HOW OWEB FUNDING INVESTMENTS HELP THE ECONOMY

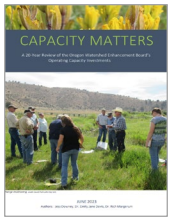
From 2004 to 2023, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has supported statewide and regional studies, to better understand the economic benefits of OWEB grant investments. OWEB's grant investments include funding for restoration projects, project development and design, and monitoring. Some studies were paid for directly by OWEB, while others were funded by partners working on OWEB-supported projects.

In addition to the environmental benefits of OWEB's grantmaking, these funds also benefit local communities across Oregon, helping generate jobs, retain expertise, and support businesses.

STATEWIDE REPORTS

Capacity Matters: 20-Year Review of the OWEB's Operating Capacity Investments

2023, Oregon State University and University of Oregon



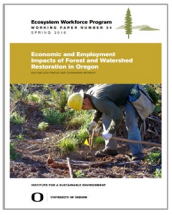
Assessment of OWEB Investment in Soil and Water Conservation District and Watershed Council Operational Capacity: This report looks at capacity grants awarded to soil and water conservation districts (districts) and watershed councils (councils) and benefits to communities from these grants.

FINDINGS:

- OWEB awarded over **$80 million** in Operating Capacity grants (2011–2021).
- Councils and districts **brought in an additional $142 million from OWEB** competitive grants.
- Councils and districts **leveraged additional funding** from public, private, and philanthropic organizations, which **helped secure match** for federal dollars.
- Spending by these groups and their employees **boosted local economies**.

The Economic & Employment Impacts of Forest & Watershed Restoration in Oregon

2010, University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program



Statewide Restoration and Forest work in Oregon: Summarizes the economic benefits of restoration and forestry contracting, focusing on jobs created and economic activity in local communities.

FINDINGS:

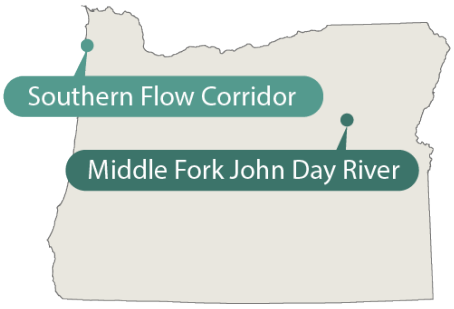
- Every **$1 million** in public investment in forest and watershed restoration supports **about 15.7 to 23.8 jobs**.
- Each public dollar invested generates **1.4 to 2.4 times** more economic activity as it moves through Oregon's economy.
- This analysis of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds suggests that about **230 jobs are created per year** from Oregon plan investments.

RESOURCES

University of Oregon Ecosystem Workforce Program
This organization assessed socioeconomic outcomes from restoration actions and produced several papers.

A Guide for Developing Socio-economic Measures Institute for Policy Research and Innovation, 2009
Helped watershed councils develop ways to track the social and economic impacts of their conservation work.

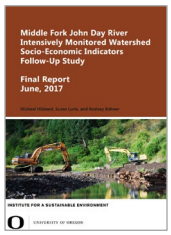
OWEB Economic Impacts website



GEOGRAPHICALLY FOCUSED REPORTS

Middle Fork John Day River Socio-economic Indicators Follow-up Study Report

2017, Sue Lurie, Mike Hibbard and Rodney Bohner



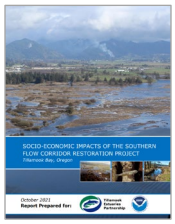
Upper John Day Basin, Grant County: Summarizes socioeconomic effects of restoration and monitoring in the Middle Fork Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) over 10 years. Measures were developed with a local advisory group in 2009 and then calculated in 2016 to measure the impacts of IMW to the local community.

FINDINGS:

- **Most of the spending stayed local**, boosting jobs and economic output in Grant County.
- From 2007–2017, OWEB invested **$2.6 million** toward **21 grants** that brought in an additional **$7.7 million** in match funding
- These grants led to **33 restoration contracts**—mostly to private firms in Grant County. An estimated **$6.8 million** of money spent on these contracts directly benefited Grant County's economy.

Socio-economic Impacts Report

2021, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Tillamook Estuary Partnership



Tillamook Bay, Tillamook County: Reviews the contribution of the Southern Flow Corridor (SFC) restoration to the local economy. The SFC site is a 521-acre tidal wetland habitat restoration and flood reduction project designed to create salmon habitat and decrease seasonal flooding impacts in the City of Tillamook. A variety of state and federal agencies, including OWEB, non-governmental organizations, and private funding sources, contributed over $10 million to complete this multi-year project.

FINDINGS:

- **Water Quality**: The site likely traps sediment, reducing buildup in Tillamook Bay and may save **$1,500–$8,000 per year** in dredging costs.
- **Flood Reduction**: Less flooding on Highway 101 could save about **$7,200 per flood event** in avoided travel delays.
- **Property Value**: Nearby home values rose by **10%** after the project, averaging a **$19,000 increase per home** within ¾ mile.
- **Economic Impact**: The project supported **108 jobs** and generated **$14.6 million** in economic activity (2013–2016).
- **Carbon Storage**: The site may store up to **27,000 tons of carbon**, valued at **$530,000–$736,000.** Ongoing monitoring is needed to track potential greenhouse gas emissions as the wetland matures.