



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item E

Director's Updates

Board Meeting October 23-25, 2023

October 23-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-2, 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 (KRRC).

Background

PacifiCorp previously owned four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, three in California and one in Oregon (J.C. Boyle dam). PacifiCorp and the Oregon Public Utilities Commission 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 dams are not used for irrigation. 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. Funding in the amount of \$450 million for removal and watershed restoration was 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, ecological benefits, and restoration of natural river functions and processes. Restoration work also will be needed at upland sites (where dredged material generated by regrading of slopes will be deposited) and at the mouths of creeks entering the former reservoir pools. 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 entities. On October 26, 2022, the OWEB Board committed \$15 million over a period of 3-5 years for Klamath River post-dam removal watershed restoration costs incurred by KRRC. Multiple funding sources administered by OWEB will be utilized for this commitment. The initial grant award made and delegated by the board in October 2022 was \$4.053 million. An additional \$8 million was committed and delegated by the board in the 2023-2025 spending plan at the July 25, 2023, board meeting. The remaining \$2.947 million will be included in the OWEB Board's spending plans in future biennia.

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 and associated lands was transferred to KRRC effective December 1, 2022. The removal of the J.C. Boyle facility located in Oregon is expected to occur in 2024.

In late 2022, OWEB and KRRC finalized a partnership agreement that 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. In addition, the States of Oregon and California, PacifiCorp, and KRRC finalized a Memorandum of Agreement regarding the Supplemental Contingency Funding Implementation.

OWEB created a KRRC-specific grant offering that includes a project-level grant application and associated guidance documents for use by KRRC to propose specific activities 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.

In March 2023, work officially began on dam removal. Significant work has been completed, including road and bridge improvements, installation of the Yreka water line, and other site preparations. In June 2023, FERC issued final authorization to complete remaining Pre-Drawdown Period work activities and construction, including removal of Copco No. 2 dam. Kiewit began removal of Copco No. 2 dam in June and completed removal in September.

Status Update

Since the July 2023 board meeting, OWEB staff have been in regular communication with KRRC. OWEB and KRRC are coordinating on timing for grant applications to be submitted to OWEB, in addition to considerations for different fund sources (e.g., Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF), Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding through PCSRF, and Measure 76 lottery funds) relative to the restoration actions to be included in grant applications. Currently anticipated actions include tributary restoration, floodplain restoration and reconnection, fish-passage barrier removal, instream large-wood placement, revegetation, and treatment of invasive species, among others. KRRC, working with RES, KRRC's restoration contractor, expect to submit a grant application in mid-2024.

In terms of progress related to the broader Klamath dam removal project:

- KRRC's restoration contractor, RES, is coordinating closely with Kiewit, KRRC's construction contractor, to complete biological and water quality monitoring throughout the construction process.
- RES is beginning to coordinate initial restoration activities in anticipation of reservoir drawdown and ongoing construction activities. In addition, they are completing boulder- and tree-related work between the site of the now removed Copco No. 2 dam and Iron Gate dam, to ensure safety for recreators by the end of October.
- Kiewit will continue roadway and infrastructure improvements, including relocation of the Yreka water line, recreation site removals, fire management improvements, and other preparations for dam removal through the end of this calendar year.
- FERC and independent consultants are completing final review of the dam removal design. KRRC anticipates a phased approval approach, with FERC granting approval for reservoir drawdown and initial dam removal activities at J.C. Boyle and Copco No. 1 dams in 2023 and approval for the remaining dam removal activities in the spring of 2024, once the 2024 water year has been analyzed to finalize the Iron Gate dam breach schedule to ensure public safety during dam removal.
- Reservoir drawdown will begin in January 2024 and deconstruction of J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1, and Iron Gate dams will be complete by October 2024. Restoration activities will commence immediately and continue for the next several years.

Quarterly reports will be provided to the board at each meeting.

Staff Contact

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

October 23-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-3, Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program Update

This report provides the board with an update about initial work to begin scoping for development of a Drinking Water Source Protection grant program, as directed by House Bill (HB) 2010 (2023).

Background

Earlier this year, the Oregon Legislature passed HB 2010, which was the ‘omnibus’ water package. The bill directed OWEB to establish a new drinking water source protection land acquisition grant program. The intent of this program is to provide grants to water suppliers to protect sources of drinking water. The bill also allocated \$1 million in General Funds to the program; this funding is combined with an additional \$4 million in Lottery Bond funding—through HBs 5030 and 5506—for the drinking water source protection program established in HB 2010. In total, \$5 million is available to support the new grant program. Additionally, OWEB received funding (General Fund) and position authority for a 0.88-FTE Natural Resources Specialist 4 position to help support program development and administration.

At the July 2023 meeting, the board approved initiation of rulemaking for two grant programs, including the Drinking Water Source Protection program. This process will convene a rules advisory committees (RAC) composed of potential grant applicants, reviewers, and others most likely to be impacted by the administrative rules that govern the grant program. Staff propose to develop the rules in accordance with the draft schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	July 2023
Draft Rules Developed	Fall 2023
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	Fall-Winter, 2023/2024
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	April 1, 2024
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	April 1, 2024
Public Comment Materials posted online	April 1, 2024
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	April 1, 2024
Secretary of State’s Bulletin	April 1, 2024
Public Comment Period	April 1-April 30, 2024
Public Hearing(s)	April 2024
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	May/June 2024
Board Adoption of Rules	July 2024

Status Update

The Drinking Water Source Protection grant program will sit within the newly created Acquisitions and Special Program section of the agency. Staff have taken several early steps for program scoping:

- Drafting a position description for submission through the State of Oregon's recruitment process for state employees;
- Initiating communications with subject-matter experts and grant program managers from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Health Authority, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Forest Service to better understanding both technical information regarding source water protection and how this program may complement existing drinking water protection grant and loan programs;
- Analyzing legal and statutory direction to the agency to inform rulemaking;
- Beginning to engage in existing processes (e.g., Coastal Partnerships for Drinking Water Protection workshops) to learn more about challenges and opportunities faced by local communities and partners; and
- Drafting an outreach and implementation plan for program scoping and development, including RAC formation.

The board and, as appropriate, relevant board committees will receive periodic updates about progress on program development and rulemaking.

Staff Contact

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

October 23-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update E-4: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Solicitation

This report provides the board an update about the current FIP solicitation and the review process for submitted applications.

Background

In May 2023, OWEB started a solicitation for new FIP initiatives that would begin in the 2023-2025 biennium. Over the summer, OWEB staff conducted virtual pre-application consultations with six partnerships exploring the option of submitting a FIP application in this grant offering. This consultation is required for all FIP applicants. During the meeting, OWEB staff described FIP program expectations and partnerships discussed their potential initiatives. OWEB staff expect to receive up to five applications by the October 16, 2023 due date.

FIP Application Review and OWEB Board Grants Committee Process

In January 2024, OWEB will convene a review team with expertise in partnerships and in each ecological priority represented in the submitted applications. Reviewers will evaluate the applications according to criteria in administrative rules for the program. After the review team discusses each application's strengths and concerns, OWEB staff will ask reviewers to rank the applications in numerical order. This is a new step compared with the previous FIP application reviews.

The rankings and other results of the review team meeting will be provided to the applicants and the OWEB Board Grants Committee. The committee and OWEB staff will meet for a work session in February 2024. This meeting is an opportunity for the committee to receive background information on the applications and evaluations and to begin to formulate interview questions to ask each of the partnerships. There will be no deliberations or recommendations at the work session.

In March 2024, the committee will conduct public interviews of the applicant partnerships. There was consensus at the September 2023 committee meeting to explore options for in-person interviews as conversations tend to be richer in-person than those held virtually. If the interviews are held in-person, OWEB will offer travel stipends for the partnerships to attend. The interviews will be conducted by the committee with individual committee members assigned to lead the interviews with each of the of the applicant partnerships.

Following the interviews, the committee will take into consideration the interview responses and rankings of the review team to develop a funding recommendation that will be provided to the full board at the April 2024 meeting. The full board will award new FIP initiatives at that time.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator at eric.hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov /503-910-6201.

This report provides the board an update about two areas of focus in the SIA program: a pilot Restoration grant offering in Fall 2023 and the preparations for the next offering of SIA Technical Assistance funding in Winter 2024.

Background

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, is leading the SIA initiative. Under the current program model in place since 2017, select areas around the state receive focused stakeholder engagement, technical assistance, monitoring, and, where necessary, compliance follow-up to address water quality concerns in agriculturally influenced areas. Local partners work with landowners and managers to meet and exceed water quality requirements, and ODA follows up as needed to address compliance concerns.

SIA Pilot Restoration Grant Offering

In September 2023, OWEB opened a Pilot Restoration grant offering for SIA leads to address restoration opportunities that were identified through the SIA process. The total amount available from OWEB for SIA Restoration Grants is \$500,000. This program was developed in response to feedback from partners over the last few years. Eligible applicants are SIA lead organizations who received a SIA technical assistance grant between 2017-2022, or a partner organization if authorized by the SIA lead. Two grant cycles will be available this biennium, and applicants can apply to either cycle. The maximum request amount per grant is \$15,000.

The offering is based on OWEB Small Grant Administrative Rules and uses the Small Grant Application plus supplemental climate questions. Applications will be reviewed by an interagency team from OWEB, ODA, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Projects must demonstrate a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health. Priority will be given to projects intended to restore or protect agricultural water quality, such as: managing nutrient or sediment inputs; managing vegetation; managing erosion; implementing irrigation practices and/or improving surface drainage. Additional eligible project types include improvements to instream habitat, wetlands and/or fish passage, and/or invasive species eradication. For the full list of eligible project types see Attachment A.

Preparation for New SIA Applications for Technical Assistance Grants

Under the current funding model in place since 2017, OWEB Stakeholder Engagement/Technical Assistance and Monitoring funding is offered to each SIA identified by ODA. Technical assistance funding supports the SIA lead and local partners in developing outreach plans and working with landowners to develop restoration projects. Monitoring funds support baseline and long-term monitoring within the SIA geography. Each SIA convenes a local monitoring team to provide guidance and feedback on local monitoring objectives and the development of a monitoring proposal. Prior to implementation, all monitoring plans are reviewed by an inter-agency Monitoring Advisory Group made up of representatives of OWEB, ODA, DEQ, and ODFW.

ODA anticipates that at least four SIAs will apply for the offering in March 2024. Following the existing funding model, up to \$125,000 will be made available for each SIA, and at least \$25,000 of this must be used for monitoring. The Monitoring Advisory Group has developed updated SIA monitoring proposal guidance and a collaborative review process in response to local partner

concerns, and ODA is offering additional technical assistance to SIA grantees as they develop their monitoring proposals.

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.

Attachment

A. Restoration Grant Offering Announcement

SIA Leads, OWEB and ODA staff are excited to announce the opening of the Pilot Restoration grant offering for SIA leads to address restoration opportunities that were identified through the SIA process. This program was developed in response to feedback from partners over the last few years. The information on this pilot program is below, including application deadlines and eligible project types.

Eligible Applicants

SIA Lead organizations who received an OWEB SIA TA grant between 2017-2022. Other organizations can apply if the SIA Lead organizations emails OWEB and ODA granting permission for the other entity to apply for the SIA restoration funds.

Application Deadlines:

- January 17, 2024
- January 15, 2025

Maximum request amount per grant: \$15,000

Total amount available from OWEB for SIA restoration grants: \$500,000 (evenly distributed across the 2 grant cycles). Applicants can submit more than one project per cycle, and can re-apply to the 2nd cycle if they are unsuccessful with the first cycle. Match requirement is 25% and can be cash or in-kind.

Timeframe: Projects must be completed within two years of the grant award date. No time extensions will be allowed for these projects.

Application process: Applications will be submitted through OWEB's Online Application System. The grant offering title is: SIA Restoration.

In July 2023 the OWEB Board adopted new climate rules that are applicable to all grant types. As a result of these rules applicants must answer all of the questions in the online application AND must answer the climate questions, attached to this email. The answers to these questions must be uploaded and submitted with the application.

Review Process: Applications will be reviewed by an interagency team consisting of OWEB, ODA, DEQ, and ODFW. Funding decisions will be shared with applicants following the review team meeting.

Eligible Project types: Projects must demonstrate a clear watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health and be one of the eligible project types listed below. These are based on OWEB Small Grant Rules OAR 695-035-0050. Priority will be given to projects intended to restore or protect agricultural water quality.

Projects commonly used to restore or protect Agricultural Water Quality:

- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs through managed grazing (e.g., fencing and developing off-channel watering) and plantings.

- Manage Vegetation: plant or seed native riparian species, propagate native riparian plants, or control weeds in conjunction with a restoration project.
- Manage Vegetation: control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project), or plant native wetland species.
- Manage Erosion on Agricultural Lands: terrace land; employ laser leveling; create windbreaks; install water and sediment control basins (WASCBs); develop filter strips/grassed waterways; manage mud (e.g., gravel high-use areas, develop paddocks); seed bare areas, reduce tillage.
- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs to Streams through the management of grazing, vegetation cover, animal waste, or irrigation runoff.
- Improve Surface Drainage: surface road drainage improvements, gravel surfacing, stream crossings.
- Manage Erosion: bioengineer stream banks, slope stream banks, or develop water gaps, streambank barbs.
- Implement Irrigation Practices.
- Decommission Roads.

Additional eligible project types:

- Improve Instream Habitat: place large wood, boulders, or salmon carcasses.
- Fish Passage: Remove Irrigation or Push-Up Dams, Remove and/or Replace Culverts, Remove or Replace Stream Crossings.
- Restore Wetlands: excavate or remove fill, or eliminate drainage structures.
- Install Stormwater Runoff Treatments.
- Create Off-Channel Flood Storage.
- Employ Integrated Pest Management.
- Eradicate or Control Exotic Aquatic Species.
- Manage Vegetation: prescribed burning, except when conducted as part of a commercial harvest; non-commercial thinning; control/remove juniper (except late-seral/old growth); plant or seed (native upland species or native beneficial mixes preferred); or control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project). Projects for prescribed burning to reduce fuel loads require ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.
- Manage Wildlife: install water guzzlers.

Questions

Questions regarding the application and review process should be directed to: Amanda Robinson, ODA SIA Lead amanda.robinson@oda.oregon.gov, or Courtney Shaff, OWEB Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager, Courtney.shaff@oweb.oregon.gov.

October 23-25, 2023, OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update E-6 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on the implementation progress of the 2018-2028 strategic plan. In addition, this report shares OWEB's current thinking on a timeline and process for an update to the strategic plan, in accordance with Governor Kotek's expectations of state agencies.

Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new, ten-year strategic plan. Beginning with the July 2022 board meeting, staff began providing quarterly reports using a new template.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between July 2023 and October 2023. Some highlights from this quarter's report include:

- OWEB's outreach included meetings with additional new groups to discuss watershed health throughout Oregon including granting foundations Meyer Memorial Trust and Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. Staff continued Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Environmental Justice training that focused on wealth inequality perceptions and realities regionally. Council Capacity was a focus with a 20-year Programmatic Review conducted collaboratively between OWEB, Oregon State University, and the University of Oregon. Watershed Councils were also awarded over \$9 million in Council Capacity Grants.
- Accomplishments in funding diversity include an increase of \$2 million in funding from the Bureau of Land Management for grants and the removal of Lovelace Dam with funding from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). This was the first project completed with NOAA BIL funds anywhere in the Northwest.
- With the adoption of new administrative rules, OWEB began incorporating questions related to the Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria into grant applications.

Upon taking office in January 2023, Governor Kotek shared a list of expectations for state agencies related to operational excellence. One of the expectations is that agencies with strategic plans older than 36 months will update those plans by June 1, 2024.

In response, OWEB has engaged with Dialogues in Action, the consulting team that helped the agency develop the current 2018-28 Strategic Plan. Staff, board, and partners were interviewed through a series of meetings to determine the diversity of values, perceptions, and needs, and a discussion session is planned as part of this October's board meeting.

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 October 2023

OREGON Watershed Enhancement Board



2018-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | October 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



Proceeds from Bandon Preserve (a 13-hole golf course) support grant funds for Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. Photo from Wild River Coast Alliance of Bandon Preserve No. 7

This past quarter, OWEB leadership continued to **connect with key organizations that can help build awareness about the relationship between people and watersheds**. Leadership met with four organizations active in connecting youth with Oregon's cultural and natural resources:

- OWEB met with Jill Fuglister, Program Director at [Meyer Memorial Trust](#). The Meyer Memorial Trust is one largest private funders in Oregon. They work to accelerate racial, social and economic justice in Oregon.
- OWEB met with Marie Simonds, Executive Director of the [Wild Rivers Coast Alliance](#) during Lisa's trip to the South Coast. Wild Rivers Coast Alliance utilizes proceeds from Bandon Dunes Golf Resort to fund grants that promote local economics that preserve natural resources.
- OWEB attended another [Say Hey](#) networking event which is an opportunity to connect with diverse professionals in the greater Portland metro area.
- OWEB attended the [2023 Eastern Oregon Economic Summit](#) in Union County. The summit is hosted by the Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition. Topics included economic development, housing, water, and forest management.

In addition to the groups above, OWEB leadership also continued regular meetings with other partner organizations and groups.



Eastern Oregon Economic Summit, 2023 Photo from Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition



Priority 2

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



OWEB staff engaged in **training focused on Understanding Growing Wealth Inequality**. Through an interactive workshop format with ECONW, staff learned about key structural factors that are causing and upholding economic inequality. Staff discussed how these factors affect individual experiences and how it intersects with OWEB's work.



Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

2021-2023 Highlights



[Slide from Council Capacity presentation](#)

The OWEB board **awarded \$9,204,267 in Council Capacity Grants** at the July Board Meeting. Council Capacity Grants help support the operations of Watershed Councils that engage people and communities in their watershed to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration and protection of native fish or wildlife habitat and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

CAPACITY MATTERS

A 20-Year Review of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Operating Capacity Investments



[Capacity Matters document](#)

OWEB engaged a team from Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO) to conduct a **20-year programmatic review of Organizational Capacity grants**. ODA staff and a group of Watershed Council and SWCD representatives advised OWEB and the OSU/UO team throughout the review process.

The review evaluates:

- Impact funding has had on councils and districts
- Describes how the grants lead to additional funding and partnerships.
- Helps inform future capacity-building investments.



Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio



[Article on Jefferson Public Radio](#)

The Lovelace Dam Removal project was the first in the nation to cross the finish line among restoration projects receiving funding from NOAA Fisheries under the **federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**.



Marys Peak Ridge View Overlook wildlife enhancement project, completed summer 2022 with BLM funds by Midcoast WC, provided approximately 112 trees suitable for instream restoration.

OWEB received its 5th **BLM modification, adding an additional \$2,640,904.95 funds**, including \$2,221,939 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funds. These funds will support 17 additional projects to support native fish and instream habitat restoration.



Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health



Upper Nehalem River Strategic Implementation Area, 2018.

In response to demand from local partners, OWEB is providing **new Restoration funding opportunities for previously funded Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs)**. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the SIA Leads are working closely with OWEB to pilot this new funding opportunity, with applications accepted in 2024 and 2025.



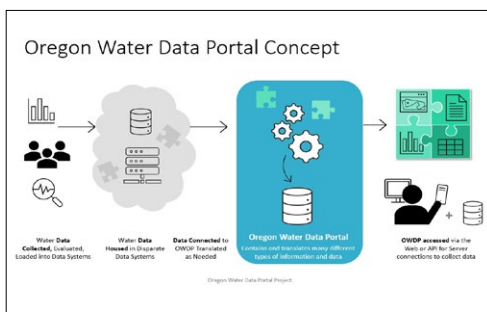
Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness



[OWEB site visit to a Dam Removal site on the Eklutna River, Alaska.](#)

OWEB staff traveled to Alaska to meet with other PCSRF grantees and NOAA regional and national staff. Staff had a chance to hear about regional and national NOAA priorities, learn about new online systems and build relationships for future collaboration opportunities.



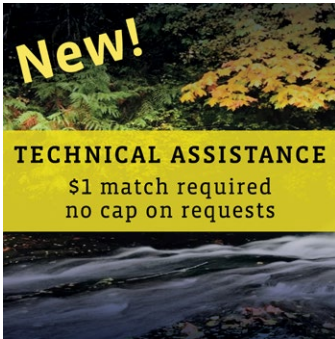
OWEB is collaborating with other state agencies to integrate Oregon water data into **a new Water Data Portal**. The 2nd pilot phase of the project now continues through the 2023-25 biennium and is described here: www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/owdp.aspx

Slide from Report to Legislature Presentation.



Priority 7

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



Lowered Match on Technical Assistance and Stakeholder engagement grants **to just \$1 and lifted the cap** on Technical Assistance Grants, making these grants more available to a wider range of potential grantees.

Notice of changes to Stakeholder Engagement and Technical Assistance grants.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Chapter 695
Division 5
OWEB GRANT PROGRAM
#95-005-0045
Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the evaluation criteria for Restoration Grants (DAR 695-030-0040), Stakeholder Engagement Grants (DAR 695-033-0070), Monitoring Grants (DAR 695-032-0140), Technical Assistance Grants (DAR 695-030-0045), Customer Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants (DAR 695-040-0100), Land Acquisition Grants (DAR 695-045-0100), Water Acquisition Grants (DAR 695-045-0196), and Focused Investment Partnership (DAR 695-04-0000), grant applications shall also be evaluated, whenever possible, on:

- (1) How engagement with, and input from, local communities disproportionately impacted by climate change has informed or will inform the project.
- (2) How changing climate conditions are incorporated into the project and how the project will contribute to durable adaptation and resilience for ecosystems, including human communities.
- (3) How consideration of greenhouse gas emissions or long-term carbon sequestration or storage has informed the project.

Statutory/Other Authority: CRS 541.506
Statutes/Other Implemented: CRS 541.090 - 541.949
History: OWEB 2-2023, adopt filed 07/27/2023, effective 08/01/2023

Please use this link to bookmark or link to this rule.

Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria:
Used to help OWEB technical review teams consider applicants' response to new climate-related questions in OWEB grants.



Learn more and sign up for trainings with OWEB



All grant offerings now include Climate Criteria.

Multiple training options are offered to OWEB grantees to learn how to respond to new Climate Criteria questions in grant applications.

Notice of training.

[Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria Rule.](#)











 accomplishments
 highlighted in quarterly update

 January
 April
 July
 October

Strategies Chart Jan. 2022 - Oct. 2023

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.				