



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Astoria wharf, Erica Stange, ODOT, cc

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | January 2026



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

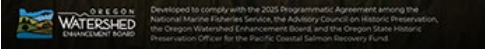
Each quarterly report describes key accomplishments under Strategies that have been identified for each of the six Strategic Plan priorities. See the last page for the full list of Strategies, and a summary of when accomplishments were reported throughout the calendar year.



Priority 1

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

Workers Environmental Awareness Training (WEAT)



WEAT course is available on YouTube and Workday.

Strategy 1.2 OWEB created a cultural resources training course to instruct restoration practitioners on **what to do when cultural resources are discovered in the field in order to comply with section 106** of the National Historical Preservation Act. The course is available on [YouTube](#) and WorkDay.



Grantee panel discussion.

Strategy 1.3 A panel of grantees from [Necanicum Watershed Council](#) and [North Coast Watershed Association](#) held a panel discussion with the OWEB board over dinner after the October board meeting to share their experiences and **discuss engagement with diverse communities**.



Priority 2

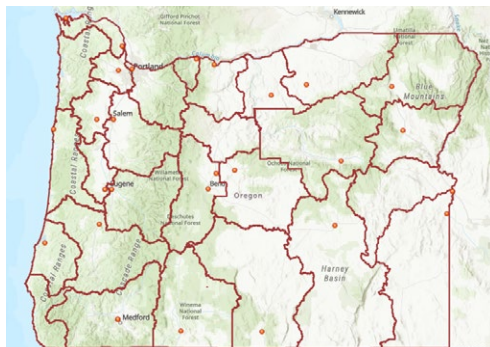
Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.



Site visit in Baker City.

Strategy 2.1 OWEB's Executive Director and Deputy Director collectively **visited the 6 OWEB regions** this year for meetings with local partners and local communities. Visits included:

- Local partner meeting in Burns
- OWEB board meetings and tours in Astoria and Pendleton
- Land Acquisition public hearings on the north coast, Grant County, and Lake County
- Ridgetop to Rooftop summit in Bend
- Tour of a dam removal site at Mt. Hood Community College
- Tour of virtual fencing and other projects in Gilliam and Grant counties
- Tour of an invasive aquatic weed control project with the state Weed Board
- Visit with local partners on the South Coast



Map of Small Grant Teams.

Strategy 2.3 (& 6.1) Awarded 27 Small Grant Team Contact grants to Small Grant Teams (up to \$20,000 per team) across the state to conduct outreach efforts to **engage new organizations to join the Small Grant Team** and potential applicants to apply for Small Grant project funding.



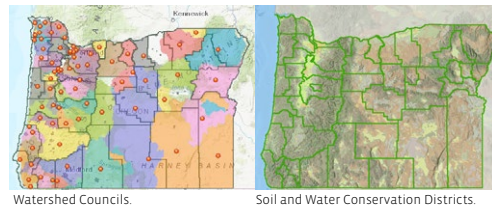
Priority 3

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



Oregon Conservation Partnership houses information about upcoming webinars on its [website](#), including a webinar on Capacity Grant Rulemaking on February 4, 2025.

Strategy 3.2 The Oregon Conservation Partnership grant application has been approved, **funding a two-year workplan** that includes webinars, trainings, and conferences to assist Watershed Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Land Trusts with gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to implement restoration and acquisition projects to restore and protect Oregon’s watersheds.



Strategy 3.2 OWEB staff provided an **overview of upcoming Capacity Grant Engagement & Rulemaking** and fielded questions at the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Conference in October.



Priority 4

Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring.



Presentation to Oregon Association of Conservation Districts at the [2025 Conference](#).

Strategy 4.3 (& 1.3) In October (2025), staff attended the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts annual conference in Pendleton, Oregon. Staff co-presented with Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District about how to ‘Tell the Story’ of conservation success, linking data collection efforts to future engagement in projects. The presentation **highlighted OWEB’s data and information systems that are available to help Districts tell their story.**

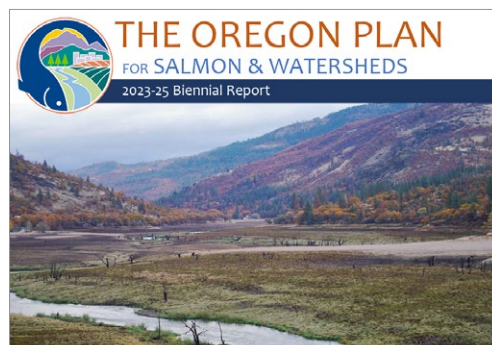


Photo of Klamath River after dam removal (Resource Environmental Services).

Strategy 4.1 The **2025 Oregon Plan biennial report** was completed and circulated to the Governor and legislators in December. The report highlights key watershed investments and accomplishments over the past two years; describes coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners; and includes recommendations from the OWEB Board about future work.

- [Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds webpage](#)
- [2023-2025 Full Report](#)
- [2023-2025 Executive Summary](#)



Priority 5

Increase connection of urban and working lands to watershed health.

Strategy 5.1 OWEB’s “Telling the Restoration Story” offering provides a model to help **communicate the connection of both urban and working lands to watershed health.**

- The [Coyote Creek South Wetlands project](#) near Eugene provides an example of how restoration near an urbanized area can be highlighted for many visitors through resources like visitor pamphlets.
- The [Zumwalt Prairie Preserve grant](#) in Wallowa County resulted in several data-driven outreach products about topics like incorporating pollinator health in grazing plans for rangeland management.

Strategy 5.1 (& 5.3) An **internal review of gaps between funded restoration grants for urban and rural projects** found that OWEB funds urban projects at a similar rate as those outside urban areas (36% versus 35% respectively). About 1% of Oregon’s land is in urban areas, which received 5% of the awarded projects.

Based on the funding gap analysis, OWEB did not determine that changes to the review lenses were necessary.



Visitor brochures for Coyote Creek.



Priority 6

Take bold and innovative action toward climate resilience.

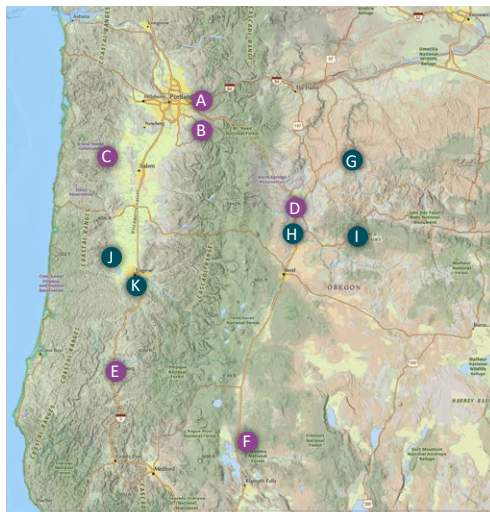
Strategy 6.2 OWEB **funded grants with Natural and Working Lands funds** through two pathways.

● Open Solicitation Restoration and Technical Assistance grants to remove invasive plants, increase native plants, reforest following a wildfire, establish demonstration sites to train local landowners, and study the feasibility of a cover crop incentive program. Projects also incorporate social benefits such as workforce development for low-income youth, Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and restoration on Tribally owned lands:

- 1,041 acres (potential of 60,000 more)
- Total awards nearly \$1.5 million
- Leveraging \$631,000 in match funding

● Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Conservation Management Plans to enhance habitat, improve water quality, and maintain soil health through incentivizing practices like prescribed burning, prescribed grazing, and riparian buffer establishment :



- Over 38,000 acres
- Total awards \$752,000
- Leveraging approximately \$83,000 in match funding



Map of projects funded with Natural and Working Lands Funds in 2025 from informational handout.

Strategies Chart

April 2025- January 2026











 accomplishments
 highlighted in quarterly update

 April
 July
 October
 January

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				