



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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December 10, 2025, Tracking, Reporting, and Communicating Outcomes Committee Meeting
Staff report – Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes Delegated Award

MEMORANDUM

To: Tracking, Reporting and Communicating Outcomes Committee

From: Courtney Shaff, Monitoring & Reporting Manager
Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator

I. Introduction

OWEB's Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the spending plan supports monitoring of specific types of restoration actions at broad geographic and/or time frames through targeted investments. This staff report previews a delegated award action that will occur prior to the January 2026 Board meeting.

II. Background

Periodically, monitoring grant applications submitted through the Open Solicitation grant offerings are a more appropriate fit for OWEB's programmatic monitoring grants, which are included in the Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the spending plan. This situation has occurred 3 times previously, listed below. Each of these projects were a better fit for programmatic monitoring funds because they evaluated the effectiveness of groups of restoration projects and helped OWEB and restoration practitioners understand the outcomes of these types of projects at larger geographic and time scales. In each case OWEB worked with grantees to fund the projects with programmatic effectiveness funds rather than through Open Solicitation.

- April 2019, with *Ni-les'tun Tidal Wetland Restoration Effectiveness Monitoring* (OWEB grant #219-2048). \$253,000 from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring line item of the spending plan.
- April 2014, with *Assessing Salmon Use of Off-Channel Wetlands along the Multnomah Channel* project (OWEB grant #214-3040). \$167,442 from the then titled Effectiveness Monitoring line item of the spending plan.
- March 2012, with *Bandon Marsh NWR, Ni-les'tun Unit -Effectiveness Monitoring* project (OWEB grant #210-2032). \$150,234 from the then titled Effectiveness Monitoring line item of the spending plan.

III. Shift of Monitoring Project from Open Solicitation to Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes

OWEB Application 226-6023, *Sustaining Long-Term Fish and Habitat Monitoring in the Middle Fork John Day IMW*, has been identified as meeting OWEB's programmatic effectiveness monitoring goals. The work in the IMW is a good fit for programmatic

investment because it helps OWEB and restoration practitioners understand how species and the environment respond to large-scale, long-term, basin-wide restoration activities.

The project was initially submitted through the Open Solicitation program requesting \$676,757 and supports the long-term monitoring that has occurred since 2008 in the Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW), which has previously been supported by funding from the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) and some funding from the Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the spending plan.

Staff propose to use previously unspent board delegated funding from the 2023-2025 Quantifying Conservation Outputs and Outcomes line item of the spending plan to fund this application. Monitoring and Reporting staff are also planning on holding follow-up discussions with the IMW to discuss their long-term plan for this previously federally funded work. Staff will answer questions at the committee meeting.