition of leadership roles.

The Baker LIT is revising its landowner agreement to better explain the role and contribution of each member organizations. This, along with continued landowner meetings, will be extremely valuable in overcoming landowner hesitation to engage in restoration.



Clackamas Partnership

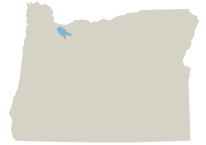
Restoration for Native Fish Recovery

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES



Over-wintering habitat for Coho Salmon in Abernethy Creek

The *Clackamas Partnership's* Restoration for Native Fish initiative is built on the Lower Columbia River Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Populations of Salmon and Steelhead (2010) and contributes to the goals and objectives associated with the Clackamas Population area.



The Clackamas Partnership collaborates on coordinated aquatic, riparian and floodplain restoration, conservation, and habitat protection actions to enhance watershed health, support the recovery and sustainability of native fish populations, and contribute to the region's economic and social vitality.

Upper Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

Clackamas River headwaters downstream to Oak Grove Fork (31.7 miles)

Middle Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

Confluence of Oak Grove Fork downstream to River Mill dam (29.3 miles)

Lower Clackamas River and Floodplain Reach:

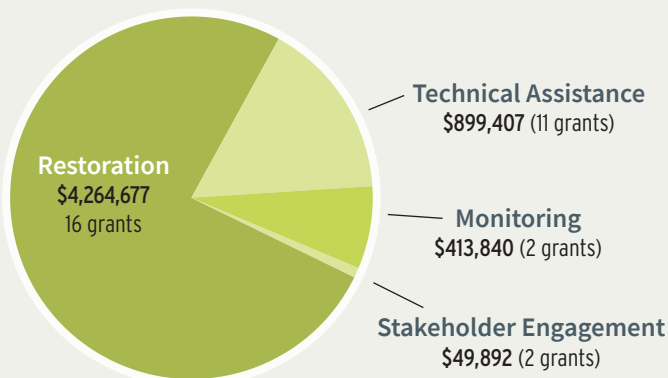
River Mill Dam downstream to the confluence of the Willamette River (23.3 miles)

Lower Willamette River and Floodplain Reach:

Willamette Falls downstream to and including the confluence of Johnson Creek (9.2 miles)

Funding

OWEB awarded \$5,627,516 in funding that leveraged \$4,727,326 in matching funds



Benefits

- Fish rearing and migratory habitat complexity and water quality in river corridors – channel floodplain, off channel, and tributary junctions improves
- Survival of downstream juvenile migrants increases
- Core native fish population performance at freshwater life stages improves
- Increase habitat diversity and salmon population resilience in the face of climate change

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded a FIP grant to the Clackamas Partnership. This report documents cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2019. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Clackamas River Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

CORE PARTNERS

Clackamas River Basin Council • Greater Oregon City Watershed Council • North Clackamas Watersheds Council • Johnson Creek Watershed Council • Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District • Metro

OTHER PARTNERS

Clackamas Water Environment Services • Clackamas River Water Providers • Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs • North Clackamas Parks & Recreation • Oregon Department of Environmental Quality • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife • Oregon Parks & Recreation Department • Portland General Electric • USFS – Mt Hood, Clackamas Ranger District • Oregon Parks & Recreation Department

GOAL

The goal of the initiative is to achieve targets specified by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery Plan by increasing rearing and migratory habitat complexity and improving water quality in the river corridors.



The Partnership's actions fall within three main integrated strategic programs:

STRATEGIES



- 1 Habitat Restoration
- 2 Habitat Protection
- 3 Promoting Land Use and Landowner BMPs

IMPLEMENTATION

Restoration

182

LARGE WOOD
STRUCTURES
PLACED

65

POOLS
CREATED

110

RIPARIAN ACRES
TREATED

11.91

TOTAL MILES TREATED
WITH LARGE WOOD

5.15

ACRES OF
WETLAND
HABITAT
CONNECTED

98,780

STEMS
PLANTED

Monitoring

100.7

STREAM
MILES
MONITORED

32.2

MILES OF IMPROVED
SIDE CHANNEL HABITAT
SNORKEL-SURVEYED

Outreach & Engagement

346

LANDOWNERS/
LAND MANAGERS
CONTACTED ABOUT
RESTORATION

1

STAKEHOLDER
PLAN
COMPLETED

1

VIDEO
TO ENCOURAGE
LANDOWNERS'
PARTICIPATION

33

IN-PERSON
WORKSHOPS/
TRAINING EVENTS

Technical Assistance

2

WATERSHED
ACTION PLANS
CREATED

1

PROJECT
TRACKER
DATABASE
DEVELOPED
FOR USE

44

HABITAT
IMPROVEMENT
PROJECTS
IDENTIFIED

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

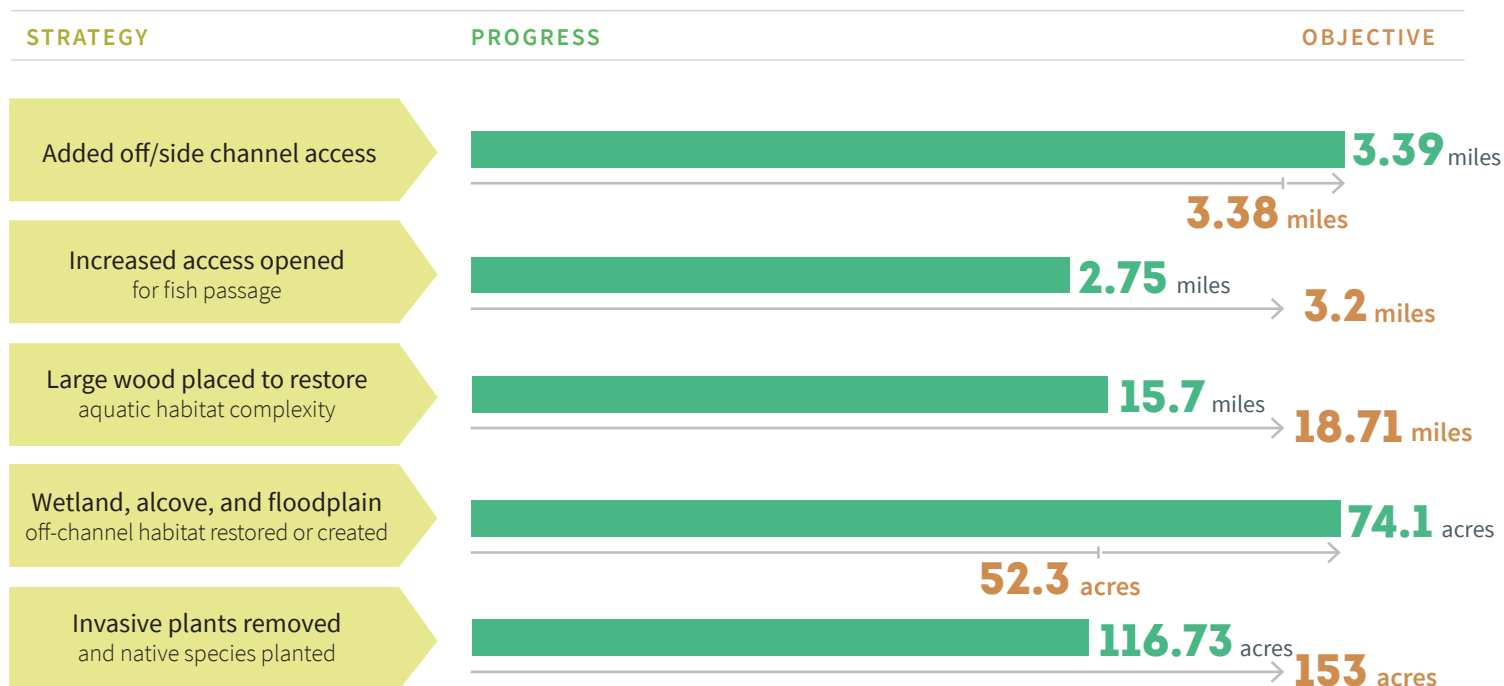
- Increased accessible habitat through enhanced passage at road crossings, small dams, and diversions
- Channel structure and complexity including large wood is improved
- Reconnection of side and off-channel habitats
- Reduction of invasive plant species in riparian and upland habitats

Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Floodplain connectivity and function increases
- Increased large wood recruitment
- Enhance climate resilience of native habitats

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-2

Progress on metrics includes actions completed as well as actions proposed through obligated OWEB grants. Progress reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

The Partnership's restoration and conservation project outputs are tracked through established measures (e.g., volume of large wood placed, area planted with native vegetation). Implemented restoration project outputs, also called performance measures, are documented in the Clackamas Project Tracker database.

ODFW and the Johnson Creek Watershed Council are leading effectiveness monitoring efforts to understand how restoration actions are improving fish habitat and macroinvertebrate communities. To further help the Partnership understand habitat conditions, a contractor developed a macroinvertebrate sampling design, data collection approach, and data analysis methods.

The Partnership plans to monitor restoration sites beyond 1 year after the project is completed. The plan is to evaluate the monitoring protocol for the final year of the FIP and consider several options to accomplish monitoring sites longer-term, beyond one year post-restoration.



Macroinvertebrate monitoring



Christmas tree installation event



North Newell large wood helicopter placement

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Wildfires in 2020 and 2021 impacted progress. The anticipated use of salvage logs was delayed.

Partnership capacity was a challenge (e.g., 2 organizations did not have a Project Manager).

Turnover and capacity in partnering agencies slowed processes.

Additional permitting requirements and rising application fees.



LESSONS LEARNED

Government agencies held meetings to address hazard/danger trees, generating opportunities for salvage log use for restoration projects.

There will be turnover in staff positions and our organizations need to build succession planning into our project management.

New staff learned from the collective expertise from the Partnership while attending meetings, participating on tours, and reviewing project proposals as part of the Technical Advisory Committee.

It is important to continually be aware of permitting requirements, changes, and fees.



ADAPTATIONS

Identified a point of contact to work with agencies for use of salvage logs in future restoration projects.

FIP funding increased capacity. Facilitation assistance through contracting was helpful.

A return to project tours with the technical review team presented learning opportunities when observing other partners' projects and hearing reviewers' comments. Contracting with consultants also helped adjust capacity issues.

Reducing other expenses or identifying funding from other sources needed to make up the gap presented by increases in permitting requirements.

Information about new fees was added to new project proposals.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

Reaching landowners during the pandemic and wildfires was challenging.

Multiple owners for single tax lots require more engagement.

Landowner skepticism of external attention to property use (e.g., government intrusion).



LESSONS LEARNED

Creative meeting and communication arrangements.

Planning for appropriate amount of time and staff attention for areas with multiple owners.

Building trust through landowner relationships led to incorporating landowner interests in project planning.



ADAPTATIONS

Arranging outdoor tours and meetings helped to provide safe social distancing.

Build on established relationships.

Maps and graphic displays used to clarify project scope and incorporation of landowner interests. Providing access to initial agreements during the design and assessment phase helped with landowner acceptance prior to a completed project agreement.

Adaptive Management

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Changes in monitoring plans occur when projects are delayed, cancelled, or altered significantly and lead to inefficient use of monitoring funds.

Monitoring reporting requirements were time consuming to learn.

Different definitions for large wood habitat installations exist.

First post-project monitoring occurred during the 2021 Heat Dome.

Land access restrictions occurred due to the Covid pandemic and 2020 wildfire, delaying monitoring activities.



LESSONS LEARNED

Unpredictability exists in restoration projects from concept to implementation. For example, post-fire emergence of cultural artifacts changed a project site, requiring a new approach for pre-project monitoring.

Learning curve for required reporting was steep, but the partners hit their stride in second biennium.

Differences in ODFW monitoring protocols compared with other guidance for habitat structure installation are better understood.

Multiple years of monitoring are needed to show more accurate ecological response over time.

Flexibility in timing of monitoring was required, including contract arrangements.



ADAPTATIONS

Identified potential source for additional monitoring funding.

Considered new approaches to pre-project monitoring.

Adjusted reporting per requirements.

Using the ODFW benchmark for large wood volume for prioritizing Biennium 3 projects

Anticipate additional post-project monitoring.

Adapted monitoring schedules.

Partnership

CHALLENGES

Integrating projects identified from biennium 1 Technical Assistance grants.

The full suite of identified projects required additional sources of funds to implement proposed work plans.

Partnership processes were incomplete in addressing emerging issues.



LESSONS LEARNED

Unanticipated new projects were identified.

As designs progressed, a greater detail of project costs became apparent.

Partnership governance documents needed review and updating to include input from new members.



ADAPTATIONS

Project prioritization process was reviewed and refined to determine biennium 2 and 3 work plans.

The Partnership worked to expand funding opportunities for restoration projects identified by partners, resulting in more on-the-ground projects.

Improvements to project prioritization and governance procedures were developed with a contracted facilitator.



Phipps Meadow

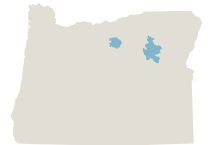
John Day Basin

Fish Habitat Initiative

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

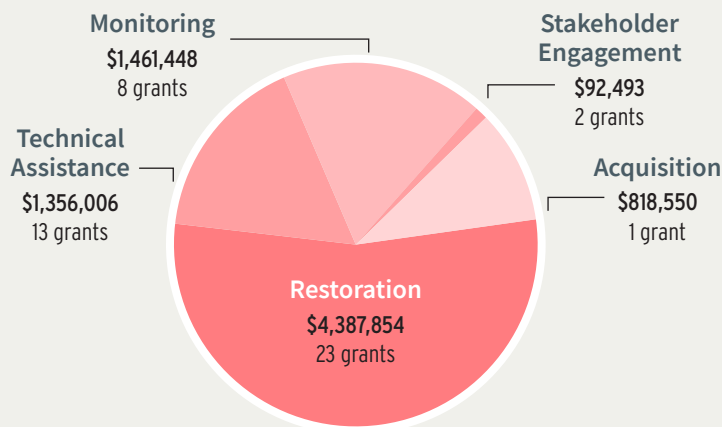
The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP)

is focusing its FIP-supported native fish habitat initiative in three priority subwatersheds of the larger 8,100 sq. mi. John Day River Basin. These priority areas include Butte-Thirtymile Creeks in the Lower Mainstem John Day; North Fork John Day Headwaters; and the mid-upper Middle Fork John Day. Historic and present-day land and water use practices and a changing climate have altered the condition of aquatic habitat contributing to the reduction in productivity and abundance of native fish populations.



Funding

OWEB awarded \$7,998,053 in funding that leveraged \$12,013,117 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Protection of high-quality upland and aquatic habitat
- Increased stream flow during low water periods
- Increased connectivity and quantity of floodplain habitat
- Enhanced surface and ground water connections
- Improved juvenile salmonid rearing and overwintering survival
- Improved water quality
- Improved native plant communities in riparian areas
- Reduced erosion and sediment inputs
- Improved spawning gravel quality and spawning success
- Increased complexity of aquatic habitat

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded a FIP grant to the JDBP. This report documents cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2019. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, tribes, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the John Day Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS

Blue Mountain Forest Partners • Blue Mountain Land Trust • Bonneville Power Administration • Bureau of Land Management • Bureau of Reclamation • Burns Paiute Tribe • Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation • Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon • Gilliam County Soil & Water Conservation District • Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council • Grant Soil & Water Conservation District • Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council • Monument Soil & Water Conservation District • Morrow County Soil & Water Conservation District • North Fork John Day Watershed Council • Oregon Department of Agriculture • Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife • Oregon Department of Parks & Recreation • Ritter Land Management Team • Sherman County Soil & Water Conservation District • South Fork John Day Watershed Council • Sustainable Northwest • The Freshwater Trust • Trout Unlimited • United States Forest Service: Malheur National Forest, Umatilla National Forest Wallow-Whitman National Forest • USDA: Natural Resource Conservation Service • U.S. Department of Interior, Fish & Wildlife Service • Wheeler County Soil & Water Conservation District

GOAL

A John Day Basin with clean water and healthy watersheds sufficient to provide for the sustainable ecological, economic, and cultural well-being of the basin.

STRATEGIES

- Dedicate land and water to restoration and preservation of stream habitat
- Reconnect floodplains
- Riparian restoration and management

- Channel modifications and side-channel/off-channel restoration
- Install large woody debris structures and rock weirs
- Fish passage restoration
- Water quality and water quantity impacts

IMPLEMENTATION

46

MILES OF STREAM
CONNECTED AND
IMPROVED

1

MILE OF RAILROAD
GRADE REMOVED
+
HISTORIC PLACER
MINE TAILINGS
FROM 9.8 ACRES
OF FLOODPLAIN
REMOVED

20.83

MILES OF STREAM
TREATED TO INCREASE
RIPARIAN PLANT
COMMUNITIES

1

MILE SPAWNING
GRAVEL PLACED

1

EASEMENT/
ACQUISITION

2

BARRIERS
REMOVED/
SCREENED

1,399

STRUCTURES
INSTALLED TO
PROMOTE HABITAT
COMPLEXITY

210

FLOODPLAIN
ACRES
RECONNECTED

251 + 51

POOLS RIFFLES
CREATED TO PROMOTE
HABITAT COMPLEXITY

0.5

MILES MADE
ACCESSIBLE TO
NEW HABITAT

275

ACRES OF RIPARIAN
HABITAT PROTECTED
AND IMPROVED
BY EXCLUDING
LIVESTOCK

Monitoring

1

HYDROLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
OF PERENNIAL STREAMS IN
THIRTYMILE MAPPED

284

MILES
MONITORED

9,000

NEWSLETTERS
DISTRIBUTED

Outreach & Engagement

8

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

25

LANDOWNERS IN
PRIORITY RESTORATION
REACHES ENGAGED

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10 YEARS

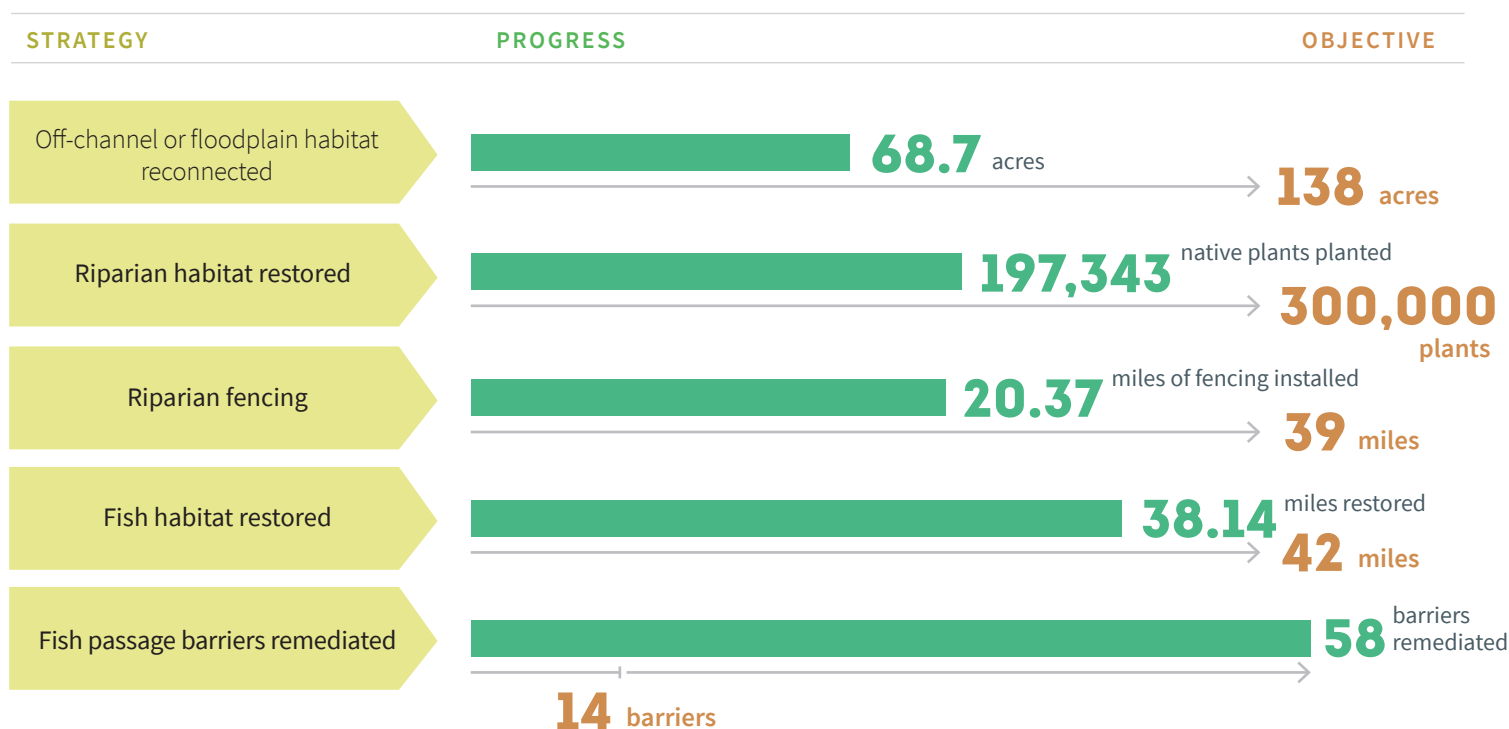
- Decreasing trend in summer instream water temperature
- Increasing trend in summer instream flow
- Improved habitat diversity index
- Increase in woody species density and stream shade potential
- Increasing trend in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Sustained increased productivity in summer steelhead and spring Chinook freshwater productivity

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-2

Progress on metrics includes actions completed as well as actions proposed through obligated OWEB grants. Progress reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

To evaluate progress, the Partnership is using an integrated restoration-monitoring approach based in an adaptive management context. To establish baseline conditions and evaluate progress, the Partnership is using existing data, new monitoring, and well-documented professional judgment (e.g., through the BPA Atlas process).

The Partnership is grouping projects into three different monitoring tiers, with variable levels of monitoring effort for each tier. Communication between monitoring and restoration partners continues to be instrumental to ensure the appropriate monitoring tiers and targets are applied to each project. Appropriate milestones are set for each project to allow for cost effective monitoring which provides an assessment of progress and the ability to adapt subsequent implementation years if needed.

Yearly changes in Partnership operation and plan implementation will be undertaken based on compliance with milestones and any ancillary consideration, with a reevaluation of the Strategic Action Plan every two years.



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

A major challenge has been the lack of available qualified contractors: large projects require large bonds. Additional challenges include delays due to permitting and cultural clearance processes.



LESSONS LEARNED

Full project readiness takes time to achieve. Steps that require time include: permitting; cultural clearances; ensuring available equipment and contractors; and landowner support.



ADAPTATIONS

The Partnership has developed a more defined lens for considering new projects, asking questions to determine whether a project is 'shovel ready' to determine whether partners have all required permits and funding to implement within their deadline, if approved.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

The initial implementation and initiative of repeat monitoring at the Tier 2 level remains a challenge for many restoration projects. This monitoring is essential to understand whether a project is making progress toward objectives.

Several factors may be contributing to this difficulty including: a lack of Tier 2 project effectiveness monitoring methods that can be applied economically and with little training; and a need to link monitoring methods to clearly defined indicators of project effectiveness that can be followed through time.



LESSONS LEARNED

In contrast to Tier 2 monitoring and reporting, much has been learned about implementation of restoration actions as well as the ecological benefits of specific projects through Tier 1 and Tier 3 actions. This is evident in the specification and reporting of implementation objectives at the Tier 1 level within the Project Tracker.

Work in the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) continues to inform restoration work being implemented by the Partnership. The IMW includes in-depth research on restoration outcomes and fish habitat relationships.



ADAPTATIONS

Partnership members continue to populate the Project Tracker with resources that support project monitoring. Emphasis has also been put on practitioners engaging with the Project Tracker's features for recording project outcomes and progress toward specified metric thresholds.

More emphasis should be placed on associating specific project types with accessible indicator metrics, making sure these metrics and associated survey methods are documented within the Project Tracker, and providing resources for practitioners to complete this work.

CHALLENGES

The Partnership experienced low event/landowner tour turnout due to COVID 19 concerns and scheduling difficulties. It was especially challenging to engage with everyone in a virtual format, and to plan in-person meetings in 2021 as conditions changed.

There still is not widespread local community understanding about the need for and benefits of local conservation efforts in the John Day Basin, and there have been challenges disseminating information about the Partnership throughout the greater community.

LESSONS LEARNED

The Partnership needs to build a base level of understanding of who we are, emphasizing local practitioners, landowners, and contractors implementing projects within the basin. With this understanding, the Partnership can meet the community where they are in terms of understanding watershed health and restoration success achieved so far.

Partners find great value from in-person meetings.

ADAPTATIONS

An in-person Partnership meeting paired with lunch and site tour demonstrated excellent attendance. As a follow up, the Partnership will plan to host 1-2 in-person meetings a year, pairing spring meetings with a site tour to showcase on-the-ground restoration projects and facilitate discussions to share ideas around other projects.

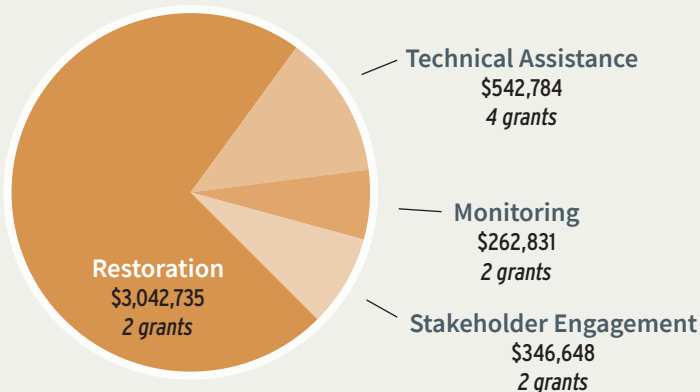
Partners are planning to use Stakeholder Engagement grant funds to develop a more robust social media calendar and outreach plan to develop an annual “impact report” to disseminate to the community. The report will include metrics about restoration work completed and financial benefits of this work for local communities.



Applegate Fairbanks

Funding

OWEB awarded \$1,499,998 in funding that leveraged \$969,926 in matching funds.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

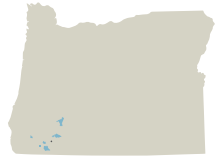
The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to the Rogue Forest Partners (Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative, RFRI). This report documents cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2019. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Rogue Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

Rogue Forest Partners

Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

DRY-TYPE FOREST HABITAT
OAK WOODLAND AND PRAIRIE HABITAT
AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

The Rogue Forest Partners are strategically implementing ecological thinning and prescribed fire in the Rogue River basin to restore forest species composition, reduce tree density and surface and ladder fuels, and prepare stands for fires that sustain forest biodiversity and ecosystem services. Disrupted fire regimes, historical clearcut timber harvest, land conversion, and recent severe wildfires have reduced old forest habitats, needed by northern spotted owls and other species, and have led to excessively dense and homogenous forests. This altered landscape is at high risk from uncharacteristically severe wildfire, insects, and disease and these conditions are made worse by climate change.



Benefits

- Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires to restore forest landscapes are improved
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety are improved, along with increased options for managed fire
- Frequency and severity of fire and other disturbances are shifted toward the desired range of variability
- Threats of abrupt forest degradation and fragmentation catalyzed by climate change are reduced

ROGUE FOREST PARTNERS



Implementation Review Team: Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation, Illinois Valley Fuels Resource Operations Group, Applegate Partnership Watershed Council, Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Sustainable Northwest, American Forest Resources Council.

Monitoring Advisory Committee: Oregon State University, Southern Oregon University, Humboldt State University, retired - PSW Research Station, National Park Service, PNW Research Station

GOAL

The Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative strategic action plan identifies five strategic goals:

Improve landscape climate resilience by restoring natural range of variability in seral structural states +
 Reduce wildfire risk to people and nature +
 Increase public support for restoration thinning and beneficial fire +
 Increase the pace of restoration treatments in the Rogue Basin +
 Provide economic outputs and develop a skilled workforce

STRATEGIES

- Apply forest treatments
- Deepen partnerships among public and private land managers, tribes, local governments, and communities

- Foster development of engaged citizenry
- Improve socioeconomic conditions and workforce capacity

IMPLEMENTATION

Restoration

22,947

LEGACY TREES RESTORED

3,899

ACRES OF MIXED CONIFER/HARDWOOD FOREST AND WOODLANDS TREATED TO RESTORE OPEN HABITAT

Monitoring

6,933

ACRES MONITORED TO EVALUATE RESTORATION OUTCOMES

1

MULTIPARTY MONITORING PLAN, SUPPORTED BY MONITORING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Stakeholder Engagement

194

ACRES OF PRIVATELY-OWNED LAND TREATED

1

CHALLENGE COST SHARE AGREEMENT WITH USFS + COLLABORATIVE MASTER STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT +

NEW PROJECT AREA IN WEST BEAR WITH 68 LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS

Economic Benefits

11.7

FULL TIME EQUIVALENT POSITIONS HIRED AS RESTORATION WORKFORCE

1

MISSION + VISION STATEMENT

74

PRIVATE LANDOWNERS ENGAGED

474

CONTACTS IN MEETINGS WORKSHOPS AND MONITORING EVENTS

OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

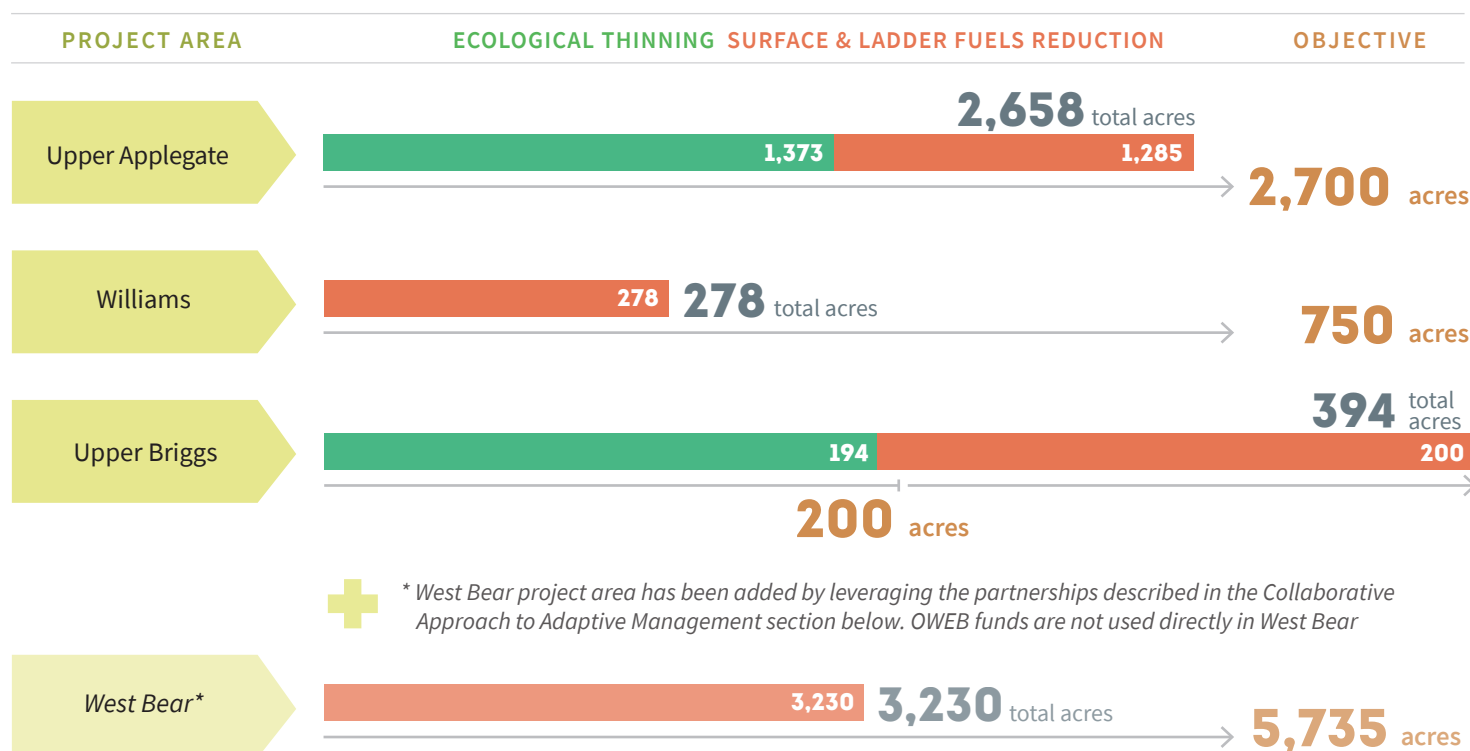
- Social conditions for using ecological thinning and prescribed fires are improved
- Density of smaller ingrowth and encroachment is reduced
- Stand proportion and vigor of fire-resistant species is restored and maintained
- Songbird indicator species shift, consistent with the planned changes in seral structural states
- Future legacy trees are promoted by growing under more open environment
- Nonnative species are reduced
- Oak habitat is restored
- Meadows are opened and maintained
- Wildfire hazard is reduced

Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Wildfire risks to forests and communities are reduced
- Risk from severe fire to critical late-successional habitat for critical species is reduced
- The proportion of open seral structural states is increased, consistent with adaptive range of variability
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety are improved, increasing options for managed fire

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-2

Progress on metrics includes actions completed as well as actions proposed through obligated OWEB grants. Progress reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Collaborative Approach to Adaptive Management

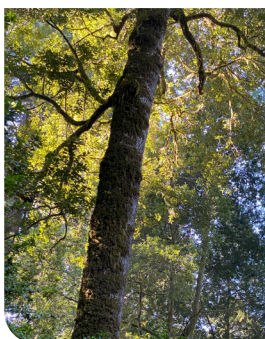
Progress toward achieving ecological and social outcomes

is being determined by evaluating progress toward shorter-term goals and objectives. Treatment effects are quantified in OWEB funded units where partners collect data to quantify changes in forest structure, composition, and fuel characteristics. Originally, RFRI envisioned that the Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) was most likely to be completely implemented at the end of biennium three, and therefore envisioned that

effectiveness would primarily be assessed within this planning area. Through Biennium 2, RFRI's ability to complete the Upper Applegate Watershed (UAW) project has been leveraged through the Rogue Basin Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (USFS CFLRP) and state funding through the SB-762 Landscape Resiliency program totaling an additional \$1.5 million. BLM has also treated additional acres than originally planned.

As a result, RFRI is achieving the goal of fully implementing UAW at the landscape scale and developing the West Bear planning area into a landscape level project. This project has garnered \$11 million in leverage for mostly private land treatments. By the end of 2025, an additional RFRI project area may be developed into a landscape scale project.

In addition to ecological outcomes, RFRI continues to evaluate social outcomes throughout the life of the project.



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Challenges including pandemic-related delays and burnout make it difficult to accomplish collaborative goals. Partners are concerned about sustaining their broad collaboratively-developed goals beyond the FIP initiative.



LESSONS LEARNED

Grounding projects in strong rationale rather than opportunity results in more sustainable outcomes. Generally, the public is supportive of RFRI's work.

There is a strong need to clearly identify objectives and deliverables from meetings. Regularly scheduled meetings don't always have the urgency-and aren't always well-prepared for. However, regular meetings do enhance accountability and maintain progress.

Internal review within RFRI is as critical as external review.

Without specific funding, partners may not be as committed.

When working in fire prone landscapes it is important to think about the spatial arrangement of the landscape, to buffer communities and utilize PODS.



ADAPTATIONS

Prioritize workload and opportunities.

Define realistic objectives and timelines.

Hold meetings with clear agendas and purpose.

Add capacity for managing projects.

Assign roles and responsibilities to be effective at expanded workloads.

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Geodatabase design: All RFRI partners engage in similar projects that could benefit from a common database and tracking system, but trying to create and use a database at the same time is challenging and time-consuming. No partner has the exact skillset to design an easy-to-use geodatabase. The task is highly complex.



LESSONS LEARNED

RFRI partners are finding ways to talk about complex issues and complex solutions. They are using data dictionaries, clear definitions, identifying source material and other metrics to solve this problem.

Having a written monitoring plan connecting goals and metrics to desired outcomes. A table that clearly links restoration objectives to metrics and indicators has been critical for communication within RFRI and externally.

When you have a thoughtful rationale for monitoring metrics, it is easy to recruit partners who want to use the protocol. Documentation of clearly articulated objectives and progress towards those objectives drive accountability and creates momentum towards those objectives. It articulates and demonstrates achievements.



ADAPTATIONS

Invest future funding in geodatabase support, design and dashboards.

Form agreements with university partners for help with design, using student help, and storage.

Adaptive Management

Engagement

CHALLENGES

Having multiple partners makes arriving at consensus time-consuming yet rewarding. Staying faithful to RFRI's communications plan is a regular challenge because of emerging opportunities and demands.



LESSONS LEARNED

Engagement drives future implementation by providing community perspectives. Engagement informs the community, so they are aware of ongoing activities. It prepares the communities for anticipated changes such as smoke, logging trucks, change in forest structure. This helps maintain support.

Engagement builds overall support for future project development and maintenance of future projects. Engagement also brings the public and partners together.

The website is key to clear communication. Starting the website development sooner would have helped recruit participation. The website highlights accomplishments and provides information and tools. Partners use the website to find up-to-date maps, blog articles and background material.



ADAPTATIONS

Additional funding for engagement in Biennium 2.

Communication guidelines are referred to in addition to the communication plan to provide a consistent approach to outreach and media engagement.

Meet monthly and discuss the RFRI approach and priorities.

Develop online maps and information about projects.

Partnership

CHALLENGES

Insufficient internal review of projects has challenged implementation and has caused some delays in project implementation.

RFRI helped write a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) proposal and it was awarded by the U.S. Forest Service in 2022. RFRI is working with the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest to implement this 10-year project, but lack of agency capacity and a business as usual attitude is impacting implementation.



LESSONS LEARNED

Clear workplanning is essential to success. RFRI needs to review their original purpose, strategic goals and objectives. This will help ensure the right incentives for participation are present, and will help with prioritizing project work, planning new projects, tracking accomplishments and uncertainty about the future workload.

The CFLRP is serving as leverage to RFRI projects and will augment ecological outcomes for the high priority project areas.



ADAPTATIONS

Reviewing past accomplishments helped to assess and prepare for the future.

Surveys have been helpful. Consistency in the survey design allows for comparison and evaluating progress and changes in partner concerns.



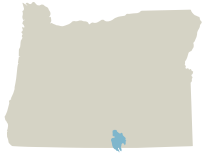
Starveout Diversion Fish Passage Project

Warner Basin

Aquatic Habitat Partnership

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

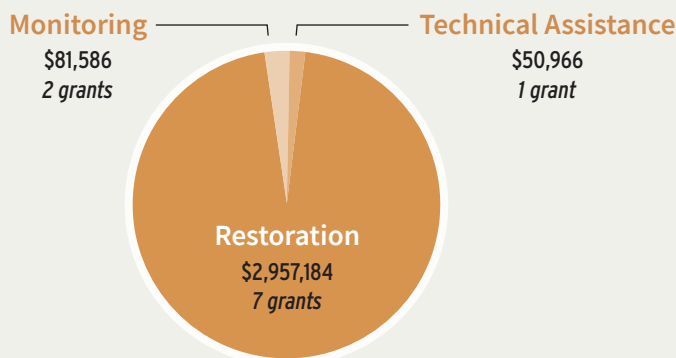
The initiative is focused on the three main tributaries (Twentymile Creek, Deep Creek, and Honey Creek) that support Warner Sucker and Warner Lakes Redband Trout, as well as Pelican, Crump, and Hart Lakes. The three tributaries represent over 45 miles of Warner Sucker designated critical habitat and the primary stream habitat for the two species.



Addressing existing limiting factors will require a collaborative effort among WBAHP members, the local community, landowners, and water users. Recovery of Warner Sucker and Warner Lakes Redband Trout will preserve and ensure the continued existence of the valued fish community that is unique to the Warner Basin.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$3,089,736 in funding that leveraged \$1,408,339 in matching funds



Benefits

- Access to higher quality spawning, rearing, and refuge habitats for native fish species is improved
- Individual populations of native fishes become self-sustaining and function as a self-sustaining metapopulation
- Irrigation infrastructure is improved and enhances assurance of water availability for all needs

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2019, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded a FIP grant to the Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership (WBAHP). This report documents cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2019. Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Warner Basin. Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS



Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, River Design Group

GOAL

Streams and lakes in the Warner Basin are connected, providing access to the high-quality spawning, rearing, and adult holding habitats that are necessary for Warner Sucker and Warner Lakes Redband trout to complete their diverse life-history strategies.

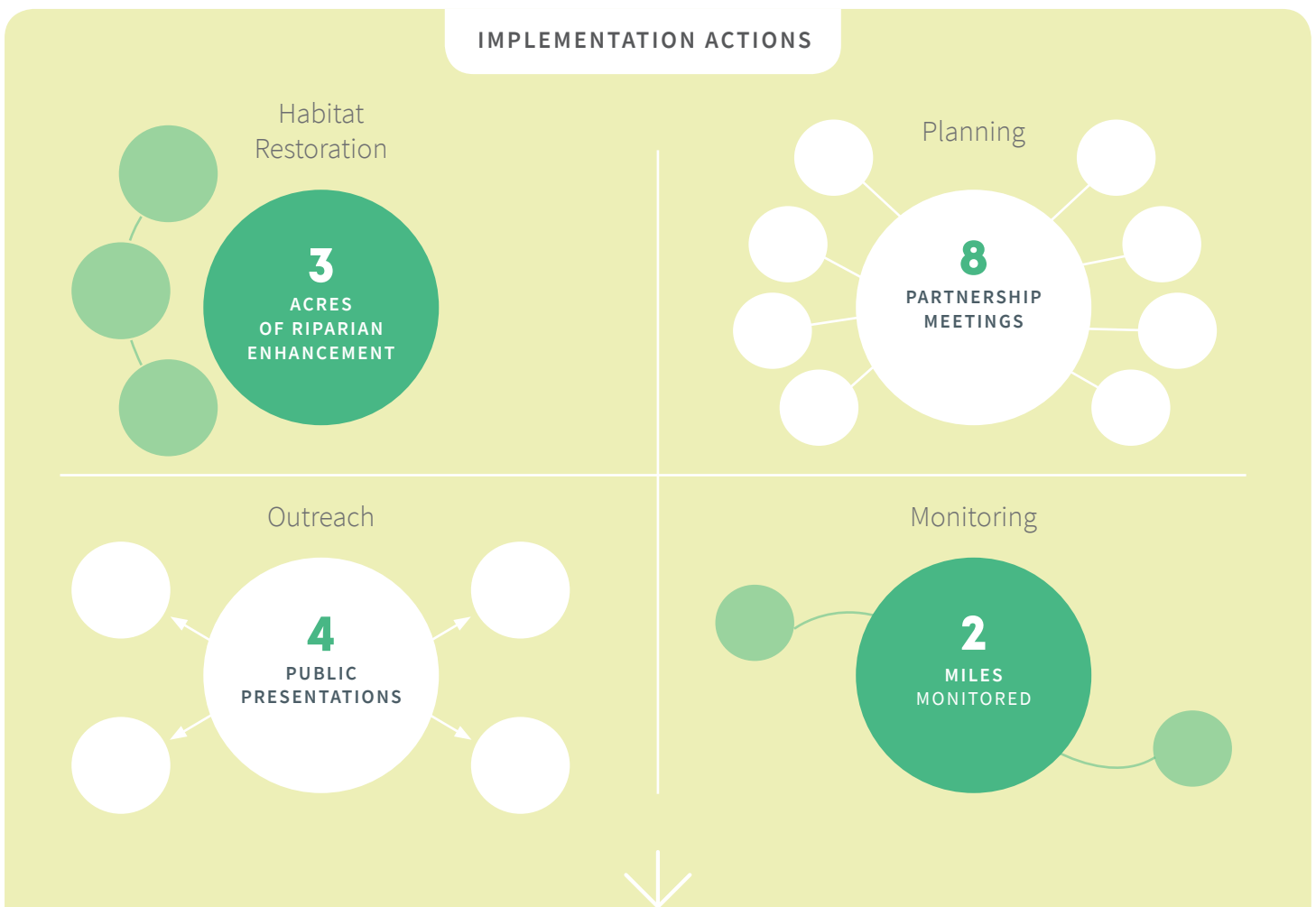


STRATEGIES

- Restore fish passage
- Screen unscreened diversions
- Increase the assurance of water availability
- Reduce non-native fish populations



IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS



OUTCOMES

Near Term 0-10 YEARS

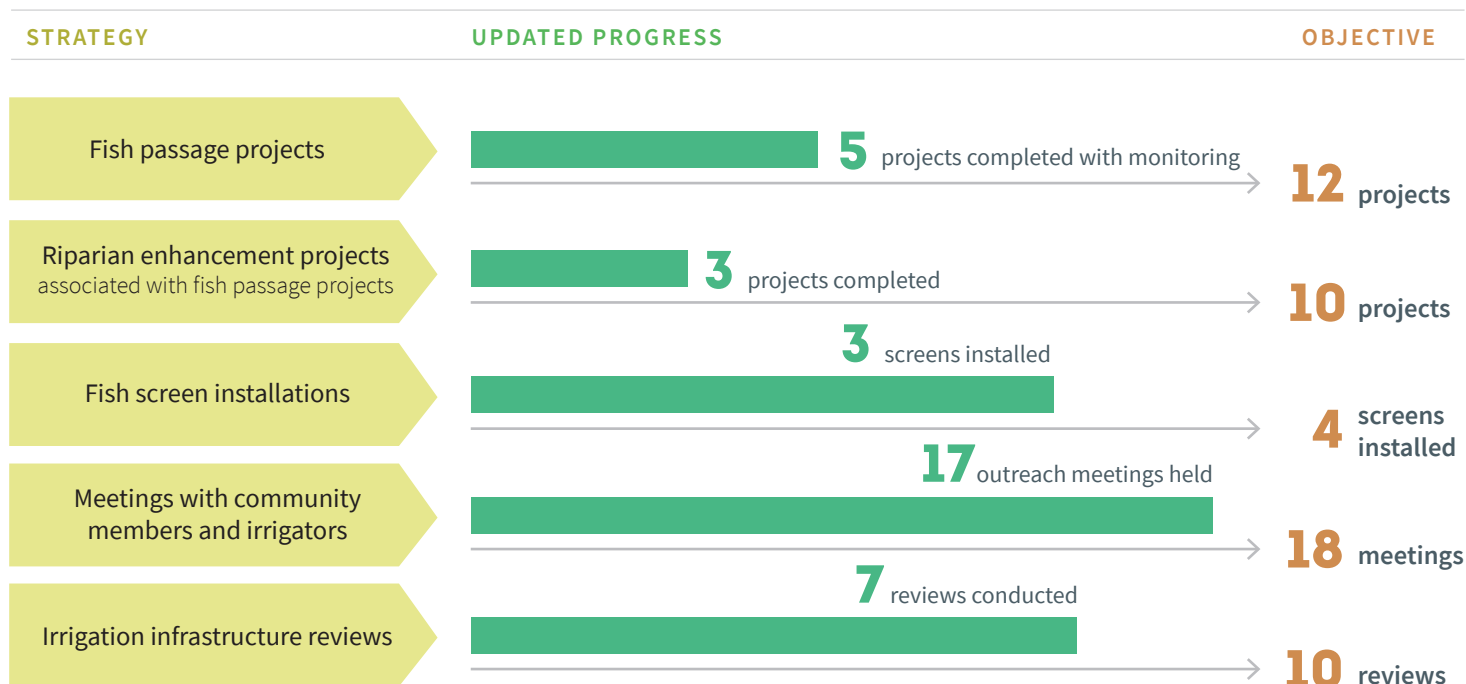
- Habitat connectivity and accessibility for native fish is restored
- Availability of water supplies is assured

Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Multiple age-classes including adults, juveniles, and young-of-year, are represented and approximate normal frequency distributions
- Population sizes of native fishes are stable or increasing

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-2

Progress on metrics includes actions completed as well as actions proposed through obligated OWEB grants. Progress reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

WBAHP's monitoring approach includes annual evaluations at the project level and biennial evaluation at the Plan level. Long-term monitoring will be completed at 3-yr and 5-yr post-project periods. Long-term monitoring beyond the life of the FIP will be funded by WBAHP's member organizations.

Project-level monitoring is envisioned to include:

- 1 As-built survey and project completion documentation to ensure the project was built as designed.
- 2 Out-year monitoring including site visits and repeated photo points to see how the project site has changed.
- 3 Biological monitoring to be coordinated with ODFW, which may include documentation of fish passage.

Plan-level monitoring would leverage monitoring networks and studies typically administered by USFWS, BLM, and ODFW. The long-term monitoring would be used to assess how goals and objectives are being met and if native fish recovery and conservation is on-track.

The first biennium of work identified a top-priority data gap to inform habitat management for the Warner Sucker. WBAHP observed unintended consequences of providing fish passage at the diversions. Non-native fish species were able to move upstream. Also, Warner Suckers were going down the irrigation canal and unable to return to Deep Creek during high flows. WBAHP has submitted an OWEB Technical Assistance proposal to help better understand the situation and inform management options.



Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES

Warner Basin has continually fluctuating stream flows and uncertain water availability. It is challenging to meet water user irrigation needs and fish passage goals in this environment.

WBAHP partners have concerns with the management of diversions to ensure fish passage goals. Water users have concerns about the constraints associated with water management for fish passage at the diversions as flows fluctuate.

Very low flows in 2020 and 2021 affected willow cutting survival and fish passage. Revegetation efforts as part of fish passage projects have also been given a lower priority when the project areas are grazed.

At the Deep Creek Town Diversion, providing passage has resulted in an increase in Warner Suckers entering the irrigation network which may impact populations over time, increasing the need for screening.

Other challenges include the ability to acquire materials for construction; increases in supply cost; and time constraints. These challenges result in difficulty budgeting into next projects.

LESSONS LEARNED

WBAHP partners have learned about the daily fluctuations in flows in a flashier desert system driven by snow melt. These flows fluctuations can be drastic throughout the day/week/season.

WBAHP partners have learned about the different types of fish passage designs, water rights, and water law. Additionally, they have learned about water user operations, needs, and concerns within this network.

ADAPTATIONS

WBAHP has remained consistent with internal communications and meetings, completing on-the-ground work and meeting fish passage objectives. WBAHP has learned to plan contract implementation work with sufficient time to secure materials prior to work being implemented.

WBAHP partners have shown flexibility throughout the biennium as challenges arise, maintaining an open dialogue with the private landowners and irrigators who we are working with in the basin. When projects have not been managed for fish passage, WBAHP members reach out to the irrigators to discuss management concerns.

These discussions resulted in common ground whereby the irrigators are able to deliver the water requested by their patrons while also meeting WBAHP's fish passage goals.

WBAHP has prepared operations manuals for the diversions and fish passage structures so that there is a clear understanding of how the fish passage structures are to be used.

Adaptive Management

Monitoring

CHALLENGES

Low-water drought conditions interfered with our ability to monitor passage success at several diversions due to lack of water through passage routes.

The Deep Creek Town Ditch network has presented monitoring challenges as there is lack of understanding on how sucker and trout travel through the irrigation network.

To date, monitoring has been site specific and not at the basin scale.



LESSONS LEARNED

The monitoring approach must include flexibility to respond to factors outside partners' control, such as drought.



ADAPTATIONS

Biological monitoring was extended for another season at some projects (Deep Cr) to provide more robust information on passage success under more typical flow conditions.

One unintended consequence of providing fish passage at the diversion is the possibility of Warner Suckers moving through the irrigation canal and then being unable to return to Deep Creek during periods of high flow.

WBAHP partners have gained deeper understanding about water issues in the Basin, including water law and water rights, operations, management needs and concerns. Partners have also learned about different types of fish passage designs.

Engagement

CHALLENGES

ODFW proposed In-Stream Water Right Filings have raised concerns with water users in the Warner Basin and throughout Lake County, resulting in uncertainty about the next level of project work.

WBAHP is working to ensure that information is passed through the proper communication channels with all stakeholders (funders, water users, partnership, community), discussing how to accommodate all water users needs on the same system with one design plan.



LESSONS LEARNED

The Warner Basin is very dynamic. Flows are drastically different each season, and it is important to understand how each water structure is operated. Regular and consistent communication with all stakeholders is necessary.

This approach has begun to improve fish passage, water users' infrastructure, and the community's understanding of native fish species in the Warner Basin.



ADAPTATIONS

Partners have continued to meet annually as a whole group (WBAHP and water users) to discuss status of work, objectives achieved, monitoring results to date, and gather feedback.

This open communication approach provides involvement in the planning process to reduce the likelihood of last-minute changes to project designs. WBAHP continues quarterly meeting and site visits, while working to be flexible to meet water users' requests and reach fish passage and screening objectives.

Table 1. Biennium 1 Accomplishments for Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Cohort 3 Initiatives

Cohort 3 FIP Initiative	Name of Partnership	Participated with OWEB FIP Kick-off Orientation Meeting	Submitted signed Partnership Agreement	Fully executed Partnership TA grant for biennium 1	Recruited project level Technical Review Team	Participated with OWEB monitoring and PTR tracking meeting	Scheduled first project-level grant cycle
Little Butte Oak Initiative	<i>Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network</i>						
Oak and Fire: Restoring Resilience in the East Cascades	<i>East Cascades Oak Partnership</i>						
Coos Basin Coho Strategic Action Plan Implementation	<i>Coos Basin Coho Partnership</i>						
Oregon Coast Coho Recovery in the Siuslaw River & Coastal Lakes Basins	<i>Siuslaw Coho Partnership</i>						
Restoring Resilience to Two Estuaries	<i>Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative</i>						

(Note: Green indicates that a milestone has been achieved. Yellow indicates that the milestone is in progress.)



Agenda Item L supports all OWEB Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Eric Hartstein, Board, and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – OWEB Grant Program Rulemaking
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks board approval of proposed administrative rule revisions for the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5).

II. Background

The OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) administrative rules generally govern the acceptance and consideration of grant applications. While these rules apply to all OWEB grant programs, specific grant types, such as restoration and technical assistance, are governed by separate rule divisions that supplement Division 5. The rules were last updated in 2017.

At the January 2022 meeting, the board authorized staff to initiate rulemaking in the OWEB Grant Program administrative rules. A rulemaking advisory committee (RAC) was established to assist staff in revising the OWEB Grant Program rules. A list of the RAC members is found in Attachment A. The RAC convened virtually on two occasions over the summer, reviewing each section of the rules and discussing how proposed revisions would affect them as applicants, grantees, and grant reviewers.

III. Summary of Proposed Changes

In addition to minor technical changes, the proposed revisions to the OWEB Grant Program administrative rules include clarifying:

- The roles of OWEB and the board throughout the administrative rules division;
- The purpose of the rules is to better reflect current OWEB grant programs;
- Language to reflect that technical review teams are used across OWEB grant programs;
- Match requirements, including the removal of the blanket 25% match requirement for all grant programs and removing the requirement that pending match on grants be secured within 12 months of the date of the grant award;

- That grant applications are to be submitted in the most current format, and eliminating certain detailed requirements of each application;
- That information provided to OWEB is a public record;
- That public colleges and universities outside Oregon are not eligible grant applicants;
- That grant applications are considered complete when submitted and that new information can be provided only at the request of OWEB during the evaluation process;
- The process for grantees to demonstrate that necessary permits or licenses have been secured, landowner commitments for landowners to provide access to a project, and how long grantees must maintain a project;
- The process requirements and content for landowner cooperative agreements that must be submitted to OWEB, and the role of public agencies where public land is involved;
- When grant funding can be released on projects that require permits or licenses.

IV. Comment on Proposed OWEB Grant Program Administrative Rule Revisions

OWEB released draft rules for public comment on November 18, 2022. The public comment period was open until December 30th with a virtual public hearing on December 21st. A summary of the comments, and OWEB staff response, are provided in Attachment B. The two written comments that were received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment C. There were no verbal comments provided at the public hearing.

OWEB solicited tribal comments from the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe on the draft rule revisions. No tribal comments were received.

The rules are provided as Attachments D-1 and D-2 to the staff report. During the board meeting, staff will walk through changes with the board. At the January meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rules that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommends the board approve the OWEB Grant Program administrative rules found in Attachment D.

Attachments

- A. Rules Advisory Committee Members
- B. Staff Summary and Response to Public Comments
- C. Public Comments
- D-1. Proposed Monitoring Grants Rules – Redline
- D-2. Proposed Monitoring Grants Rules - Clean

DIVISION 5 RULEMAKING

Rulemaking Advisory Committee

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Amanda Gilbert	Coast Fork Willamette WC
Amy Horstman	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Shane Jimerfield	Lomakatsi Restoration Project
Jason Kesling	Harney SWCD
Haley Lutz	Coos WA
Scott McEwen	Tualatin River WC
Brian Quick	Klamath SWCD
Sarah Reif	ODFW
Amanda Whitman	Sherman SWCD
Sarah Zwissler	Trout Unlimited

Summary of Public Comments: OWEB Grant Program (Division 5)

Rules: 695-005-0040(2), Application Processing			
Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
Jan Lee, Executive Director, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts	Concern around the word “institution” in the term “not-for-profit institution” as a part of the eligible entities for OWEB grants.	Replaced “institution” with “corporation”, resulting in reference to a “not-for-profit organization”.	Yes

Rule: 695-005-0060(3)			
Commenter(s)	Comments	Response	Rule Change
April Snell, Executive Director, Oregon Water Resources Congress	Concern that “easement holder” language included in section 3 of the rule does not clearly carry through to the subsequent subsections (a)-(e) of the rule.	Revised the language in subsections (a)-(e) so that it is clear that the “easement holder” language carries through to these subsections.	Yes

Agenda Item L. OWEB Grant Making Program Rulemaking

Attachment C. Public Comment

From: jan.lee@oacd.org
To: [HARTSTEIN Eric * OWEB](#)
Subject: Grant Rules
Date: Friday, November 25, 2022 6:35:20 PM

Eric, I think the proposed rules are more streamlined and easier to follow.

I just have one question: how do you define “not for profit institution”. OACD is not a 501(c)(3) but a 501(c)(6) and as such is a nonprofit entity. Does the rule at 695-005-0040(2) clearly include all forms of nonprofits. I had not thought of our organization as an institution before, but if the intent is there to include trade associations then no issue.



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

JAN LEE

Executive Director

Mobile: (503) 545-9420

Email: Jan.lee@oacd.org

P.O. Box 1809

Sandy, OR 97055

<http://oacd.org>



795 Winter St. NE | Salem, OR 97301 | Phone: 503-363-0121 | Fax: 503-371-4926 | www.owrc.org

December 30, 2022

Eric Harstein
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301
Submitted electronically

RE: Proposed Revisions to OWEB Grant Program Rules, OAR Chapter 695, Division 5

On behalf of the Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC), I am submitting comments on the proposed revisions to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Grant Program Rules under OAR Chapter 695, Division 5. We appreciate the opportunity to provide public comment on these rules.

OWRC is a nonprofit trade association representing irrigation districts, water control districts, drainage districts, water improvement districts, and other local government entities delivering agricultural water supplies throughout Oregon. The water stewards we represent operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, pipelines, and hydropower facilities. OWRC's members deliver water to nearly 600,000 acres of farmland in Oregon, which is over one-third of all the irrigated land in Oregon.

Many of our members are planning or implementing canal lining, piping, and other related irrigation modernization and infrastructure improvement projects that are eligible for federal funding. These types of projects have multiple benefits, including improved water conservation, water efficiency, water quality, and drought resilience. Our members are actively seeking match funding for these types of projects, including through OWEB's grant programs, and it is crucial that available funding programs can efficiently and timely disburse funds. Delays in disbursement of match funding could cause significant impacts to these projects, including increased costs, schedule delays or postponement. Irrigation districts and similar entities have a narrow window to complete construction of projects, generally outside of irrigation season and during winter weather conditions.

We previously provided comment prior to the August 30 RAC meeting and appreciate the inclusion of proposed language under OAR 695-005-0060 that would allow for easement holders to provide the necessary documentation when private land is involved. We are supportive of the inclusion of "easement holder where the property interest demonstrates sufficient control to accomplish the proposed action..." under section (3) of OAR 695-005-0060. However, it is also important to ensure that the intent of this provision carries through the subsequent subsections 3(a) to 3(e) and easement holders can successfully satisfy these requirements.

The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources.

As the subsequent language only refers to “landowner” and we want to reiterate the importance of providing a pathway for easement holders to satisfy the requirements under OAR 695-005-0060. OWRC members (irrigation districts and similar entities), along with most other types of water conveyance entities in Oregon, hold easements, or utilize easements held by others (such as the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation), to convey water to patrons, often across a patchwork of private and public lands. Pursuant to these easements, districts are already authorized to perform work (and maintain and operate) within the easement areas, consistent with the terms and conditions of the easements and applicable case law.

To the extent that districts are awarded grant funds by OWEB that are subject to the Division 5 rules, districts should not be required to provide individual landowner certifications or agreements that expressly allow each to carry out the work and maintain the OWEB-funded projects where the individual district holds easements for the areas in which the work will occur. Rather, the easements already provide districts with the very authorities that would otherwise be obtained through the certifications and agreements. Given that district piping projects within district-held easements often involve dozens if not hundreds or even thousands of landowners (as even single properties often involve multiple joint owners that are often difficult to locate), to require certifications and authorizations with every landowner is both unnecessary and impractical.

This issue has arisen with other funding programs and has been resolved by the district providing evidence that the district has the authority to perform the work, through an easement covering the private land involved or other landowner agreement. As an example, a recent grant agreement between the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and the Deschutes Basin Board of Control (Grantee) for funding from the Water Supply Development Account. The language from that agreement is provided below as an example of how this issue can be addressed without creating unintended roadblocks to infrastructure modernization projects.

“For Project tasks that take place on private land(s), Grantee has submitted to the Grantor:

“1) Evidence that landowner(s) are aware of and agree to the task. Evidence shall include, but is not limited to: (i) landowner(s) certification that the landowner owns the land where the work will be carried out, (ii) landowner’s agreement to allow Grantee to carry out the work, or a portion of the work on the Landowner’s property, and (iii) evidence that landowner(s) are aware that monitoring information associated with the Project is a public record; or

“2) Evidence documenting legal easement on all lands where the work will be carried out. Evidence shall include, but is not limited to (i) documentation of easement, (ii) [servient estate(s)] agreement to allow Grantee to carry out the work, or a portion of the work on the servient estate[(s)], and (iii) evidence that [the servient estate(s)] are aware that monitoring information associated with the Project is a public record.” (Water Supply Development Account, Grant Agreement #WPG-D-0003-21, section 2.05(g), at p. 4).

The documentation described in paragraph (2) above should also be sufficient to address OWEB's concerns around notification and authorization for construction and maintenance projects funded by OWEB. We respectfully request that OWEB further revise the rules or clarify that easement holders can provide the documentation described in paragraph (2) above, as an alternative to the currently described landowner certifications and agreements.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the proposed OWEB Grant program rules, under OAR Chapter 695, Division 5. We look forward to further discussions about how districts can successfully access OWEB funding to help modernize irrigation systems and increase drought resilience statewide.

Please contact me if you need additional information or to discuss further.

Sincerely,



April Snell
Executive Director

DIVISION 5 - OWEB GRANT PROGRAM

695-005-0010

Purpose

These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The Board grant program includes grants described in Chapter 695, Divisions 10-47~~695-005-0020 et seq.~~ for watershed restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, ~~watershed assessment and action planning, watershed council support~~operating capacity, watershed education and outreach~~stakeholder engagement~~, land and water acquisition, ~~and~~ small grants, and other grant programs initiated by the Board. ~~In addition, the Board may from time to time, as funds are available, request proposals for technical assistance and research.~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:* OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17 OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0020

Definitions

- (1) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.
- (2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or the Executive Director's designee.
- (3) "Grant Agreement" is the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient. It consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget and the approved application for funding the project.
- (4) ~~"Technical Regional Review Team"~~ is a team, ~~appointed by the Director,~~ of designated ~~persons~~personnel with ~~regional knowledge and~~ interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate ~~regional~~ grant applications based on evaluation criteria. ~~The Director may change the composition of regional review teams.~~
- (5) "Partners" are non-governmental or governmental persons or entities that have committed funding, expertise, materials, labor, or other assistance to a proposed project.
- (6) "Match" is any contribution to a project that is non-Board funds. Match may include:
 - (a) Cash on hand or cash that is pledged to be on hand prior to commencement of the project;
 - (b) Secured funding commitments from other sources;
 - (c) Pending commitments of funding from other sources. In such instances, Board funding will not be released prior to secured commitment of the other funds. ~~Pending commitments of the funding must be secured within 12 months from the date of the award;~~ or
 - (d) The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental and materials essential to the project, based on local market rates.
- (7) "OWEB" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board state agency.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:* OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0030

Application Requirements

(1) Applications must be submitted on the most current form^{at} prescribed by ~~OWEBthe Board~~. ~~Current applications are available on the OWEB website~~. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided. ~~In addition to the information required in the application, and the required attachments, an applicant may submit additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project.~~

~~(2) All applicants for Board grants shall supply the following information:~~

~~(a) Names, physical and email addresses, and telephone numbers of the applicant contact person(s) and the fiscal officer(s);~~

~~(b) Name and address of involved landowner(s);~~

~~The name and location of the proposed project. The location shall be described in reference to the public land survey, latitude and longitude using decimal degrees, North American Datum 1983, county, watershed, and stream mile, if appropriate;~~

~~(c) Estimated line item budget for the project using the most current budget form prescribed by the Board. Current budget forms are available on the OWEB website;~~

~~(d) Identification of specific project elements for which Board funds will be used;~~

~~(e) A list of any non-Board funds, services or materials available or secured for the project and any conditions which may affect the completion of the project;~~

~~(f) If the project is part of a multi-year project, and a new funding request continues a previously Board-funded activity, a description of the previous project accomplishments and results as well as an accounting of past expenditures and revenues for the project;~~

~~(g) Identification of volunteers and partners and the contribution they will make to the project;~~

~~(h) — A project schedule including times of project beginning and completion; and~~

~~(i) Any information requested that is necessary to evaluate the project based on the evaluation criteria for that project type.~~

~~(3)(2) All applicants shall demonstrate a matching contribution ~~at least 25% match~~ is being sought at the time of application, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant request, at the time of application. Match requirements will be included in the announcement for each grant offering. Match requirements shall not exceed 25% of the application request.~~

~~(4)(3) All applications that involve physical changes or monitoring on private land must include certification from the applicant that the applicant has informed all landowners involved of the existence of the application and has also advised all landowners that all monitoring information obtained on their property and submitted to OWEB is a public record. If contact with all landowners s was not possible at the time of application, explain why.~~

~~(5)(1) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought by OWEB from the applicant during the evaluation process but additional, new information not requested by OWEB will not be accepted after the application deadline.~~

~~(6)(6) Applicants are encouraged to submit requests for up to \$10,000 for watershed restoration projects to the Small Grant Team in their Small Grant Area, unless the project is not eligible for funding under the~~

~~Small Grant Program or the Small Grant Program has no funds available at the time of application. Applicants may not submit the same proposal to both the Board and the Small Grant Team.~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0040

Application Processing

(1) Project applications will be reviewed based on application completeness and the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board for each grant type in these rules.

(2) A ~~regular~~ grant applicant may be any tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit ~~institution~~corporation, school, ~~Oregon community college, state~~ institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may ~~partner with an eligible entity~~apply for funding under this section only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities. ~~Any of these applicants or co-applicants may also serve as a fiscal agent for grants.~~

~~(3) The Board may require additional information to aid in evaluating and considering a proposed watershed project.~~

~~(3)~~ The Board and OWEB may use a regional technical review team ~~or other technical team~~ to review grant applications and make ~~funding~~ recommendations to the staff or Board.

(4) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought by OWEB from the applicant during the evaluation process, but additional, new information not requested by OWEB will not be accepted after the application deadline.

~~(4) The Board may rank projects in selecting projects for funding.~~

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17 OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0050

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) ~~The Board~~OWEB will enter into new agreements with prior Grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.

(2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board or Director approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board or Director.

(3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.

(4) The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under the agreement.

(5) All project activities must demonstrate, to the extent possible, consistency with local community workforce and economic development plans and policies.

(6) Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the Grantee or another approved entity. These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.

(7) Upon notice to the Grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.

(8) The Grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided.

(9) The Grantee will obtain the necessary permits or licenses from local, state or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide to OWEB a copy of satisfactory evidence that the necessary permits or licenses have been granted~~of such permits or licenses to the Board OWEB.~~

(10) ~~The Board~~ OWEB may place additional conditions in the Grant Agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the watershed enhancement program. Such conditions ~~may~~ include, but are not limited to:

(a) A commitment by the landowner for continued access for monitoring the project after completion, not to exceed five years following OWEB approval of a final project completion report;

(b) A commitment by the Grantee to maintain the project for a period of time as deemed appropriate ~~by the Board~~ for the project elements, or goals, practice to be effective;

(c) A commitment to supply future reports on the project as required; and

(d) Such other conditions as ~~the Board~~ OWEB deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969 History:

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0060

Distribution of Funds

(1) The Director may withhold payments to a Grantee in a situation where there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying ~~Board~~ OWEB requirements.

(2) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the ~~25%~~ required match, based on the total Board award, has been secured.

(3) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving a private property~~private lands, the Board OWEB must receive certification from the Grantee that they will obtain, prior to expending Board funds on a property,~~ a cooperative agreement from the landowner, or easement holder where the property interest demonstrates sufficient control to accomplish the proposed action, that, at a minimum, includes:

~~(a) Permission to access the private land, at times agreeable to the landowner, to implement the project, inspect the project, track the status of the project, or perform repairs or maintenance;~~

~~(b) Permission for the Board or its representatives to access the private land for inspection and evaluation of the project; and~~

~~(a) Identification of the party responsible for repairs and maintenance of the project. Landowner's~~

Ceertification that the landowner owns the land, or the easement holder demonstrates sufficient control to accomplish the proposed action where the work will be carried out;

(b) AnLandowner's agreement to allow Grantee to carry out the work, or a portion of the work on the Landowner's property;

(c) Landowner's-An agreement to maintain the Project, or allow maintenance of the Project, over a time period consistent with the grant application;

(d) AnLandowner's agreement to allow the OWEB Board and its representatives access to the site where the work is being carried out for inspection and evaluation; and

(e) Landowner's or the easement holder's -acknowledgment that -they are aware of the application to OWEB and that information relating to the work, including effectiveness monitoring data, is a public record.

(4) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving a public property OWEB must receive evidence from the public agency that it concurs with the project.

(4)(5) Funds shall not be disbursed on project elements that require permits or licenses until the Board OWEB receives satisfactory evidence that the necessary permits or and-licenses have been granted and documents required by the Board have been submitted.

(5)(6) Funds will be released upon receipt of a completed requestpresentation of a completed fund release request form, as prescribed by OWEB, -accompanied by documents as determined by the Director, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement.

(6)(7) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Board. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.

(7)(8) All grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to 10% ten-percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Final reports are due within 60 days of project completion. Any unexpended Board funds must be returned to the Board with the final report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Board shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.

(8)(9) All Grantees shall account for at least the required 25% in actual match, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant expenditures, upon project conclusion and final reporting.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969 History:

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0070

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 5, unless they are required by statute, for

178 individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's
179 grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual
180 grant for which the waiver was granted.

181 *Statutory/Other Authority:* ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

182 OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

183 OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

184 **695-005-0080**

185 **Periodic Rules Review and Program Evaluation**

186 ~~OWEB and The~~ Board shall review the grant program and rules at least once every five years and
187 make changes as needed to carry out a high quality and effective program.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

DIVISION 5 - OWEB GRANT PROGRAM

695-005-0010

Purpose

- 1 These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering
 2 grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The Board grant program
 3 includes grants described in Chapter 695, Divisions 10-47 for watershed restoration, technical
 4 assistance, monitoring, operating capacity, stakeholder engagement, land and water acquisition, small
 5 grants, and other grant programs initiated by the Board.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17 OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0020

Definitions

- 7 (1) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.
- 8 (2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or the
 9 Executive Director's designee.
- 10 (3) "Grant Agreement" is the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient. It
 11 consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the
 12 agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget,
 13 and the approved application for funding the project.
- 14 (4) "Technical Review Team" is a team of designated persons with interdisciplinary expertise drawn from
 15 agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate grant applications based on
 16 evaluation criteria.
- 17 (5) "Partners" are non-governmental or governmental persons or entities that have committed funding,
 18 expertise, materials, labor, or other assistance to a proposed project.
- 19 (6) "Match" is any contribution to a project that is non-Board funds. Match may include:
- 20 (a) Cash on hand or cash that is pledged to be on hand prior to commencement of the project;
- 21 (b) Secured funding commitments from other sources;
- 22 (c) Pending commitments of funding from other sources. In such instances, Board funding will not be
 23 released prior to secured commitment of the other funds; or
- 24 (d) The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental, and materials essential to the project, based on local
 25 market rates.
- 26 (7) "OWEB" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board state agency.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0030

Application Requirements

- 29 (1) Applications must be submitted in the most current format prescribed by OWEB. An explanation

must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided.

(2) All applicants shall demonstrate a matching contribution is being sought at the time of application, based on the total Board grant request, at the time of application. Match requirements will be included in the announcement for each grant offering. Match requirements shall not exceed 25% of the application request.

(3) All applications that involve physical changes or monitoring on private land must include certification from the applicant that the applicant has informed all landowners involved of the existence of the application and has also advised all landowners that all monitoring information obtained on their property and submitted to OWEB is a public record. If contact with all landowners was not possible at the time of application, explain why.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0040

Application Processing

(1) Project applications will be reviewed based on application completeness and the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board for each grant type in these rules.

(2) A grant applicant may be any tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit corporation, school, Oregon institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may partner with an eligible entity.

(3) The Board and OWEB may use a technical review team to review grant applications and make recommendations to the staff or Board.

(4) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought by OWEB from the applicant during the evaluation process, but additional, new information not requested by OWEB will not be accepted after the application deadline.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17 OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0050

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) OWEB will enter into new agreements with prior Grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.

(2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board or Director approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board or Director.

(3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.

(4) The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work

to be done under the agreement.

(5) All project activities must demonstrate, to the extent possible, consistency with local community workforce and economic development plans and policies.

(6) Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the Grantee or another approved entity. These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.

(7) Upon notice to the Grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.

(8) The Grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided.

(9) The Grantee will obtain the necessary permits or licenses from local, state, or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide to OWEB satisfactory evidence that the necessary permits or licenses have been granted.

(10) OWEB may place additional conditions in the Grant Agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the watershed enhancement program. Such conditions include, but are not limited to:

(a) A commitment by the landowner for continued access for monitoring the project after completion, not to exceed five years following OWEB approval of a final project completion report;

(b) A commitment by the Grantee to maintain the project for a period of time as deemed appropriate for the project elements, or goals, to be effective;

(c) A commitment to supply future reports on the project as required; and

(d) Such other conditions as OWEB deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969 History:

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0060

Distribution of Funds

(1) The Director may withhold payments to a Grantee in a situation where there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying OWEB requirements.

(2) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the required match, based on the total Board award, has been secured.

(3) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving a private property, OWEB must receive a cooperative agreement from the landowner, or easement holder where the property interest demonstrates sufficient control to accomplish the proposed action, that, at a minimum, includes:

(a) Certification that the landowner owns the land, or the easement holder demonstrates sufficient control to accomplish the proposed action where the work will be carried out;

(b) An agreement to allow Grantee to carry out the work, or a portion of the work on the property;

(c) An agreement to maintain the Project, or allow maintenance of the Project, over a time period consistent with the grant application;

- (d) An agreement to allow the OWEB Board and its representatives access to the site where the work is being carried out for inspection and evaluation; and
- (e) Landowner's or the easement holder's acknowledgment that they are aware of the application to OWEB and that information relating to the work, including effectiveness monitoring data, is a public record.
- (4) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving a public property OWEB must receive evidence from the public agency that it concurs with the project.
- (5) Funds shall not be disbursed on project elements that require permits or licenses until OWEB receives satisfactory evidence that the necessary permits or licenses have been granted and documents required by the Board have been submitted.
- (6) Funds will be released upon receipt of a completed request, as prescribed by OWEB, accompanied by documents as determined by the Director, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement.
- (7) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Board. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.
- (8) All grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to 10% of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Final reports are due within 60 days of project completion. Any unexpended Board funds must be returned to the Board with the final report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Board shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.
- (9) All Grantees shall account for at least the required match, based on the total Board grant expenditures upon project conclusion and final reporting.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. 5-2-17

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0070

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 5, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-005-0080

136 **Periodic Rules Review and Program Evaluation**

137 OWEB and the Board shall review the grant program and rules at least once every five years and make
138 changes as needed to carry out a high-quality and effective program.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 541.906 *Statutes/Other Implemented:* ORS 541.890 - 541.969 *History:*

OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05



Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Board Meeting Schedule Format
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format for meeting in 2023 and beyond.

II. Background

The board generally meets quarterly. Prior to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, meetings were all held in person and were rotated across the OWEB regions. With the onset of the pandemic, the board transitioned to virtual meetings exclusively.

As the pandemic restrictions eased, the board discussed future meeting formats in October 2021 and in January 2022. At both meetings, there was broad support that all January board meetings be held virtually as the weather and travel at that time can be hazardous.

At the January 2022 meeting, the board adopted a meeting format for the year that included virtual-only meetings in January and April, and hybrid meetings in July and October. The board also wished to revisit the meeting format at the January 2023 meeting to discuss options moving forward.

III. Discussion

During the October 2021 and January 2022 meetings, board members weighed the costs and benefits of holding either one or two virtual-only meetings during the year. One important consideration discussed by the board with having two virtual-only board meetings per year is that financial and environmental costs associated with travel are reduced. In support of having one virtual-only board meeting per year, board members noted the importance of engaging in person at meetings, tours, and events with agency partners and community members.

At the January 2023 meeting, the board will decide on the meeting format moving forward.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff does not have a recommendation for the board.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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Agenda Item N supports OWEB's all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities, with a particular focus on priority #3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds, and Strategic Plan priority #4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, OWEB Fire, Klamath, and Drought Programs Manager
Nathan Beckman, Strategic Planning Coordinator, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Shared Stewardship and the 20-Year Strategic Plan
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Oregon's 20-year strategic plan, as outlined in Senate Bill (SB) 762 and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Shared Stewardship, will be used to prioritize restoration actions and geographies to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and guide federal, state, and private investments in these actions. Combined with a functioning governance structure and engagement with tribes, stakeholders, and local collaboratives and partnerships, state and federal agencies will advance and support the implementation of shared priorities and coordinated investments to achieve a common vision of healthy and resilient landscapes.

This staff report prepares the OWEB Board for a presentation by State Forester Cal Mukumoto and Strategic Planning Coordinator Nathan Beckman, along with OWEB staff, at the January meeting.

II. Background

On August 13, 2019, an MOU on Shared Stewardship was signed by state and federal officials to document the commitment of the State and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to work collaboratively to create a shared stewardship approach for implementing land management activities in the state of Oregon.

Subsequently, on July 19, 2021, Governor Brown signed SB 762. Sections 18-20 of SB 762 focus on the reduction of wildfire risk and direct the ODF to design and implement a program to reduce wildfire risk. This program aims to restore landscape resilience and reduce hazardous fuels in public and private forestlands and rangelands and in communities near homes and critical infrastructure. SB 762 also directs ODF to develop a 20-year strategic plan, as described

in the Shared Stewardship Agreement signed in 2019, which prioritizes restoration actions and geographies for wildfire risk reduction that will be used to guide federal, state, and private investments in a tangible way. Both the MOU and SB 762 point to the long-term vision of healthy and resilient forested ecosystems, vibrant local economies, healthy watersheds with functional aquatic habitats, and quality outdoor opportunities for all Oregonians.

III. Implementing Shared Stewardship in Oregon

Currently, each state and federal agency establishes its priorities and investments largely independently of one another. The MOU and SB 762 direct federal and state agencies to develop shared priorities and coordinate actions and investments. There are two key components that achieve this: the 20-year strategic plan and Shared Stewardship governance. The strategic plan will articulate shared priorities among state and federal agencies to achieve the vision noted above. A Shared Stewardship governance structure provides forums for consultation and coordination among agencies, Tribes, and stakeholders, and decision-making among state and federal agency leaders. Thus, the strategic plan and the governance structure are the mechanisms for implementing Shared Stewardship in Oregon (Attachment A). By creating shared stewardship governance, developing a 20-year strategic plan shared by federal and state agencies, and jointly implementing that plan over time, it is hoped that Oregon can transform how landscape-level challenges are addressed and realize the MOU's vision of healthy and resilient forests, ecosystems, and landscapes.

ODF has convened a Strategic Leadership Group to inform the development of the strategic plan. Executives from the following agencies participate in this group: ODF, OWEB, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, USFS, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Bureau of Indian Affairs.

A framework for the 20-year strategic plan is being developed and will address how state and federal agencies plan to implement the directives and intentions of the MOU and SB 762. (For more information, see <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/strategic-plan.aspx>.) This framework is part overview and part workplan: creating alignment among interested parties and describing the work needed to develop the strategic plan. It includes a proposed governance structure, proposed mechanisms for Tribal and stakeholder consultation and engagement, and proposed processes and approaches for developing the 20-year Strategic Plan. Attachment B describes the timeline for developing the 20-year strategic plan.

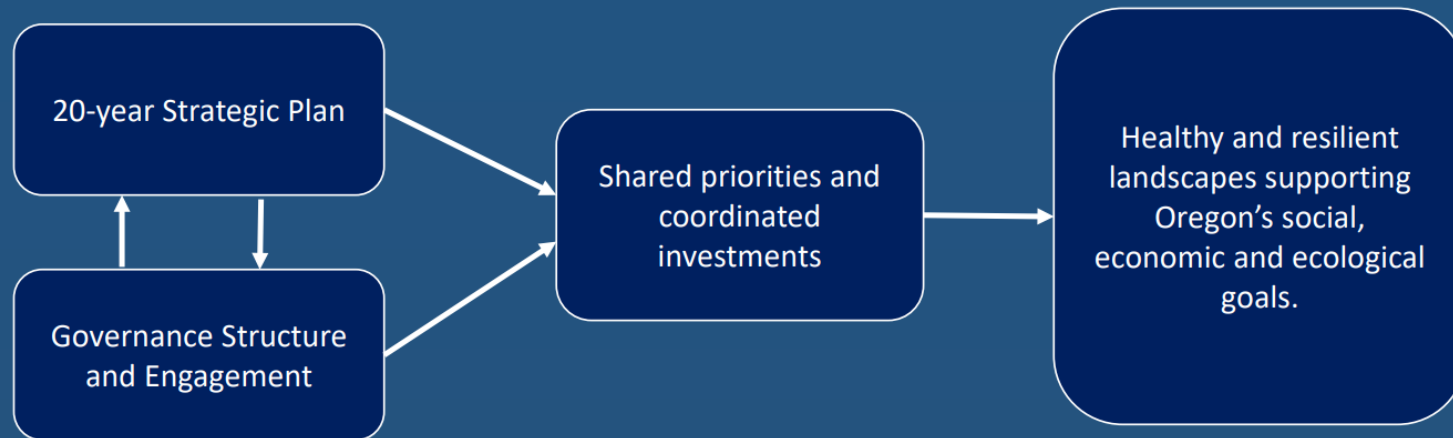
IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

- A. Key Components of Shared Stewardship
- B. Timeline for Developing the 20-Year Strategic Plan

Key Components of Shared Stewardship



Timeline

To develop the 20-year Strategic Plan (Plan), four general phases of work are identified below. These phases are intended as conceptual guides rather than distinct categories. since specific activities will evolve over time and possibly occur earlier or later than specified. Consultations with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies will continue throughout on a consistent basis via the governance structure as processes and products are designed and produced.

Phase 1: Build the Foundation: Jan 2022 - July 2022

- Designate ODF Lead
- Develop governance structure and engage federal and state agencies
- Initiate consultations with Tribes and stakeholders
- Draft framework for plan development

Phase 2: Compile Information: July - Dec 2022

- Identify and gather reports, maps, data, etc.
- Produce supporting materials (priority maps, capacity & readiness assessment, etc.)
- Develop goals and targets and Identify steps to achieve goals
- Develop metrics and accountability mechanisms
- Consult with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies on a consistent basis through the governance structure

Phase 3: Draft the Plan: Jan - Jun 2023

- Produce draft 20-year Strategic Plan
- Review Plan with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies through the governance structure
- Finalize the Plan with endorsement from the Strategic Leadership Group
- Publish the 20-year Strategic Plan

Phase 4: Implement the Plan: July 2023 →

- Publicize the Plan
- Implement near-term action steps with Tribes, stakeholders, agencies, and others
- Consult with Tribes, stakeholders, and agencies on a consistent basis through the governance structure
- Conduct and publicize accountability reviews
- Adapt goals, actions and governance as needed



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Agenda Item O supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan Priorities

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Lisa Charpiloz-Hanson, Executive Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – 2023-2025 Spending Plan
January 24-25, 2023, Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on the timeline for the upcoming approval of the 2023-2025 spending plan. Staff will request the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan categories. Staff will also ask for feedback to determine if there are questions about current spending plan line items or other recommendations for additional spending plan line items to be addressed in April. This is an informational item only.

II. Spending Plan Process

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's next biennial budget, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, salmon license plate revenues, and other miscellaneous funds as these are available. The bulk of funding for OWEB's spending plan is from Measure 76 and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). The Oregon Legislature routinely allocates PCSRF funding based on estimated federal grant awards over two years.

At its July 2021 meeting, the board adopted a 2021-2023 Spending Plan totaling \$142.9 million. In January 2022, the board added \$10.8 million to the spending plan for general fund drought programs authorized by the December 2021 special legislative session. In April 2022, the board added \$19.1 million to the spending plan for 2021 post-fire recovery, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, and water acquisition grants authorized by the 2022 legislative session. In July 2022, the board added \$14.3 million to the spending plan to include additional PCSRF funding and recapture funds. The total adopted 2021-2023 spending plan amount is \$187.1 million.

III. 2023-2025 Spending Plan Timeline

The 2023-2025 Spending Plan will be approved by the board in July 2023. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In January 2023, the board will provide an indication of the estimated amounts it would like to include for the spending plan categories and identify any questions they have related to specific spending plan line items that warrant further conversation in April 2023.
- Between the January and April meetings, staff, in consultation with board committees as needed, will discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In April 2023, staff will present to the board information about the line items within each category of the spending plan and propose an investment amount for each line item. The board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In July 2023, staff will present 2023-2025 spending plan recommendations for board approval, using final revenue numbers for the 2023-2025 biennium.
- In July 2024, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recaptured grant funding, similar to the approval at the July 2022 board meeting.

IV. Initial Recommendation for Spending Plan Categories

Initial recommendations for board consideration to allocate funds among the Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, Operating Capacity, and Other categories are provided in Table 1.

Legislatively directed programs, such as wildfire recovery and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, are not included here since the board does not have the discretion to program those funds in the same manner as lottery and PCSRF dollars. The spending plan designates board-directed line items as “Core Programs.” Table 1 applies to Core Program spending. Any additional funds appropriated in the legislatively adopted 2023-2025 budget will be included in the July 2023 spending plan agenda item for board approval.

Table 1 – Spending Plan Categories (amounts in millions)

Spending Plan Category	2021-2023 amount July 2021	2021-2023 amount July 2022	2021-2023 amount October 2022	Proposed 2023- 2025 amount (in millions)*
Open Solicitation	\$58.8	\$63.5	\$63.5	\$58.8
Focused Investments	\$29.1	\$32.4	\$32.4	\$38.2
Operating Capacity	\$17.3	\$19.7	\$19.7	\$19.7
Other – including Klamath River post-dam removal watershed restoration	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$7.9	\$14.9
Total	\$109.1	\$119.5	\$123.5	\$131.6

*Based on an estimate of available funds, including recapture from the current biennium.

V. Spending Plan Categories

The current spending plan is included in the board book for the board to review in considering whether new line items are warranted or to highlight questions for staff response at the April board meeting. Attachment A provides a brief description of each Core Program spending plan category.

VI. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. Spending Plan Category Summaries

Spending Plan Category Summaries

Open Solicitation - Restoration

Restoration grants are OWEB's primary method of delivering support for watershed projects that restore watershed functions. Restoration grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Restoration grants aid landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board.

Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are currently capped at \$75,000 per grant; however, staff will propose to remove the cap for 2023-2025. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination and permitting.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost-Share Payments and Technical Assistance

The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency, with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

Open Solicitation – Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement funds are invested through local grantees to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefits of a specific eligible restoration or acquisition project or program that leads to the development of eligible projects within an identified geography. Eligible projects are focused on a specific project site or sites, or that support resource assessment and planning that results in the identification of a specific project site or sites; and will lead to eligible restoration or acquisition projects within a specific timeframe. Projects whose primary purpose is education are not eligible.

Open Solicitation - Monitoring

Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants are awarded once per year in the fall grant cycle. Grants can be used to assist local partnerships with assessing watershed conditions to determine the quality of the existing environment; identifying causes for changes in trajectory (either up or down) in habitat, fish and wildlife populations and water quality; and developing plans to guide future monitoring efforts.

OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to: 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on progress of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Land and Water Acquisitions

OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts. OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, water rights leases and transfers, and contractually protected instream flow.

Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish, and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. The OSWB works to fund as many high-priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for on-the-ground noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project. ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

Small Grant Program

OWEB Small Grant Program funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Twenty-eight teams form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams must select from an OWEB rule-defined list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area. Priority concerns include fish passage; urban impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; road impact reduction; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function.

Small grants cannot exceed \$15,000 and are often the first grant a landowner may implement, leading to future restoration investments through the open solicitation grant program.

Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes

Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes is the new title for the previous Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item in OWEB's spending plan. This item includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. This program-level monitoring and evaluation that is supported through targeted investments is different from open solicitation monitoring grants, which are conceptualized by local partners and considered through OWEB's responsive grant program.

Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation

Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Implementation investments address a board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-orientated approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships. The board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

- 1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
- 2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
- 3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
- 4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- 5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
- 6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- 7) Coastal Estuaries

Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) evaluates the dedicated FIP funding to help board, staff, and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

Capacity Grants (WC/SWCD)

Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds. OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 15 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), "designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed."

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

- 8) *Scope of Work* funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
- 9) *District Operations Fund* supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and help landowners and partners.

SWCDs are political subdivisions of state government but are not state agencies. SWCDs are considered municipal corporations. They are governed by specific enabling legislation under ORS 568. The members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials, to serve on either a five- or seven-member board.

Statewide Organizational Partnership Support

The Conservation Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders. Since 2007, the board has approved grants and supported the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-groundwork. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables in past biennia, including conferences, trainings, one-on-one work with local organizations, and youth activities.

Organizational Collaboration

Organizational Collaboration grants support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities. Activities may include 1) changing the operational structure of the organization(s) which may result in sharing of staff and services with other councils, districts or organizations, or 2) merger/consolidations of councils, districts, or councils and districts. The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organization(s).

Partnership Technical Assistance

Oregon is a leader in collaborative approaches to restoration. After offering three biennia of grants to support partnership development and development of a strategic action plan, there is now a diversity of partnerships operating in Oregon working collaboratively on ecological outcomes. Some of those partnerships are a direct result of receiving a Capacity Building or Development FIP and are now high-performing partnerships with strategic action plans. Some are just forming and might be future applicants to the program.

Governor's Priorities

The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically, these investments address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor's Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work.

Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

Klamath Post-dam Removal Watershed Restoration—Contingency

In October 2022, the board added funds to the spending plan to address the need for restoration resulting from removal of the JC Boyle dam on the Klamath River to meet a state commitment for contingency funding as part of the federal approval for the project. The board also committed to a total of up to \$15 in restoration funds across multiple biennia.

Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) program

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program is leading the "Strategic Implementation Area" (SIA) program, where select areas around the state will receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, and monitoring to address priority non-point source water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.