



DROUGHT RELIEF GRANT PROGRAM

OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE: Klamath Off-Channel Livestock Watering *Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*

Introduction

OWEB received funding to provide grants to support livestock watering wells and the construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County during the 2021 Oregon Legislative Second Special Session. These grants are supported by General Funds and have an explicit Legislative intent to assist irrigated pasture to move livestock watering facilities away from riparian areas (2021 Senate Bill 5561). This helps minimize grazing impacts on riparian areas and the dependency on in-stream water sources.

Program Structure

For additional information about eligible applicants, eligible costs, and budget development, refer to OWEB's GoBig document for OWEB [Drought Relief Grant Program – Klamath Off-Channel Livestock Watering](#).

Property must be within Klamath County, Oregon to be eligible for this program.

Eligible project activities may date back to July 1, 2021.

This program uses General Funds provided during the 2021 Second Special Legislative Session. These funds are anticipated to end June 30, 2023. While OWEB will request authority from the Oregon Legislature to extend the lifespan for these funds, all funding must be obligated by June 30, 2023. Applicants must describe what project components can be completed by June 30, 2023 and describe any timing or implementation challenges to complete project activities.

For **Klamath Off-Channel Livestock Watering** grants, applicants must demonstrate how proposed areas for livestock watering wells and construction of off-channel water facilities are identified and prioritized. Examples of locally relevant plans include the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan (<https://www.ukbwap.com/>) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, 2018/2020 Integrated Report (<https://hdcgcx2.deq.state.or.us/Html5Viewer211/?viewer=wqsa>).

Local partners are expected to coordinate activities to leverage strengths and maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of on-the-ground work.

Wells proposed in this grant offering are exclusively for off-channel livestock water. Domestic or irrigation wells are not eligible.

Eligible activities include:

- Well construction for livestock water, initial power hookups, and associated infrastructure for off-channel watering (e.g., solar or electric pumps, piping from the well to troughs/cisterns).
- Project design for well construction and off-channel watering infrastructure. (It is strongly encouraged that the applicant follow Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) guidelines for [Construction and Material Specs](#) and [Practice Standards](#) of off-channel watering facilities.)
- Riparian exclusion fencing. Full exclusion is not required, but strongly encouraged.
- Modest costs for riparian planting efforts. Non-native plant control is allowed within the riparian buffer area to assist in plant establishment, but this is not intended to be the primary source of funding.
- Development of a grazing management plan.

Required activities include:

- Control measures to prevent excess water waste and overflow such as automatic floats, timer shut-off valves the control of water pumped through pipes to troughs.
- A properly functioning totalizing flow meter is to be installed on the well, maintained, and protected from freezing.
- No pumping of livestock water into an open ditch or pond.
- A grazing management plan that includes information about grazing duration, intensity (in terms of utilization), timing, and rotation.

Applicants must document the property landownership and describe historical livestock stream access.

Applicants must demonstrate the capacity to plan and implement successful actions over a relatively short timeframe (see information below about funding lifespan).

A 25% match (cash and/or in-kind contributions) is encouraged. However, applications with less than 25% match will be accepted.

Grant Cycles and Grant-Making Considerations

Application cycles for Klamath Off-Channel Livestock Watering grants will follow this schedule. Award decisions will be made within approximately 6 weeks after the application deadline:

- The first grant cycle will open the end of May 2022. The closing deadline is on June 30, 2022 at 5pm.
- The second grant cycle will open in mid-July 2022. The closing deadline is on September 1, 2022 at 5pm. (If funding remains available, a third grant cycle will open in early November 2022 and close in late December 2022.)

OWEB strongly recommends that applicants submit their grant applications at least 24 hours prior to the application deadline. OWEB's online grant applications include a verification step that will flag missing and incomplete information in the application. Verifying and submitting your grant application at least 24 hours in advance allows time for applicants to correct errors that are found during verification. **All applications must be successfully submitted through OWEB's online grant application system by 5 pm on the application deadline. No exceptions will be made.**

Applicants should carefully review all guidance and information (including iButtons) in the online grant applications—they contain important information on program eligibility and requirements. This review will help applicants confirm before submission of their application that all questions are answered completely based on the guidelines included in the application and that all required uploads are provided.

In addition to project completion reports, grantees under this program are required to complete quarterly billing and reports for grants. Grantees are also required to record and report water use from the totalizing flow meter twice annually. Annual post-implementation status reports are required for five years.

Grant Program Evaluation Process

Evaluation of grant applications is based on [OWEB Restoration Grants](#) evaluation criteria. Grant applications will be assessed on the following:

- Project needs align with the drought relief priorities identified in the legislative intent.
- Expected benefit(s) from the project: 1) move livestock watering facilities away from riparian areas, 2) minimize grazing impacts to riparian areas, and 3) minimize the dependency of livestock watering on in-stream water sources.
- Organizational capacity to complete project during a limited timeframe.
- Demonstrate coordination among local partners in Klamath County.

Finally, consideration will be given to applicants' responses to questions about tribal coordination, equity, and climate.

Grant applications will be reviewed by a team of agency staff who are knowledgeable on drought impacts and off-channel livestock water development needs. The review team will also have experience with organizational capacity, coordination, and partnership considerations related to planning and implementation of successful projects and programs. This team will coordinate with agency representatives in the affected areas to ensure an understanding of local needs.

Additional Resources for Applicants

For additional information about applying for OWEB grants, see OWEB's Online Application Guidance at <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/Images/Online%20Application%20GuidanceV3.4.pdf>. While not specific to the Drought Grant Program, this general guidance may provide helpful tips.

For information about grant budgets, getting access to OWEB's Grant Management System, understanding insurance requirements, or using OWEB's online applications, see the video resources at <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/manage-grant/Pages/videos-training.aspx>.

For eligibility questions, or other questions about OWEB's Drought Grant Program, please contact Amy Charette, Drought Programs Coordinator, amy.charette@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-719-3100 OR Heidi Hartman, Drought Programs Specialist, heidi.hartman@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-707-0226.