



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



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

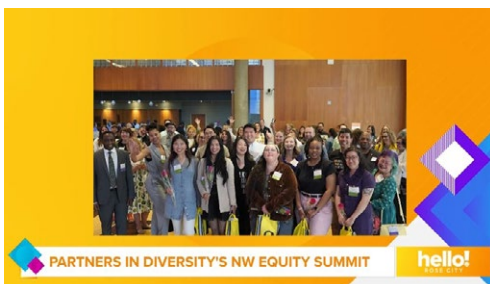
Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.



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.



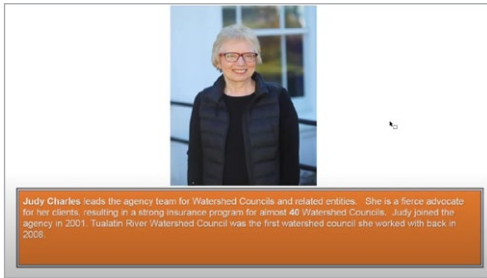
[Say Hey!](#) has events quarterly.

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.



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.



2025 Watershed Management Camp.

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.



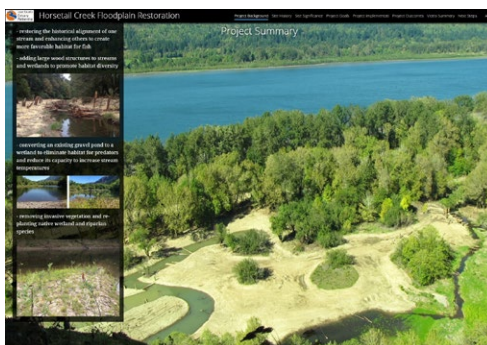
Priority 4

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.



Horsetail Creek Floodplain Restoration [storymap](#).

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



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.



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

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

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

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.

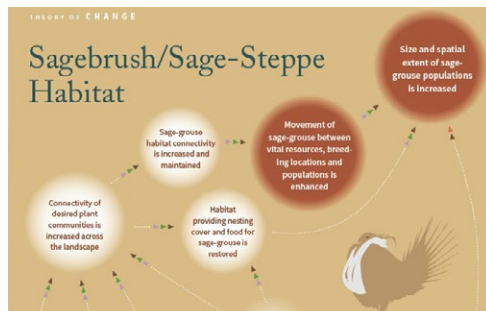
2021 OWEB Administrators 2020 Wildfire Response Grants



[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			