

OREGON Watershed Enhancement Board



2018-2028 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board | October 2023



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



Proceeds from Bandon Preserve (a 13-hole golf course) support grant funds for Wild Rivers Coast Alliance. Photo from Wild River Coast Alliance of Bandon Preserve No. 7

This past quarter, OWEB leadership continued to **connect with key organizations that can help build awareness about the relationship between people and watersheds**. Leadership met with four organizations active in connecting youth with Oregon's cultural and natural resources:

- OWEB met with Jill Fuglister, Program Director at [Meyer Memorial Trust](#). The Meyer Memorial Trust is one largest private funders in Oregon. They work to accelerate racial, social and economic justice in Oregon.
- OWEB met with Marie Simonds, Executive Director of the [Wild Rivers Coast Alliance](#) during Lisa's trip to the South Coast. Wild Rivers Coast Alliance utilizes proceeds from Bandon Dunes Golf Resort to fund grants that promote local economics that preserve natural resources.
- OWEB attended another [Say Hey](#) networking event which is an opportunity to connect with diverse professionals in the greater Portland metro area.
- OWEB attended the [2023 Eastern Oregon Economic Summit](#) in Union County. The summit is hosted by the Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition. Topics included economic development, housing, water, and forest management.

In addition to the groups above, OWEB leadership also continued regular meetings with other partner organizations and groups.



Eastern Oregon Economic Summit, 2023 Photo from Eastern Oregon Women's Coalition



Priority 2

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



OWEB staff engaged in **training focused on Understanding Growing Wealth Inequality**. Through an interactive workshop format with ECONW, staff learned about key structural factors that are causing and upholding economic inequality. Staff discussed how these factors affect individual experiences and how it intersects with OWEB's work.



Priority 3

Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

2021-2023 Highlights



[Slide from Council Capacity presentation](#)

The OWEB board **awarded \$9,204,267 in Council Capacity Grants** at the July Board Meeting. Council Capacity Grants help support the operations of Watershed Councils that engage people and communities in their watershed to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration and protection of native fish or wildlife habitat and natural watershed functions to improve water quality or stream flows.

CAPACITY MATTERS

A 20-Year Review of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Operating Capacity Investments



[Capacity Matters document](#)

OWEB engaged a team from Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO) to conduct a **20-year programmatic review of Organizational Capacity grants**. ODA staff and a group of Watershed Council and SWCD representatives advised OWEB and the OSU/UO team throughout the review process.

The review evaluates:

- Impact funding has had on councils and districts
- Describes how the grants lead to additional funding and partnerships.
- Helps inform future capacity-building investments.



Priority 4

Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio



[Article on Jefferson Public Radio](#)

The Lovelace Dam Removal project was the first in the nation to cross the finish line among restoration projects receiving funding from NOAA Fisheries under the **federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**.



Marys Peak Ridge View Overlook wildlife enhancement project, completed summer 2022 with BLM funds by Midcoast WC, provided approximately 112 trees suitable for instream restoration.

OWEB received its 5th **BLM modification, adding an additional \$2,640,904.95 funds**, including \$2,221,939 in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act funds. These funds will support 17 additional projects to support native fish and instream habitat restoration.



Priority 5

The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health



Upper Nehalem River Strategic Implementation Area, 2018.

In response to demand from local partners, OWEB is providing **new Restoration funding opportunities for previously funded Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs)**. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the SIA Leads are working closely with OWEB to pilot this new funding opportunity, with applications accepted in 2024 and 2025.



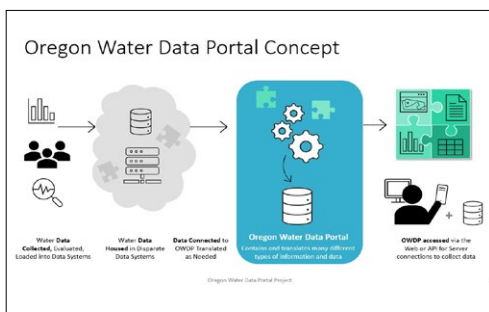
Priority 6

Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness



[OWEB site visit to a Dam Removal site on the Eklutna River, Alaska.](#)

OWEB staff traveled to Alaska to meet with other PCSRF grantees and NOAA regional and national staff. Staff had a chance to hear about regional and national NOAA priorities, learn about new online systems and build relationships for future collaboration opportunities.



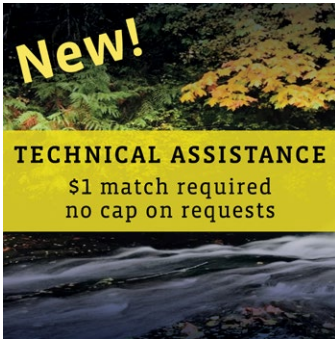
OWEB is collaborating with other state agencies to integrate Oregon water data into **a new Water Data Portal**. The 2nd pilot phase of the project now continues through the 2023-25 biennium and is described here: www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/Pages/owdp.aspx

Slide from Report to Legislature Presentation.



Priority 7

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



Lowered Match on Technical Assistance and Stakeholder engagement grants **to just \$1 and lifted the cap** on Technical Assistance Grants, making these grants more available to a wider range of potential grantees.

Notice of changes to Stakeholder Engagement and Technical Assistance grants.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Chapter 695
Division 5
OWEB GRANT PROGRAM
695-005-0045
Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria

In addition to the evaluation criteria for Restoration Grants (DAR 695-030-0040), Stakeholder Engagement Grants (DAR 695-033-0070), Monitoring Grants (DAR 695-032-0140), Technical Assistance Grants (DAR 695-030-0045), Customer Based Watershed Council Operating Capacity Grants (DAR 695-040-0150), Land Acquisition Grants (DAR 695-045-0150), Water Acquisition Grants (DAR 695-045-0195), and Focused Investment Partnership (DAR 695-04-0000), grant applications shall also be evaluated, whenever possible, on:

- How engagement with, and input from, local communities disproportionately impacted by climate change has informed or will inform the project.
- How changing climate conditions are incorporated into the project and how the project will contribute to durable adaptation and resilience for ecosystems, including human communities.
- How consideration of greenhouse gas emissions or long-term carbon sequestration or storage has informed the project.

Statutory/Other Authority: CRS 541.506
Statutes/Other Implemented: CRS 541.090 - 541.949
History: OWEB 2-2023, adopt filed 07/27/2023, effective 08/01/2023

Please use this link to bookmark or link to this rule.

Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria:
Used to help OWEB technical review teams consider applicants' response to new climate-related questions in OWEB grants.

Learn more and sign up for trainings with OWEB

All grant offerings now include Climate Criteria.

Multiple training options are offered to OWEB grantees to learn how to respond to new Climate Criteria questions in grant applications.

[Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria Rule.](#)

Notice of training.



accomplishments
 highlighted in quarterly update

January
 April
 July
 October

Strategies Chart Jan. 2022 - Oct. 2023

1 Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

1.1 Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments.				
1.2 Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches.				

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

2.1 Listen, learn and gather information about diverse populations.				
2.2 Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table.				
2.3 Develop funding strategies with a lens toward diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)				

3 Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

3.1 Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB's past capacity funding.				
3.2 Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity.				
3.3 Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships.				

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

4.1 Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision.				
4.2 Align common investment areas with private foundations.				
4.3 Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector.				
4.4 Partner to design strategies for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources.				

5 The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

5.1 Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.				
5.2 Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners.				
5.3 Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch and forestlands.				
5.4 Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands.				
5.5 Develop engagement strategies for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations.				

6 Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

6.1 Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts.				
6.2 Invest in monitoring over the long term.				
6.3 Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring.				
6.4 Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners.				
6.5 Define monitoring priorities.				
6.6 Develop and promote a monitoring framework.				

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

7.1 Invest in landscape restoration over the long term.				
7.2 Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economics.				
7.3 Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB's mission.				