



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Buena Vista ferry, Max Rae, cc

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | April 2025

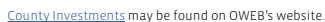


Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

Priority 1 Build awareness of the relationship between people and watershed protection and restoration.

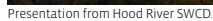


OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) staff meet with each FIP Partnership Coordinator on a regular basis to answer questions, share program updates, and gain understanding of Partnership progress and challenges.



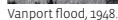
County Fact Sheets describing investments and restoration work in each county have been updated on OWEB's website and shared with grantees through Regional Program Representatives.

Priority 2 Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.



Strategy 2.1 OWEB staff participated in **trainings with an important inclusion nexus:**

- OWEB staff also attended a **networking event for diverse professionals** called “Say Hey,” organized by Partners in Diversity, held at the Muslim Educational Trust in February.





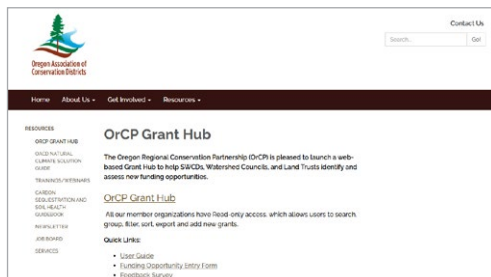
Priority 3

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

Strategy 3.2 Oregon Conservation Partnership developed two new tools:

- The [Oregon Conservation Grant Hub](#), a web-based tool designed to streamline grant identification and foster collaboration for conservation efforts.
- The [Natural Climate Solutions Project Guide](#), which helps connect landowner conservation practices with potential carbon benefits, metrics to track, and funding opportunities.

Strategy 3.1 Funds provided to 20 SWCDs will assist them in updating websites and documents to comply with ADA readability and accessibility requirements, increasing their outreach to community members.



The Oregon Conservation Grant Hub.



The Natural Climate Solutions Project Guide.



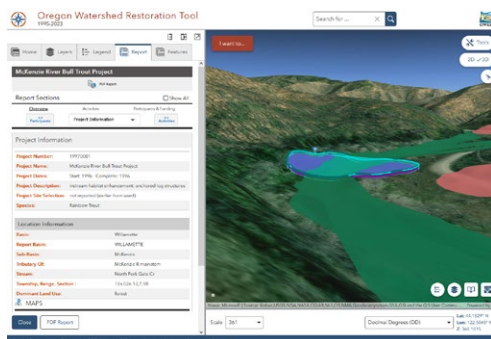
Priority 4

Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring.

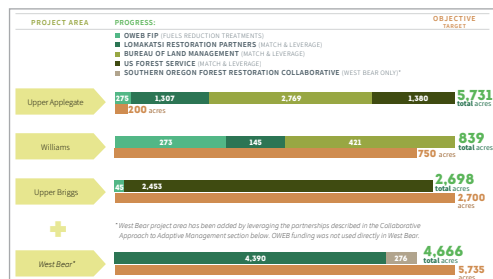
Strategy 4.3 In February 2025, OWEB opened the annual **Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) Call for Data**. OWEB also completed the annual export of OWRI restoration data to the newly updated Oregon Explorer Online platform's [Oregon Watershed Restoration Tool](#), and the export of OWEB's investments to the [Oregon Investment Tracking Tool](#).

Both of these OSU-hosted tools are widely used, with dozens of site visits in the past reporting period. Exporting OWRI data allows for download in several other user-friendly formats, with over 700 visits to the [OWRI page](#) on the OWEB site within the past reporting period. All of this information informs decision-making and informs policymakers about the impacts of restoration and OWEB's watershed investments.

Strategy 4.3 Progress Tracking Reports (PTRs) for each of the current FIP Cohort 2 and 3 partnerships were published for the January board meeting. PTRs provide a written and visual account of each partnership's progress in implementing their initiatives. PTRs 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, 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. PTRs are [published on OWEB's website](#), with hundreds of views within the past reporting period.



The new platform includes 3-D views.



PTRs include metrics on the completion of specific objectives.



Priority 5

Increase connection of urban and working lands to watershed health.



Cover crop on dryland wheat in Wasco. (photo by NRCS)

Strategy 5.3 The **Natural and Working Lands fund engagement process** revealed strong support for the priorities outlined in the legislation, including that a diversity of landowners and land managers are able to participate in natural climate solutions and that the funds should optimize the social, health, ecological, climate resilience, or economic benefits of natural climate solutions. As a result of the engagement process, OWEB has included cover cropping, rotational grazing, and cultural burns as eligible practices, dropped match requirements from 25% to 5%, and revised the grant applications to very closely match the standard OS and OAHF applications.



Before photo of the Hall Creek Riparian Urban Restoration Small Grant project with Tualatin SWCD.

Strategy 5.3 Activities to **engage urban partners** has taken place under the [Small Grant Program](#). Next biennium, OWEB will switch to funding the lead organizations for small grant teams and will have higher expectations for community engagement. OWEB is currently revising the offering for small grant teams.



Priority 6

Take bold and innovative action toward climate resilience.



The footprint of the Rail Ridge Fire from the John Day Basin Partnership project.



Strategy 6.1 The 2024 [Wildfire Response Technical Assistance grants](#), totaling \$2 million, were approved in October 2024 for areas affected by the wildfires. To address the urgent need for recovery support, a streamlined review process involving staff and the Executive Team was implemented. By March 2025, one application had been approved, funding the **development of a restoration prioritization framework for post-fire recovery in the John Day Basin**, which may be adapted for other regions. The funding also supports a virtual fencing pilot program aimed at enhancing virtual fencing practices across Oregon.



Strategy 6.2 Oregon Department of Energy is leading on the recruitment for the development of a **biological sequestration and storage inventory** for the state as well as a second recruitment for activity and community impact metrics. Both solicitations are in the final stages of review and will be posted soon. OWEB is part of interagency working group to provide input on the tools as they are developed, ensuring that proposed metrics are feasible for grantees.






Strategies Chart

January 2025- April 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

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|---|---|---|
| 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

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|---|---|---|
| 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

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|--|---|---|
| 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

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|--|---|---|
| 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

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|--|---|---|
| 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 |  |  |