



OREGON  
**WATERSHED**  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item B

## **Director's Updates**

Board Meeting July 22-23, 2025



OREGON  
WATERSHED  
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Along Rainville Road, Scott Elliott Smithson, cc

# 2025-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | July 2025



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

Each quarterly report describes key accomplishments under Strategies that have been identified for each of the six Strategic Plan priorities. See the last page for the full list of Strategies, and a summary of when accomplishments were reported throughout the calendar year.



## Priority 1

**Build awareness of the relationship between people and watershed protection and restoration.**



A [recording](#) of the Budget presentation may be found on the Oregon State Legislature website.

**Strategy 1.1** OWEB executive staff met with all of the Ways and Means Natural Resource legislators during the budget session and presented OWEB 101 and key themes in the budget presentation.



Grantee panel at the April 2025 All-staff meeting.

**Strategy 1.3** A panel of grantees from the Upper Willamette SWCD, Sandy River Watershed Council, Walla Walla Watershed Council, and Coos Watershed Association presented at an OWEB all-staff meeting about how they have used engagement grant projects to reach underserved communities and how the outreach led to future restoration projects.



## Priority 2

**Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.**



OWEB Board in Independence, April 2025.

**Strategy 2.1** OWEB staff discussed an action plan around filling board vacancies that includes:

- Identify upcoming public board member position vacancies.
- Discuss recruitment priorities with Governor's Office and the board.
- Collate recommendations from board and partners to be given to the Governor's Office for consideration and appointment.



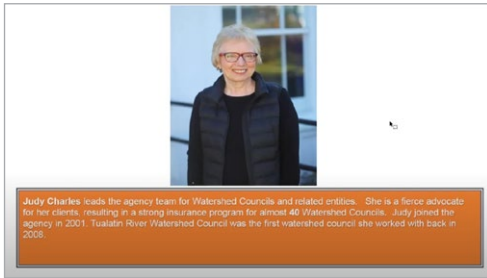
[Say Hey!](#) has events quarterly.

**Strategy 2.1** OWEB leadership attended **NW Equity Summit** in May and the April **Say Hey** event in Eugene. Say Hey is a networking event for diverse professionals intended to promote recruitment and retention through belonging.



## Priority 3

### Strengthen and leverage people and organizational capacity to achieve healthy watersheds.



Judy Charles leads the agency team for Watershed Councils and related entities. She is a fierce advocate for her clients, resulting in a strong insurance program for almost 40 Watershed Councils. Judy joined the agency in 2011. Tualatin River Watershed Council was the first watershed council she worked with back in 2008.

Insurance Requirements with Judy Charles and Stephanie Page, Oregon Conservation Partnership [webinar](#).

**Strategy 3.1** In light of federal funding challenges affecting many OWEB grantees, OWEB **formed a team of staff to review, evaluate, and recommend responses to any grantee requests for match flexibility** that go beyond the typical options.

OWEB staff have been figuring out workable solutions on emerging insurance guidance for grantees. OWEB staff participated in a webinar about insurance to help answer questions about OWEB’s guidance.

**Strategy 3.2** The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils hosted the **2025 Watershed Management Camp**. There were 61 attendees at this 3 day in-person educational event for watershed councils. OWEB staff were among the 28 presenters. The Management Camp included a site tour with the McKenzie Watershed Council of the Finn Rock post-fire restoration site.



2025 Watershed Management Camp.



## Priority 4

### Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring.



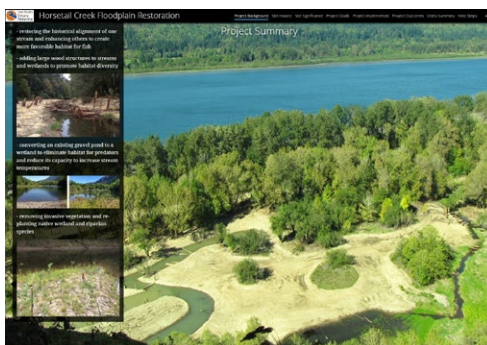
Monitoring in the Middle Fork John Day River.

**Strategy 4.1** OWEB continues to work with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed, a long-term, large-scale ecological research project located on the Middle Fork of the John Day River in Grant County, Oregon. This past quarter, **two journal articles have been drafted for submission** to Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment for review.

**Strategy 4.3** New projects are actively underway through OWEB’s **“Telling the Restoration Story” grant offering**, which produces data-driven outreach products that quantify conservation outcomes. This quarter, new projects are being considered that would communicate restoration outcomes on the North Coast and in the Umpqua basin.

To date, 11 “Telling the Restoration Story” projects have been completed, resulting in:

- 10 published stand-alone Fact Sheets
- 9 published stand-alone Technical Reports
- 7 online StoryMaps
- 6 Videos



Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration [storymap](#).



# Priority 5

## Increase connection of urban and working lands to watershed health.



OWEB staff presented information about the Conservation Management Plan grant offering at the 2024 Connect + Conference.

**Strategy 5.2** Staff are recommending the board award funding for the development and implementation of **five OAHF conservation management plans** in July.

**Natural and Working Lands Funds** allocated for the 2023-2025 biennium will be awarded to Restoration, Technical Assistance, and OAHF projects in July.



Reedsport Drinking Water Source Protection grant award hits the front page.

**Strategy 5.2** Drinking Water Source Protection grantees who have proposed to purchase lands in their drinking watersheds **will be required to develop long-term management plans**. Staff are currently working with grantees to ensure plans meet expectations and will effectively guide long-term protection of drinking water sources.



# Priority 6

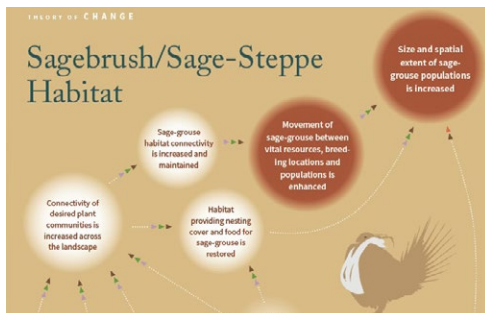
## Take bold and innovative action toward climate resilience.



Social media post about the 2020 Post-Fire Recovery grant program.

**Strategy 6.1** OWEB social media regularly highlights OWEB-funded projects that contribute to ecosystem and community resiliency. Recent social media posts include **highlights of the 2020 Post-Fire Recovery grant program**, which provided state General Funds for on-the-ground wildfire recovery restoration. Eligible actions included:

- Riparian and upland revegetation to reduce soil erosion and support reforestation and
- In-stream habitat restoration and floodplain reconnection to reduce post-wildfire flood risk and increase habitat.





Example Theory of Change diagram for Sagebrush / Sage-Steppe Habitat.

**Strategy 6.2** Staff engaged in the **5-Year FIP Ecological Priority update**. Staff held a series of public and tribal listening sessions and surveys to inform the update to FIP Ecological Priority Memos, associated maps and Theories of Change. Strategies to improve the health of priority habitats include floodplain reconnection, forest health, improved water quality, and other actions that promote disaster risk reduction.

# Strategies Chart

January 2025- July 2025








 accomplishments  
 highlighted in quarterly update

 January  
 April  
 July  
 October

## 1 Through our grantmaking, build awareness of the relationship between the people of Oregon and watershed protection and restoration

1.1 Elevate the story of how protection and restoration promote healthy watersheds			
1.2 Connect people around watershed work			
1.3 Increase use of OWEB's engagement grant offering to support grantees doing community engagement			

## 2 Leverage our position as an anchor funder to engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement

2.1 Enhance OWEB presence throughout Oregon			
2.2 Increase diversity and inclusion through improving access to our programs			
2.3 Engage organizations, entities, and communities that have not traditionally been involved in watershed restoration work			

## 3 Use our funding to strengthen and leverage people and organizational capacity to achieve healthy watersheds

3.1 Support diverse funding opportunities to sustain the capacity of partners			
3.2 Expand training for partners			




## 4 Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring

4.1 Facilitate learning through monitoring			
4.2 Learn, share and support efforts to integrate indigenous knowledge			
4.3 Communicate data-driven outcomes to guide restoration investments			

## 5 Increase investment connecting urban and working lands to watershed health

5.1 Promote value of multi benefit watershed projects			
5.2 Increase investment connecting of urban and working lands to watershed health			
5.3 Support and fund grantees building or expanding partnerships with urban constituencies			

## 6 Take bold and innovative action toward funding projects that advance climate resilience

6.1 Increase support for bold and innovative grant making in service to watershed restoration and protection			
6.2 Articulate the benefits of watershed protection and restoration for climate resiliency			



This report provides the board updates on the legislative budgeting process and outcomes of the 2025 Legislative Session.

## **Background**

The 2025 Legislative Session began on January 21 and adjourned on June 27, 2025. During the legislative session, bills with policy and budget implications for OWEB were considered.

## **The Legislative Budgeting Process**

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. First, each agency submits a requested 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 Governor then releases a recommended budget, and the Oregon Legislature approves a final budget. During the legislative session, agencies must support the Governor's Budget.

OWEB's budget bills (HB 5039 & HB 5040) were heard in the Natural Resources (NR) Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Committee on Ways and Means on February 25-26. Day 1 was a presentation of the agency's budget by OWEB leadership, and Day 2 was reserved for public comment.

The NR subcommittee and full Ways and Means committee conducted work sessions on the bills in June. Both legislative chambers passed the budget bills. As of the date of this report, the bills are now awaiting Governor Kotek's signature. Attachment A provides details on OWEB's budget.

## **Policy Legislation**

In addition to the agency budget, staff tracked other legislation that may have affected OWEB.

Senate Bill 960, the Program Change Bill, impacts the Water Acquisition grant program. The bill requires a transfer of \$3 million from the Flexible Incentive Fund to the General Fund during the 2025-2027 biennium. This has reduced the amount of grant funding available for the program and is reflected in the 2025-2027 Grant Funds Spending Plan.

No other policy legislation passed during the session that will result in a high impact to the agency.

## **Attachments**

- A. OWEB 2025-2027 Legislatively Approved Budget - Summary



## 2025-2027 Legislatively Adopted Budget

	2023-2025 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB)	2025-2027 Current Service Level (CSL)	2025-2027 Legislatively Adopted Budget (LAB)
Lottery Fund*	\$116,197,727	\$119,644,452	\$120,065,359
Federal Funds	\$56,787,165	\$36,831,423	\$61,591,577
Other Funds	\$45,819,445	\$4,050,459	\$45,526,847
General Fund	\$40,770,232	--	\$2,739,667
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$259,574,569</b>	<b>\$160,526,334</b>	<b>\$229,923,450</b>
Positions	49	33	48
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	45.91	33.00	47.50

### Policy Packages - Operations Budget

**100 – Acquisition and Special Program Manager:** Converts limited duration management position to a permanent position to lead all land and water acquisitions and stewardship work at OWEB. Includes associated services and supplies. \$509,001 (\$169,667 GF; \$169,667 LF; \$169,667 OF).

**101 – Grant Program Staffing Capacity:** Adds one new permanent grant project manager position (NRS-4). Includes associated services and supplies. \$286,813 (LF).

**102 - Land Acquisition Stewardship and Compliance:** Adds one new permanent position (NRS-3) to coordinate required stewardship and compliance monitoring of investments that involve permanent interests in land. Includes associated services and supplies. \$0 (Self-funded through reduction in services and supplies within LF).

**104 – Communications Staffing Realignment:** Reclassifies an Electronic Publishing and Design Specialist 2 to an Electronic Publishing Design Specialist 3 to better align the position classification to the agency business needs. \$21,663 (LF)

**105 – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Staff Continuity:** Provides continuity for 12 months for two limited duration program positions, an OAHP Coordinator (OPA-4) and OAHP Easement Specialist (NRS-4). Includes associated services and supplies. \$455,555 (Funded through previous OF appropriation).

**106 - Water Acquisitions Staffing Continuity:** Converts one limited duration Water Acquisitions/Capacity Grants Coordinator (OPA-4) position and one limited duration Administrative Specialist (AS-2) position to permanent positions to administer the water acquisitions grant program and other agency needs. Includes associated services and supplies. \$745,000 (Funded through previous OF appropriation).

**107 – Environmental Restoration Council (ERC) Staffing Continuity:** Provides continuity for one permanent Program Analyst 4 position and one limited duration Natural Resource Specialist 4 position to develop and administer activities associated with the ERC. Includes associated services and supplies. Funding recommended: \$748,356 (Funded through previous OF appropriation).

**108 – ERC Staffing Capacity:** Adds two permanent positions to develop and administer activities associated with the ERC, an Information Systems Specialist 4 and an Accounting Technician. Includes associated services and supplies. \$417,492 (Funded through previous OF appropriation).

**109 – National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Compliance Staffing Continuity:** Provides continuity, and makes permanent, a Cultural Resources Specialist (NRS-4) position to assure compliance with NHPA requirements associated with Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding. Includes associated services and supplies. \$351,000 (FF).

**110 – Federal Programs Staffing Continuity:** Provides continuity for one limited duration Federal Program Specialist (NRS-4) position to administer federal funds from the Bureau of Land Management and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Includes associated services and supplies. \$380,000 (FF).

**111 - Core Information Technology Staffing Realignment:** Provides funding limitation to reclassify two permanent positions to serve internal program needs and improve customer service. \$29,154 (FF).

#### Recommended Policy Packages - Grants Budget

**200/201 - Standard Grant Program Continuity:** This package allows OWEB to spend non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active (FF \$24 million, OF \$37 million) as carry-forward.

#### Legislative Fiscal Office Analyst Adjustments:

##### Package 801:

- **OAHP:** This package includes a one-time General Fund appropriation of \$2 million to the Agricultural Heritage Fund (becoming OF). \$1.76 million is included for program grants, and \$240,000 is for additional program administration (see Package 105). \$2 million (OF)
- **Drinking Water Source Protection Staffing Continuity:** Provides continuity for one limited duration Drinking Water Source Protection Coordinator (NRS-4) position to administer the grant program. Includes associated services and supplies. \$570,000 (GF).
- **Natural and Working Lands – Climate Resiliency Staffing Continuity:** Provides continuity for one limited duration Climate Coordinator (OPA-4) position to administer natural and working lands funds allocated to OWEB at the direction of the Oregon Climate Action Commission. Includes associated services and supplies. \$403,515 (OF).
- **Forest Health Collaborative Funding from Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF):** Reduces the transfer of \$500,000 from ODF to OWEB that had previously been included in Current Service Level on the grant side. This reduction in funding is reflected in the Grants Funds Spending Plan for the Forest Health Collaborative Grant program.

##### Package 810:

- **Statewide Government Service Charge Adjustments (Operations):** This package includes adjustments to Statewide Government Service Charges included in SB 5006, such as DAS price list and Attorney General charges as well as Lottery Bond service costs. (\$57,236) (LF), \$36,803 (OF).

#### Other Legislative Bills:

##### Senate Bill 960 – Program Change Bill:

- **Water Acquisition Grant Program:** This bill requires a transfer of \$3 million from the Flexible Incentive Account that funds the Water Acquisition Grant Program to the General Fund for general governmental purposes during the 2025-2027 biennium. This reduction in funding is reflected in the Grant Funds Spending Plan for the Water Acquisition Program. (\$3 million) (OF).

Fund Source Key:      LF = Lottery Funds      FF = Federal Funds      GF = General Funds      OF = Other Funds

#### Agency Staffing:

2025- 2027 Current Service Level	33.0 FTE (permanent positions/FTE)
2025-2027 Legislatively Adopted Budget additions	<u>14.5 FTE</u> (9 permanent FTE, 5.5 limited duration FTE)
2025-2027 Legislatively Adopted Budget total	47.5 FTE (42 permanent, 5.5 limited duration)

\*includes Lottery Funds Debt Service



This report provides the board updates on upcoming OWEB rulemaking efforts.

## Background

Grant programs at OWEB are guided by administrative rules. Rules cover topics, such as project eligibility, application requirements, evaluation criteria, technical review processes, and funding decisions for OWEB grant programs/types.

OWEB regularly conducts rulemaking to update existing rules and establish rules for new programs. Generally, rulemaking takes 12 months from board initiation to rule adoption. During those 12 months, OWEB staff recruit a Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) through a process consistent with Oregon Administrative Procedures law (ORS 183.333) that requires the committee to be made up of entities most likely to be impacted by the rules, develop draft rule language, hold several RAC meetings to discuss rule language, and provide formal tribal and public notification to receive comments on draft rules. The schedule may be abbreviated in instances where a RAC is not involved in rulemaking.

The process begins when staff requests the board initiate rulemaking in an [OWEB rules division](#). At that time, staff will provide a high-level overview of what is intended to be accomplished with rulemaking and describe the draft schedule. For rulemaking efforts that involve a RAC, staff will provide the board, at a second board meeting, a progress update on key emerging themes of the draft rules. At a third board meeting, staff will bring a final draft set of rules for board consideration for adoption.

## Rulemaking Schedule

The following table describes the tentative schedule for current and future OWEB rulemaking. It does not include rulemaking associated with the new Oregon Environmental Restoration Council established in SB 1561 (2024), but it is assumed that OWEB staff will also be involved in the development of rules for those programs in 2025. The timeframes in the table below may be adjusted due to workload.

<b>Administrative Rules</b>	<b>Board Initiate Rulemaking</b>	<b>Board Consideration for Adoption - Proposed</b>
Water Acquisition Grants (Division 46)	July 2025	July 2026



July 22-23, 2025, OWEB Board Meeting

## Executive Director Update B-4: Klamath River Post-Dam Removal Watershed Restoration Update

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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 of money on improvements needed to continue generating power. 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 was committed in the amount of \$450 million for removal and watershed restoration.

The Reservoir Area Management Plan submitted by KRRC to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) describes measures for restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management of the former reservoir areas exposed following dam removal, upland sites, and high-priority tributaries, including actions specifically planned for the former reservoir area upstream of J.C. Boyle dam. The federal review process resulted in the need for the states and PacifiCorp to provide up to \$45 million in additional financial support for the project, divided equally among the three entities, to address contingencies. 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.

OWEB is using both state and federal funding sources for this grant 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 2023 board meeting. The remaining \$2.947 million was allocated as part of the OWEB 2023-2025 spending plan rebalance at the July 2024 board meeting. 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. KRRC, working with RES (KRRC's restoration contractor), submitted a grant application to OWEB on May 30, 2024. OWEB executed a grant agreement on September 30, 2024. The scope of this grant mirrors restoration actions for the J.C. Boyle area as outlined in the Reservoir Area Management Plan and minor additional requirements included in FERC's final order.

### Status Update

KRRC has been reimbursed \$14.8 million of the allocated \$15 million.

Recent progress related to the broader Klamath Dam removal project:

- Restoration activities at J.C. Boyle have generally transitioned to focus on monitoring and adaptive management to ensure ongoing restoration success.

- RES crews planted over 5,500 pounds of native grass and forb seeds throughout the J.C. Boyle restoration sites in fall of last year. This planting timing was chosen to align with natural seed disbursements from native vegetation. The seeds have been germinating and growing as temperatures increase and snow melts. Twenty-seven species of grasses and forbs were seeded, including, but not limited to the following: *Achillea millefolium* (Yarrow), *Bromus carinatus* (California brome), *Deschampsia cespitosa* (Tufted hairgrass), *Drymocallis glandulosa* (Sticky cinquefoil), *Elymus elymoides* (Bottlebrush squirreltail), *Eriophyllum lanatum* (Common woolly sunflower), *Leymus cinereus* (Basin wildrye), and *Penstemon roezlii* (Roezl's penstemon).
- In addition, RES crews planted over 12,200 trees and shrubs in the J.C. Boyle area this spring following the snowmelt. RES continues to monitor the establishment of these plantings. The 14 tree and shrub species planted are:
  - *Ceanothus cuneatus* (Buckbrush),
  - *Cercocarpus betuloides* (Mountain mahogany),
  - *Crataegus douglasii* (Oregon black hawthorn),
  - *Ericameria bloomeri* (Bloomer's goldenbush),
  - *Lonicera involucrata* (Twinberry),
  - *Philadelphus lewisii* (Mock orange),
  - *Prunus virginiana* (Common chokecherry),
  - *Purshia tridentata* (Antelope bitterbrush),
  - *Rosa woodsii* (Wood's rose),
  - *Rubus ursinus* (Dewberry),
  - *Spiraea douglasii* (Rose spirea),
  - *oymphoricarpos albus* (Common snowberry),
  - *Calocedrus decurrens* (Incense cedar), and
  - *Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas-fir)
- The focus at J.C. Boyle this spring has been on monitoring these plantings, as well as monitoring and treating Invasive Exotic Vegetation (IEV) throughout the restoration sites. RES will continue to monitor the key restoration sites (i.e., reservoir footprint, previous power canal and scour hole areas, Spencer Creek connection area) to evaluate if additional seedings, plantings, IEV treatments, or construction activities may be required.
- Looking forward, RES will begin irrigation of upland revegetation sites later this summer or fall. Irrigation of these sites above the floodplain will support erosion control and general restoration.

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



July 22-23, 2025, OWEB Board Meeting

## Executive Director Update B-5: 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response Technical Assistance (TA) Program Update

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This report provides the board updates on the 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response TA Program.

### Background

The 2024 wildfire season impacted approximately 1.9 million acres throughout 21 counties in Oregon. Of this, approximately 721,000 acres are on private, state, local, and tribal lands. The post-fire impacts are widespread and pose great risk to the health of Oregon watersheds. In October 2024, the OWEB Board approved up to \$2 million in funding to support technical assistance grants to address needs in the 2024 wildfire areas. Since the board's approval of funding, OWEB staff developed the application and program materials, including a [program webpage](#) and [program guidance](#) to provide information to prospective applicants. The offering opened on December 18, 2024 and closed on May 29, 2025. The end date for the grants is January 31, 2027.

These non-competitive grants are supported by state lottery dollars and support technical assistance and engagement activities including post-fire recovery assessments, cultural resource assessments, and landowner and partner engagement. Funding prioritizes non-federal lands and requires grantees to work in coordination with other local partners. A sliding scale of funding was available based on the number of non-federal acres impacted with a single funding allocation per fire area. Given the geographic scale of the 2024 wildfires, applicants could apply for more than one fire in a single application but must have demonstrated coordination with appropriate partners, including Tribes and non-traditional partners operating within the wildfire areas.

### Status Update

As of June 2025, six applications have been submitted and reviewed. Four applications have been recommended for funding based on the streamlined review process developed by staff. Two applications have been returned to the applicants for requested revisions by OWEB staff following review.

Of the \$2 million originally approved for these grants, nearly \$1.18 million has been awarded to Crook SWCD, Harney County Watershed Council, Monument SWCD, and Owyhee Watershed Council for technical assistance in 15 fire areas:

- 0502 PR Durgan Fire
- Battle Mountain Complex
- Bonita Road Fire
- Courtrock Fire
- Cow Valley Fire
- Crazy Creek Fire
- Durkee Fire
- Falls Fire
- Fossil Complex
- Lone Rock Fire
- Porcupine Fire
- Rail Ridge Fire
- Shoe Fly Fire
- Telephone Fire
- Wiley Flat Fire

Following revision and resubmission of the remaining two applications, it is anticipated an additional two fire areas will be awarded funding. If all six applications are awarded, \$1.27 million will be allocated to implement resource assessment and engagement activities in a total of 17

wildfire areas. Table 1 shows the status of each submitted application. All awarded grants are expected to be in executed grant agreements by July 31, 2025.

Table 1. Status of 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response Applications

Applicant	Maximum Award by Fire Area			Total OWEB Ask	Status
	\$50,000 per fire area	\$100,000 per fire area	\$200,000 per fire area		
Crook SWCD	0502 PR Durgan Fire			\$75,616	Awarded
	Crazy Creek Fire				
	Wiley Flat Fire				
Harney County WC	Falls Fire			\$149,600	Awarded
	Porcupine Fire				
	Telephone Fire				
Monument SWCD	Fossil Complex	Battle Mountain Complex	Lone Rock Fire	\$599,725	Awarded
	Courtrock Fire	Rail Ridge Fire			
		Shoe Fly Fire			
Owyhee WC	Bonita Road Fire	Cow Valley Fire	Durkee Fire	\$350,000	Awarded
Row River Fire Response	Cottage Grove Complex			\$47,285	In revision by applicant
Wasco SWCD	Larch Creek Fire			\$50,000	In revision by applicant



July 22-23, 2025, OWEB Board Meeting

## Executive Director Update B-6: Interim Measure 11, Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program Update

This report provides the board with an update on the status of OWEB's investment in the Interim Measure 11, Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program.

### Background

Interim Measure 11 (IM11) from the Amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA), includes funding to address water quality improvements in the Klamath River via restoration and conservation actions in the Klamath Basin in Oregon. The emphasis of IM11 is nutrient reduction projects. PacifiCorp, in consultation with the Interim Measures Implementation Committee, developed a list of project categories to be implemented to fulfill the objective of IM11. PacifiCorp provided funding of up to \$6,433,500 million for design/engineering and implementation of projects. This funding is administered by OWEB through the Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program.

A Steering Committee, facilitated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), was established to assist OWEB with the program implementation. OWEB is the Fiscal Agent and will award IM11 funds for projects approved by the Steering Committee until the funds are exhausted.

The Steering Committee is comprised of members from the following organizations: Oregon Water Resources Department, ODEQ, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Bureau of Reclamation (vacant), Yurok Tribe, Karuk Tribe, Klamath Tribes, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board, and Aquatic Ecosystems.

Eligible applicants include tribes, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, not-for-profit institutions, schools, Oregon institutions of higher education, independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education, or political subdivisions of Oregon that are not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may partner with one of the eligible entities.

### Status Update

The program has held two grant solicitations. Four projects totaling \$1,480,362 million have been funded, with \$4,953,138 million remaining. Collectively the projects will take diverse approaches to address water quality issues and reduce nutrient inputs into the Klamath River. The following projects have been funded.

Grantee	Project Name	Funding Amount	Description	Status
Rusted Gate Farm	Fringe Wetland Restoration and Water Quality Improvement on Ball Bay Grazing Pasture	\$724,093	Improve water quality in Upper Klamath Lake for anadromous fish and critically endangered Lost River and	Open Grant Agreement

			Shortnose suckers.	
Trout Unlimited	Klamath Basin Headwaters Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration	\$556,226	Restore resilient and self-sustaining instream and riparian habitats in 10 miles of stream in the Sprague Basin.	Pending Grant Agreement
Sustainable Northwest	Duncan Family Ranch Sprague River Riparian Plantings	\$38,056	Restore native riparian vegetation along 1.5 miles and 7.5 acres of the mainstem Sprague River to increase shade and filter pollutants.	Pending Grant Agreement
Sustainable Northwest	Ish Tish Creek Ranch Riparian Restoration and Grazing Management	\$161,987	Provide off-channel water sources and grazing management for cattle to improve water quality and protect instream restoration work along 3 miles of Ish Tish Creek.	Pending Grant Agreement

Timing of the next funding cycle is under discussion by the Steering Committee and is expected to launch in late 2025 or early 2026.