

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



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Climate Spotlight

OWEB now includes evaluative climate criteria in our grant applications. Applicants are asked to

describe how they have considered:

- 🍃 Changing climate conditions and greenhouse gas emissions
- 🍃 Adaptation, resilience, and long-term carbon sequestration or storage benefits
- 🍃 How engagement with local communities that are disproportionately impacted by climate change has informed or will inform their project

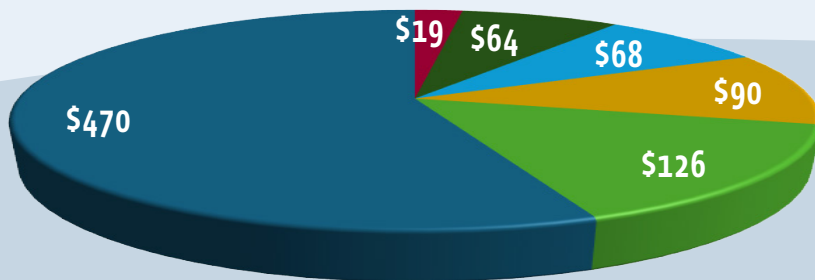
To aid applicants in responding to these new criteria, OWEB curated a suite of climate-related resources and trainings around the state.

About the Agency

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they live. The agency is led by a 18-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

Cooperative Conservation

Since 1999, OWEB has provided **more than 11,573 grants** to local volunteer efforts to keep Oregon's water clean and habitats healthy. These investments support on-the-ground improvements of land and water such as native plantings, fish passage barrier removals, irrigation efficiencies, and other fish and wildlife habitat improvements that help protect land for future generations.



OWEB Grants Support:

- Project development, design, and implementation
- Engaging landowners and communities in conservation
- Organizational capacity for local community groups
- Data collection to determine work efficacy
- Acquisition of land for conservation and water rights
- Protecting sources of drinking water for communities
- Increasing viability of agriculture in Oregon by reducing fragmentation of working lands and enhancing habitat

Statewide Grants

Total funds for grant programs from 1999 to January 2024: **\$837 million**

These grants are funded through constitutionally dedicated Oregon State Lottery revenues, congressionally appropriated Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, and salmon license plate proceeds.

Dollar amounts are in millions

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----|-----|
| Restoration | \$470 | or | 56% |
| Local Capacity | \$126 | or | 15% |
| Technical Assistance | \$90 | or | 11% |
| Monitoring | \$68 | or | 8% |
| Acquisition | \$64 | or | 8% |
| Engagement | \$19 | or | 2% |

Local Economies and Communities Benefit

OWEB funds (including federal funds) are used to pay those who design and implement projects, hire field crews, and buy goods and services they need to get the job done.

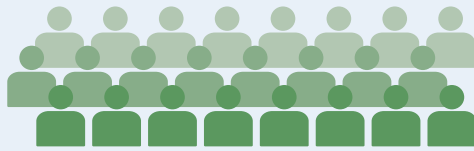
On November 15th, 2021, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) – a once-in-a-generation investment in our nation's infrastructure, competitiveness, and communities.

To date, OWEB has received **BIL and IRA funding** through NOAA Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funding, BLM (Bureau of Land Management) Good Neighbor Authority, and a Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Cooperative Agreement **totaling almost \$24 million** and has invested the funds in local communities for projects that restore aquatic habitat, improve water quality, work toward environmental justice, and address the climate crisis.

\$743,000 available through the NRCS Technical Assistance program for Oregon-based Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils, and Tribes.

\$17,500,000 available through NOAA Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery for projects that benefit salmonids.

\$5,600,000 allocated through BLM Good Neighbor Authority for aquatic projects to sustain the productivity and health of public lands.



Every \$1 million of OWEB grant investments creates 15 - 24 local jobs
(University of Oregon study)



90% of OWEB grant dollars support local economies

Results

OWEB has funded more than 11,000 restoration grants since 1999, with which Oregonians have restored more than **6,807 miles of streams** and have made more than **7,224 miles of habitat** accessible for fish. The grants have helped landowners improve more than **1,469,606 upland habitat acres** and restore, improve, or create more than **61,500 wetland or estuarine habitat acres**. These projects help to restore and create resilience to climate change through reconnected floodplains, enhanced wetlands, instream work, and wildfire resilience.



Zumwalt Prairie Preserve Storymap



Willamette River Aquatic Weeds Video



Contact OWEB

Sara O'Brien, Executive Director
(971) 718-2605
sara.e.o'brien@oweb.oregon.gov



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360,
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb