

August 30, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Bierly, Deputy Director
Karen Leiendecker, Eastern Oregon Regional Program Representative

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item F: OWEB Grant Award Recommendations
Region 5, Eastern Oregon
September 18-19, 2007 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Eastern Oregon Regional Review Team recommendations, any special issues, land acquisition grant applications, and staff recommendations for funding.

II. Background

The Eastern Oregon Region received 14 Technical Assistance applications requesting \$371,421 and 50 Restoration applications requesting \$5,927,312. There were no Acquisition applications from this region. The Eastern Oregon Regional Review Team (RRT) met in Ontario on July 11-12, 2007, to review the applications received in this grant cycle. All applications were reviewed for technical merit and given a "do fund" or "no fund" recommendation by the RRT. The RRT then prioritized the applications recommended for funding.

This round of applications includes project 207-357, Youngfield Subdivision/Jordan Creek Protection project. This application was submitted between grant cycles (after the October 2006 deadline) to address an emergency bank erosion issue. Staff have worked with the applicant, who has taken emergency action to stabilize the situation, to develop the proposed long-term solution to address all resource concerns.

III. Regional Review Team Recommendations

The RRT recommended for funding eight Technical Assistance applications totaling \$184,665. The RRT also recommended for funding 32 (including 207-357 mentioned above) Restoration applications totaling \$2,549,328.

IV. Regional Issues

This group of applications includes two major public-private cooperative efforts to address watershed conditions on Steens Mountain. Applications 208-5029 and 208-5053 both fund actions that cross ownership boundaries and address landscape scale conditions. This effort is also remarkable in that it has a strong monitoring program to document the effects of treatment and provide that information to the cooperative partners.

An application from a group of landowners in the Pine Creek drainage of the Powder Basin shows the start of a cooperative group effort. While the application (208-5036) is not recommended for funding at this time, the RRT recommended that the application be improved for a later submittal. The project is similar to the work completed on the main stem of the Powder River.

Three other projects deserve note among the many recommended from the region. An application from the Grande Ronde Basin (208-5010) is a continuation of re-meandering the Wallowa River after the channel was straightened for flood control purposes. Following the successful and ongoing efforts in implementing similar projects on the McDaniels property approximately five miles upstream, this project will re-meander more than half a mile of the Wallowa River. This project will be visible from Highway 82.

An application for enhancement of the Zumwalt Prairie Preserve (208-5055) is also recommended for funding. The application will treat the altered stream system of Pine and Camp creeks. The application will remove the ponds that result in high water temperature in Camp Creek and provide a meandered channel that reflects historic conditions. Both Camp and Pine creeks' riparian areas will be revegetated to native species.

An application for continuing work on the John Day River system (208-5000) to remove fish passage barriers and provide irrigation return water cooling is recommended for funding. This project continues the significant work of the Grant Soil and Water Conservation District in fish habitat recovery. Their efforts have been significant in providing access to steelhead to upstream spawning areas, which is a critical component of the draft Mid-Columbia Steelhead recovery plan.

VI. Summary

Staff recommend funding all but four of the RRT-recommended Restoration applications. Application 208-5004 is recommended for funding instead of those above it because of the time sensitivity of match funding. Bureau of Reclamation funding will not be available beyond federal fiscal year 2008. Staff also recommend funding for all eight RRT-recommended Technical Assistance applications.

Attachment A shows the proposals, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended for funding to OWEB staff by the RRT. The tables also indicate, by means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff "do fund" recommendations to the Board. For some projects, the amount shown in the table is the staff funding recommendation rather than the applicant amount.

Attachment B shows those applications not recommended for funding at this time by the RRT and OWEB staff.

VII. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board approve the staff funding recommendation as contained in Attachment A to this report.

Attachments

- A. Projects Recommended for Funding
- B. Projects Not Recommended for Funding

Region 5 – Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 23, 2007 Grant Cycle

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
208-5014	Fletcher Gulch Pipeline Project *	19,645	1
208-5015	Mitchell Butte Pipeline Project *	18,389	2
208-5013	VOID Water Quality Engineering Design	14,341	3
208-5031	Lampson Levee Setback & River Channel Design	18,210	4
208-5037	Estes Ditch Water Quality Improvement	30,850	5
208-5008	Direct Seed Promotion in Wildhorse Basin □	20,152	6
208-5009	Lower Valley Road Sediment Reduction	25,145	7
208-5030	Powder River Restoration: Kirkway Ranch	37,933	8
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the RRT		\$ 184,665	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board		\$ 184,665	

*Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction □ Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Increase

Region 5 – Eastern Oregon
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 23, 2007 Grant Cycle

Staff Funding Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Non-Capital Funds	Capital Funds	Total Amount	Priority
208-5000	Upper John Day River Restoration Program	4,032	175,781	179,813	1
208-5011	Alkali Creek Water Quality Enhancement *		286,134	286,134	2
208-5012	Sandhollow Feedlot Rehabilitation *		52,210	52,210	3
208-5024	Rudio Creek Restoration		29,918	29,918	4
208-5007	Vansycle Animal Feeding Relocation		62,142	62,142	5
208-5029	Five Creeks Rangeland Cooperative Restoration Project		120,387	120,387	6
208-5028	Burlingame Corral Relocation		11,450	11,450	7
208-5053	Five Creeks - Steens Mountains Ranch Restoration Project □	240	75,746	75,986	8
208-5047	Corral Creek Riparian Exclosure Fence		15,100	15,100	9
208-5032	Five Point Ditch Diversion Improvement Project *		56,000	56,000	10
208-5055	Zumwalt Prairie Preserve Riparian Restoration Project *		260,433	260,433	11
208-5048	Little Indian Creek Riparian Exclosure Fence		18,590	18,590	12
207-357	Youngfield Subdivision/Jordan Creek Protection Project		43,011	43,011	13
208-5034	Zell Ditch Push Up Dam Replacement		53,000	53,000	14
208-5001	Butter Creek Riparian & Range Enhancement Project 2007 *		71,759	71,759	15
208-5044	Grande Ronde Ponds *		29,789	29,789	16
208-5059	Malheur River Bank Stabilization & Riparian Restoration		123,675	123,675	17
208-5027	Emigrant Creek Forest Health Project	1,500	94,954	96,454	18
208-5023	Capon Ranch Spring Development		17,028	17,028	19
208-5060	Cant Ranch Upland & Riparian Improvement □		59,624	59,624	20
208-5002	Forth Ranches LLC		16,775	16,775	21
208-5010	Wallowa River/6-Ranch Habitat Restoration		273,900	273,900	22
208-5003	Reducing Soil Erosion through Direct Seed in the Wildhorse Basin	1,150	77,533	78,683	23
208-5017	Scown Stream Restoration Project		82,133	82,133	24
208-5006	Applying Variable Rate Technology in Umatilla Basin	4,175	55,835	60,010	25
208-5035	Myrtle Canyon Eagle Roost- WITHDRAWN after fund recommendation		73,900	73,900	26
208-5016	Malheur River Stream Restoration Project		19,815	19,815	27
208-5058	Elder Ditch Conversion Project		45,186	45,186	28
208-5036	Clear Creek Fish Passage & Riparian Enhancement *		68,500	68,500	29
208-5021	Monument's Attack on Medusahead	150	76,402	76,552	30
208-5004	Hermiston Irrigation District L-Line Conversion Project *		60,165	60,165	31
208-5051	Triple O Ranch: Restoration & Education *		31,206	31,206	32
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by the RRT		\$ 11,247	\$2,538,081	\$2,549,328	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to the Board		\$ 11,097	\$2,288,073	\$2,299,170	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction □ Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Increase

Region 5 – Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT and OWEB Staff
April 23, 2007 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
208-5039	Wolf Creek Enhancement	50,000
208-5045	Irrigation Canal Co. Water Conservation	33,000
208-5049	Chesnimus Creek Crossing Design	24,000
208-5054	Cougar Springs Wetlands	19,000
208-5056	Willow Creek Fish Passage Assessment	49,830
208-5062	Oregon Aspen Project	19,516

Region 5 – Eastern Oregon
Restoration Projects Not Recommended for Funding by the RRT and OWEB Staff
April 23, 2007 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount
208-5005	Juniper Canyon Weed Project	44,385
208-5018	Succor Creek Push-up Dams Removal	460,542
208-5019	Berrett Water Control Improvement	180,287
208-5020	Bishop Wetland Restoration	131,976
208-5022	Freeman Spring Developments	23,238
208-5025	Milk Ranch Restoration	23,409
208-5026	K Bar M Wildlife Habitat	35,555
208-5033	Opal Butte	412,500
208-5038	Eagle Creek Restoration Project	599,887
208-5040	Meadow Brook Riparian Improvements	46,090
208-5041	Irrigon Relocation Lateral Two Pipeline & Pump Station Project	78,000
208-5042	Spring Creek Water Quality Protection Project	80,946
208-5043	Sullivan Resource Management	29,535
208-5046	Wiedenmann Exclusion	32,100
208-5050	Drewsey Reclamation Ditch Fish-Friendly Diversion Structure	185,000
208-5052	Snowmoody Soil Erosion Control	25,750
208-5057	Willow Creek Fish Passage Improvement	76,218
208-5061	Fox Creek Juniper Treatment	99,220
208-5063	Remove Pushup Dams on North Fork John Day	58,059