

# OREGON Watershed Enhancement Board



## 2018-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | July, 2022



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



# Priority 1

## Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

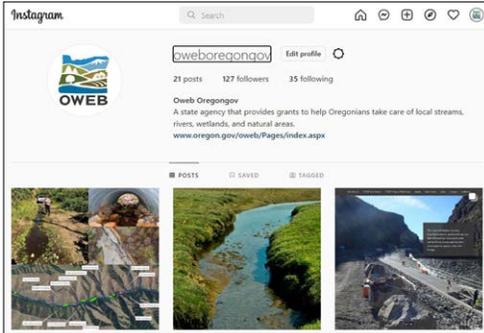


Photo: OWEB

OWEB began using **social media platforms** in April, 2022 to uplift stories of grantees and their projects. This outreach also shines a light on uses of OWEB funding sources, OWEB services, and increases watershed awareness. As of July 2022:

- Over 100 followers on both FaceBook and Instagram.
- 5-10 posts a week.
- FaceBook engagement is between 1-10/post, Instagram engagement is between 10-20/post.



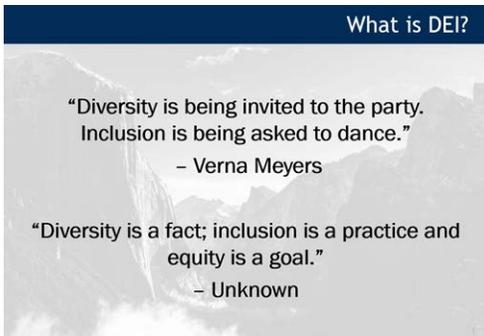
PCSRF annual report

Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) provides a significant amount of funding to the state of Oregon. Every year, OWEB provides information and stories about on-the-ground work for the **PCSRF annual report**. These reports provide an opportunity to share outcomes with partners and contributors. The 2022 PCSRF annual report highlighted the Opal Springs Volitional Fish Passage project.



# Priority 2

## Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians



Slide from ECO NW

All OWEB staff and board members attended **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) training**, conducted by EcoNW. This training allows staff and board members to acknowledge and make efforts to bridge inequalities and engage with a diversity of communities in respectful and meaningful ways.

- Four training sessions, one with staff and board members together.
- Consultations were held with EcoNW and OWEB's Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Advancement (IDEA) Team.



Roundhouse Foundation website

OWEB leadership **met with several non-traditional partners** in the first half of 2022. These meetings help OWEB to learn directly from partners about potential barriers to engage in natural resources restoration efforts and to plan how to make natural resource restoration more universally accessible.

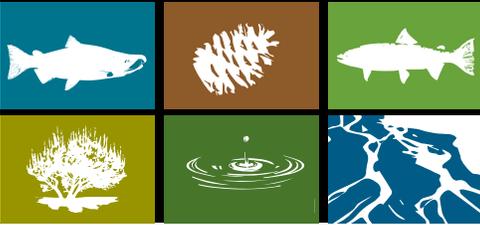
- Met with: the Organic Coalition, Capitol Connections, Albina Vision Trust, Roundhouse Foundation, and a group of agricultural stakeholders.



## Priority 3

### Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

#### Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs)



Report: OWEB

**OWEB incorporated several improvements to the agency’s grant making.** In one example, the Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) evaluation process was modified to give applicants an opportunity to clarify questions that may arise from the review team, resulting in greater consistency and more informed recommendations to the Board. In another example, [Adaptively Managing Restoration Initiatives](#) were developed within the context of the FIPs. This document outlines specific recommendations to help practitioners overcome common challenges with long-term partnership implementation.

**OWEB leadership met with partners who are actively engaged in watershed restoration** throughout working landscapes in rural Oregon. These experiences provide vital information to OWEB staff and board about the successes and challenges of grant programs and help these programs adapt and become more effective.

- Toured Harney County with the High Desert Partnership.
- Attended event with Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley to celebrate the securing of Congressionally Directed Spending to advance the Kellogg Dam Removal & Resilience Project.



Photo: OWEB



## Priority 4

### Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio



Photo: BLM

OWEB received Federal Infrastructure funds in addition to an annual Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund award to assist with Salmon Recovery, Restoration, Monitoring, and Technical Assistance projects.

- **FFY2022 Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).**
- **Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) agreement with BLM** will last 10 years and bring up to \$25 million dollars of funding to local partners.

OWEB offers **new General Fund granting opportunities to address post-fire recovery and drought relief.** This Funding is made available to quickly address high-priority, emerging natural resources needs. These grants enable conservation partners and landowners throughout Oregon to engage in coordinated recovery and resilience work.



Photo: ODF



## Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health



The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is **recruiting for two seats on the Commission!**



Photo: Jim Choate

The **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)** offers grants to assist with the management of farmland during the transition from one generation to the next in a way that benefits farming families and the land. This program will restore and maintain the health of working lands, help to control invasive and noxious weeds, and demonstrate healthy watershed management practices to the next generation of farmers.

- OWEB received \$5 million for OAHP and the OAHP commission decided to invest \$4.46 million to purchase working lands conservation easements and develop conservation management plans..
- In June, OWEB hired an OAHP Coordinator and sent out a recruitment for 2 seats on the Commission.



## Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness



Photo of John Day IMW. OWEB.

OWEB contributed information from the Middle Fork John Day River to develop a **synthesis report on the Management Implications from Pacific Northwest Intensively Monitored Watersheds (IMWs)**. The report compiles data from 13 IMWs to provide quantifiable evidence of how restoration efforts such as the placement of large woody debris, riparian restoration, barrier removal, and beaver dam analogs have led to improvements in watershed health, aquatic habitat, and the viability of salmon and steelhead. These findings help inform future restoration research, management, and practices.



Photo: Amy Stiner, SF John Day WC

**Pre-application Monitoring Grant consultations** assist applicants to prepare for a competitive application and understand OWEB reporting requirements. These consultations determine if the project scope meets eligibility requirements, actions that may be needed before an application is submitted, and to share technical resources that may be available. From January–May 2022:

- OWEB’s Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator and Regional Program Representatives participated in 30 pre-application consultations.
- 25 monitoring applications were submitted during the Spring 2022 Open Solicitation grant offering.



# Priority 7

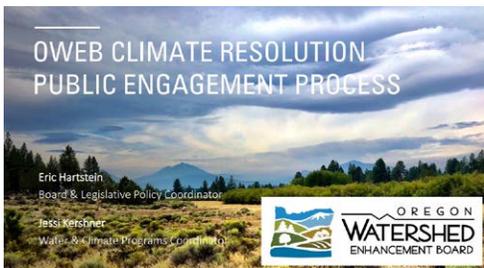
## Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon's watersheds



Report: OWEB

OWEB sustained solicitation for long-term, landscape-scale restoration projects, including **Focused Investment Projects (FIPs) through the pandemic**. Sustaining these programs protects current investments and maintains projects that have a large impact on Oregon.

- 11 of FIPs currently open.
- 11 applications for FIP Initiatives, awards will be made in July, 2022.



Slide: OWEB

**Public engagement listening sessions for OWEB's Climate Resolution 01-2022** were held between April-May, 2022 so that OWEB could learn from their partners and stakeholders about the potential associated challenges and opportunities and seek out varied viewpoints. Thoughts and concerns will be shared with the OWEB Board, helping to inform considerations around climate-related rulemaking and giving them a voice in implementing new processes.

- 6 public engagement listening sessions via zoom, 77 unique participants.
- 1 tribal listening session
  - invited 10 tribes (including all 9 Federally-recognized tribes).
  - 16 folks attended, representing 8 tribes.
- 1 online survey with 44 responses.