OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Mt. Hood and Milky Way south of the Dalles, Oregon by Bill Devlin, cc

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

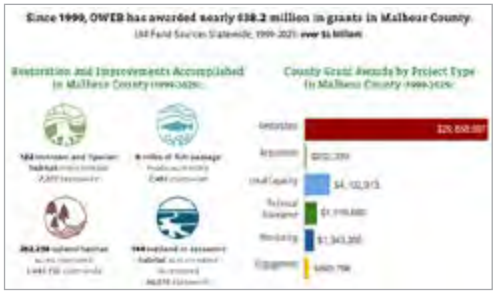
Quarterly Report to the Board | July 2026

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.



Metrics section of the Malheur county fact sheet.

Strategy 1.1 OWEB produced fact sheets **for each county** that highlight investments by project type, along with key accomplishment metrics, including:

- Miles of instream and riparian habitat enhanced
- Miles of newly accessible fish passage
- Acres of upland habitat improved
- Acres of wetland or estuarine habitat restored or created



Fact sheet.

Strategy 1.2 / 4.1 OWEB published a fact sheet **on the socio-economic benefits of watershed restoration** that includes key findings from statewide and geographically focused areas of the state.

Priority 2

Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.



Director O'Brien on tour with Rogue River Watershed Council at Elk Creek.

Strategy 2.1 Director O'Brien traveled to southern and central Oregon to meet with regional staff and partners, tour projects, and learn about collaborative work underway in the basins. This included **visits with key partners and partnerships** focused on native fish habitat restoration, floodplain restoration and other agricultural water quality efforts, and upland fuels reduction in the Rogue, Klamath, and Deschutes Basins.



Strategy 2.2 **Assessed and enhanced OWEB's website and materials to improve accessibility,** including reviewing content structure, updating formatting for readability, ensuring compatibility with assistive technologies, and aligning materials with current accessibility standards.

Priority 3

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



RPR Liz Redon with grantees.

Strategy 3.2 OWEB's Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) are **designing an application training workshop for Open Solicitation grants** (Technical Assistance, Engagement, Restoration, and Monitoring). The training will be provided to grantees this winter. There have also been informal Grant Agreement and application trainings in the Willamette every six months.

Priority 4

Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring.



Slide from webinar about SIAs.

Strategy 4.1 OWEB continues to **lead an inter-agency team to review monitoring proposals for Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs).** The team includes ODFW, DEQ and OSU Extension, and accepts proposals quarterly. After reviewing, the team meets with each SIA monitoring lead and application team to offer technical resources and discuss the local SIA monitoring approach.



Beaver Creek Valley-scale Floodplain Restoration Design from Private Forest Accord Grant Program storymap.

Strategy 4.1 ODFW's Private Forest Accord program has begun finishing the first round of projects. These projects include reporting to OWEB's Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory. OWEB uses the results to **facilitate communication among natural resource agencies.**

Priority 5

Increase connection of urban and working lands to watershed health.



The Seely Farms Phase II project was awarded a Conservation Easement grant through the Oregon Agricultural Trust. PHoto courtesy of Seely Farms.

Strategy 5.2 In April, OWEB awarded $1,603,345 in funding for three working lands conservation easements to support **agricultural viability and watershed health on over 3,700 acres of working lands.** Projects will support ongoing use of rangeland and agricultural land throughout Oregon, while also protecting important habitat for native plant diversity and migrating birds and big game species.

Priority 6

Take bold and innovative action toward climate resilience.



A view of the Mt. Hood National Forest and Enola Hill in the Henry Creek drainage—drinking water source for Rhododendron, a grant recipient. Photo: Jonathan Boone, Boone Bros Media.

Strategy 6.1 / 3.1 OWEB's Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) Grant Program, originally funded by the Oregon Legislature in 2023, has been a source of bold and innovative grantmaking for the agency, at the intersection of human health, watershed protection, and climate resiliency. Contingent upon the annual distribution of the fund, the **Environmental Restoration Council recently approved up to $1.2 million for the DWSP program,** which will allow OWEB to offer a second grant cycle later this year as well as to maintain staffing for an additional year.



Aerial of Bailey Nurseries project site.

Strategy 6.2 / 5.1 / 2.3 OWEB **published an article in Digger magazine** highlighting Bailey Nurseries' work to remove two earthen dams and restore the surrounding riparian area. This project created 0.3 acres of new wetland, opened 2.5 miles of Salt Creek for fish passage, and shows the multiple improvements in water quality and quantity for business, habitat, and the local community.

Strategies Chart

October 2025 - July 2026

accomplishments
highlighted in quarterly update

October January April July

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

		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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

		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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

		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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

		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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

		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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

		Oct	Jan	Apr	Jul
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	●	●	●	●