



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



Astoria wharf, Erica Stange, ODOT, cc

2025-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | October 2025



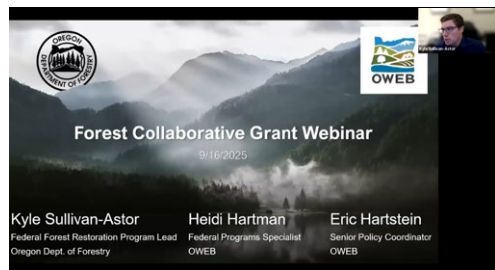
Mission: To help protect and restore healthy watersheds and natural habitats that support thriving communities and strong economies.

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.



Recordings of webinars and open office hours are posted on OWEB's YouTube channel.

Strategy 1.2 Virtual Office Hours and interactive webinars were offered for:

- [Conservation Covenant and Easement grant program](#)
- [Forest Collaborative grant program](#)
- [Land Acquisition grant program](#)
- [Small Grant Team Contact Engagement grant program](#)



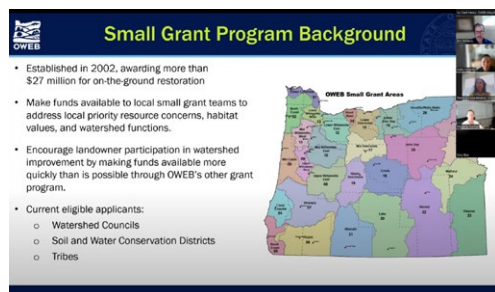
[Social media posts](#) promoting the Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

Strategy 1.3 Worked with OWRD and other agencies to complete the [Integrated Water Resources Strategy \(IWRs\)](#) and bring awareness to it through social media posts.



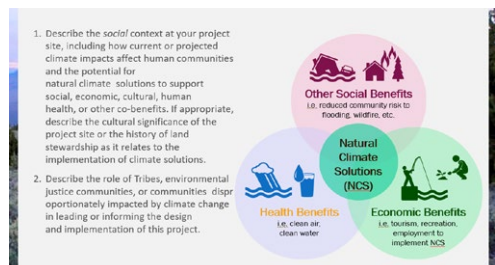
Priority 2

Engage the diversity of Oregonians in watershed enhancement work.



[Small Grant Team Contact webinar](#).

Strategy 2.1 (& 2.2) OWEB hosted a **webinar** on June 30, 2025, for all eligible OWEB organizations to learn more about the **Small Grant Team Contact engagement grant** offered through the Small Grant Program. This grant offering supports facilitation of grant application review processes for Small Grant projects.



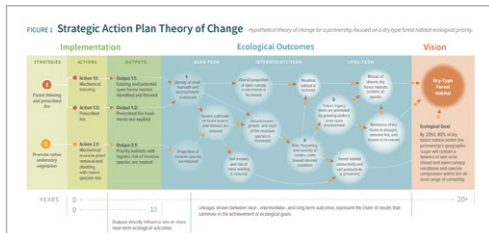
Technical Review Team Orientation.

Strategy 2.3 (& 6.1) OWEB convened a **new Technical Review Team with expertise in climate change and equity** for the Natural and Working Lands offering, in which 8 of the 11 people were new to the process. Prior to the review meetings, OWEB trained the team on how to evaluate projects according to the legislative intent around supporting natural climate solutions and community co-benefits, as well as OWEB's existing criteria for restoration and technical assistance applications.



Priority 3

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



Strategic Action Plans focus on a "Theory of Change," which summarize key outputs and outcomes.

Strategy 3.2 OWEB Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) staff meet with Partnership Technical Assistance grantees every other month to provide opportunity for OWEB to **share information**, and grantees to share **lessons learned, successes, and challenges** as they work to develop their Strategic Action Plans.



Surveying at Kellogg Dam Removal site (Technical Assistance grant).

Strategy 3.2 OWEB staff participated in a webinar sponsored by the Conservation Partnership to **discuss criteria for Technical Assistance grants that lead to eligible Restoration Projects**.



Priority 4

Advance learning about watershed restoration effectiveness through coordinated monitoring.



Lessons learned are reported in biennial Progress Tracking Reports.

Strategy 4.3 In collaboration with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, staff are **synthesizing Lessons Learned from almost ten years of reporting** on the Focused Investment Partnerships through Progress Tracking Reports. Results were shared and discussed with practitioners at a Peer-to-Peer learning opportunity in September.



Monitoring Tour, 2025

Strategy 4.1 This past summer, several staff spent a week visiting with monitoring grantees in the field to **discuss what they are learning from their effectiveness monitoring efforts**. Focused discussions revolved around this strategic plan priority to hear from their ideas on how OWEB can better assist them in connecting with a network of practitioners to share and exchange emerging information to address their restoration and monitoring needs.



Priority 5

Increase connection of urban and working lands to watershed health.



Strategy 5.2 At the July board meeting, board members and OWEB staff visited a restoration project on Birch Creek and the Umatilla River implemented by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation with partners, including the Blue Mountain Land Trust, the Umatilla Soil and Water Conservation District, landowner Jim Whitney, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The project is focused on restoring instream habitat and floodplain connection, along with a **conservation easement** permanently protecting 942 acres and 3.72 miles of the Umatilla River and Birch Creek.

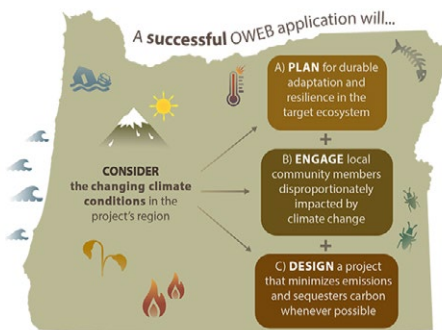


Birch Creek tour.



Priority 6

Take bold and innovative action toward climate resilience.



Climate criteria diagram.

Strategy 6.2 OWEB has updated the [Water and Climate webpage](#) to provide applicants and grantees with **resources that map to the climate evaluation criteria**. The site also includes a diagram intended to help visualize the climate criteria as an equation of the three criteria in the specific local context of changing climate conditions.





Carbon & Culture Symposium invite.

Strategy 6.2 (& 4.2) In September, OWEB's Water & Climate Coordinator attended the joint [CTUIR/DEQ Carbon and Culture Symposium](#) and **presented about OWEB offerings for natural climate solutions and the opportunities for Tribes to access the forthcoming Environmental Restoration Fund**. The symposium brought together Tribal knowledge keepers, land managers, academics, and state government to discuss opportunities for natural and geologic carbon sequestration activities on Tribally owned and managed lands.

Strategies Chart

January 2025- October 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			